

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Programme for By-election of District Chairperson and other Lower Local Government Councils in Busia District

A. Programme for Local Government By-elections in Busia District

The Electoral Commission has approved the programme for the by-election of District Chairperson and filling of vacancies in other Lower Local Government Councils in Busia District.

The vacancy of the District Chairperson for Busia District occurred on 10th May 2018 when the Court of Appeal nullified the results of the 2016 Local Government Elections.

As required by law, the statutory deadline for conducting a by-election of a District Chairperson is six (6) months after notification from Clerk to Council on the occurrence of the vacancy. The Commission received the notice on 29th May 2018 and therefore, the statutory deadline for holding the by-election is 28th November 2018.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the electoral programme for this by-election as follows:

a. Banning of Fundraising Activities in Busia District

During this electoral programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in Busia District.

The purpose of this ban is to allow a leveled-ground for candidates in the race.

For avoidance of doubt, this ban takes effect from Monday 22nd October 2018, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Busia District, and will continue until polling day.

Those found to be contravening the law shall be dealt with accordingly.

b. Stakeholders Meetings: Wednesday 17th October and Thursday 18th October 2018

The Electoral Commission will hold a consultative meeting with all elected Village (LC 1) Chairpersons in Busia District on Wednesday 17th October 2018. The meeting will be held at **Madibira Primary School**, to inform them of their key role in the electoral activities and discuss

any issues of concern that should be addressed by the Commission to ensure a free and fair by-election.

Similarly, The Electoral Commission will hold a meeting with invited key stakeholders from Busia District at Busia District Council Hall on Thursday 18th October 2018 to roll out the by election program and address any issues of concern regarding the program

The stakeholders who have been invited to the meeting of Thursday 18th October 2018 include the district leadership, representatives of political parties and organizations, representatives of civil society organizations, security officials, religious leaders, opinion leaders, sub county supervisors and members of the press.

The above meetings will help to foster collaboration between the Commission and stakeholders in the district, in order to achieve high participation in the various activities, in accordance with the laws.

c. Update of the National Voters' Register: 18th – 22nd October 2018

The Electoral Commission will conduct an update of the National Voters' Register from 18th – 22nd October 2018, at update stations within each parish/ward in Busia district.

The update exercise will start at 8:00am till 6:00pm, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

This exercise will enable Ugandan citizens of 18 years and above, who either reside or originate in parishes/wards within Busia District, and who have not had their photographs and bio-data taken before by the Electoral Commission for purposes of registration for elections, to do so.

All registered voters who wish to transfer to new voting locations shall be able to do so during this update exercise.

The Electoral Commission has appointed Monday 22nd October 2018 as the cut-off date for registration and/or transfer of voting location in Busia District.

d. Display of Voters' Registers and Issuance of Voting Location Slips: 6th - 14th November 2018

The Electoral Commission has appointed 5th – 14th November 2018, as the period for display of the National Voters' Register in Busia District.

The display of the Voters' Register shall begin at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm at all polling stations in Busia District, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

During the display, voters are urged to turn up in large numbers and check for the correctness of their particulars, and confirm that photographs appear against correct particulars.

Voters are further urged to report to the display officer: the dead, the non-citizens, the under-aged, and those who belong to another Parish/Ward, so that they are removed from the Register.

During this display period, the Commission will also issue temporary Voter Location Slips (VLS) to voters, to enable them conveniently locate their respective polling station on polling day.

There will be a display of lists of persons recommended for deletion from the Voters' Register for a period of six (6) days, from 16th – 21st November 2018, at the respective Parish/Ward headquarters.

The purpose of this supplementary display is to enable any person who may have been wrongly recommended for deletion to raise an objection to the Parish/Ward Tribunal. The Parish Tribunal may reinstate the person if convinced of the genuineness of the objection.

e. Nomination of Candidates, Inspection of Nomination Papers, Campaigns & Polling Day
The nomination of candidates shall be conducted for a period of two days, Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th November 2018, at Busia District Headquarters.

The nomination will be followed by a period of six (6) days, that is, from 7th – 12th November 2018 during which members of the general public will have access to the candidates' nomination papers, and will be able to lodge complaints, if any, on suitability of the candidates to contest in the by-elections.

Campaign meetings for candidates for District Chairperson and other lower Local Government positions shall be held for a period of eighteen (18) days that is, from 9th to 26th November 2018.

The campaign meetings or public rallies shall be conducted only within the stipulated time, that is, from 7:00am until 6:00pm on each of the campaign days. All candidates are urged to observe law and order during this exercise and to conduct their campaign meetings in accordance with the harmonized programme. Hate language will not be tolerated at all.

Polling for elections of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) shall take place on Tuesday 27th November 2018 and shall be by secret ballot by Electoral College at the respective sub county/town headquarters. The polling shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

Polling for elections of District Chairperson and other Lower Local Government Councils shall take place on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at all polling stations in Busia District, and (polling) shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

f. Accreditation of Election Observers

Section 16 (1) (a) of the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act, provides for accreditation of representatives of political parties, civil society organizations and any other duly registered institution to observe electoral activities.

For purposes of transparency, the Electoral Commission shall accredit observers to the various activities which will be undertaken during this electoral process.

Accordingly the Commission invites written expressions of interest from political parties, individuals and duly registered organizations and institutions who wish to observe the said processes.

Interested political parties, individuals, organizations and institutions should submit their applications with two (2) recent passport photos to the Office of the Chairperson, Electoral Commission, Plot 55, Jinja Road, Kampala, P.O. Box 22678 Kampala, or to the Office of the District Returning Officer for each respective district, not later than 21st November 2018.

Please note that political parties and independent candidates shall be permitted to deploy not more than five (5) observers per sub-county, and two (2) persons at the Results Tally Center.

The Commission shall accredit election observers from 12th to 26th November 2018, and shall provide all those accredited with identification tags for the purpose of observing the various activities of the electoral process.

Please note that media personnel will be required to present valid identification cards from their media houses in order to access polling stations and the Results Tally Center.

Any individuals purporting to perform duties of or act as an observer or agent without due accreditation, will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

B. Compliance with the Law

The Electoral Commission urges all aspiring candidates and stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the relevant laws, in order to appreciate and comply with their respective roles and responsibilities before, during and after the election.

C. Conclusion

The Commission urges all stakeholders in Busia District to turn up in large numbers and participate in the above electoral programme, and to do so in accordance with the guidelines for each activity. This will ensure a smooth electoral exercise.

I thank you,



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission