

# THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Telephone: +256-41-337500/337508-11  
Fax: +256-31-262207/41-337595/6  
E-mail: [secretary@ec.or.ug](mailto:secretary@ec.or.ug)



Plot 55 Jinja Road  
P. O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda  
Website: [www.ec.or.ug](http://www.ec.or.ug)

Ref: **Adm72/01** .....

Date: **17<sup>th</sup> April 2018** .....

## Press Statement

### **Programme for Parliamentary and Local Government Elections in New Municipalities, Sub Counties and Town Councils, 2018**

#### **1. Introduction**

Dear esteemed members of the press, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to this press briefing.

Today the Commission will brief you on the electoral programme for Parliamentary and Local Government elections in new Municipalities, Sub Counties and Town Councils that took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

#### **2. Programme for Parliamentary and Local Government elections in new Municipalities, Sub Counties and Town Councils**

The Electoral Commission has approved the electoral programme for conduct of the following elections:

- a) Directly-elected Member of Parliament
- b) Chairpersons (Town Council and Sub County)
- c) District Directly-elected Councillor
- d) District Woman Councillor
- e) Sub County Directly-elected Councillor
- f) Sub County Woman Councillor
- g) Councillors representing Special Interest Groups (Youth, Older Persons, and Persons with Disability)
- h) Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils.

**The elections will be conducted in Municipalities, Sub Counties and Town Councils which were submitted to the Commission by 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**

Elections shall not be conducted in the towns which were submitted to the Commission after 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

**Stakeholders in the new Municipalities and Town Councils and Sub Counties are urged to carefully note the following key activities and dates:**

**a. Banning of Fundraising Activities in New Municipalities, Town Councils and Sub Counties**

During this electoral programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in the new Municipalities, Sub Counties and Town Councils.

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 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in the new Municipalities, Sub Counties and Town Councils, and will continue until polling day.

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

**b. Update of the National Voters' Register: 26<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup>April 2018**

An update of the Voters' Register will be conducted from **26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>April 2018** at update stations within each parishes in all the new Municipalities, Town Councils and Sub Counties, starting 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 the new Municipalities, Town Councils and Sub Counties, 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 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 as the cut-off date for registration and/or transfer of voting location in the above electoral areas.

**c. Display of the Voters' Register and Issuance of Voting Location Slips: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

The Electoral Commission has appointed Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018, as the period for display of the National Voters' Register in the new Municipalities, Town Councils and Sub Counties.

The display of the Voters' Register shall begin at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm at all polling stations in the above electoral areas, 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 Register for a period of ten (10) days, from 30<sup>th</sup> May – 8<sup>th</sup> June 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 Tribunal.

The Parish Tribunal may reinstate the person if convinced of the genuineness of the objection.

**d. Nomination of Candidates, Inspection of Nomination Papers, Campaigns and Polling Dates**

The nomination of candidates shall be conducted for a period of three days, starting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 and ending on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018, at the respective district Headquarters.

Please note that the nomination of candidates for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will be conducted at the respective county headquarters:

The nomination will be followed by a period of six (6) days, that is, from 4<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> June, 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 elections.

Campaign meetings for candidates for elections of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) shall be take place from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018, while the campaign meetings for candidates for Member of Parliament and Local Government Councils elections shall be held for a period of forty (40) days, that is, from Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 17<sup>th</sup> July 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.

The electorate is urged to carefully note the following polling dates:

- i. Polling for elections of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) shall take place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and shall be by secret ballot by Electoral College at the respective sub county/town headquarters.

The positions to be filled are here below:

- a) Male Youth Councillor
- b) Female Youth Councillor
- c) Male Councillor for Older Persons

- d) Female Councillor for Older Persons
- e) Male Councillor for Persons with Disability
- f) Female Councillor for Persons with Disability

The polling shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

- ii. Polling for elections to fill the following positions in new Sub Counties and Town Councils shall take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018:
  - a) District Councillor
  - b) District Women Councillor
  - c) Town Council Chairperson
  - d) Sub County Chairperson
  - e) Sub County Councillor
  - f) Sub County Women Councillor

Voting shall be by universal adult suffrage and secret ballot and shall start at 7:00am, and close at 4:00pm.

- iii. Polling for elections of Member of Parliament and Local Government Councils in new Municipalities shall take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at all polling stations in the respective Municipalities.

The elective positions to be filled are:

- a) Member of Parliament
- b) District Councillor
- c) District Women Councillor
- d) Mayor

Voting shall be by universal adult suffrage and secret ballot and shall start at 7:00am, and close at 4:00pm.

**e. Compliance with the Law**

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

**f. Programme for Elections of Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils**

The Electoral Commission has approved the programme for elections of Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils as follows:

**i. Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils**

For each District Local Government Council, there shall be two Workers' Councillors, one of whom shall be a female, to represent the Workers in the District Local Government Council.

**ii. Composition of the Electoral College:**

The two Workers' Councillors at the District shall be elected by an Electoral College composed of:

- a) Twenty (20) Delegates, at least six of whom shall be women, nominated directly to the Electoral Commission by every registered Labour Union with membership in the District; and,
- b) Ten (10) Delegates, at least three of whom shall be women, elected by the non unionized workers in the District;

**iii. Display of the Workers' Voters' Register**

The Commission shall conduct a display of the Workers' Voters' Register for the respective District from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the District Headquarters.

The display shall begin at 9:00am and end at 5:00pm on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

During the Display, members of the Electoral College are urged to turn up and check for the correctness of their particulars.

Members are further urged to report to the Returning Officer, names of persons, if any, who may have been wrongly included on the Register, so that they are removed from the Register.

**iv. Nomination of Candidates**

The Electoral Commission has appointed Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018, as the period for nomination of candidates for election of Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils.

The nomination shall be conducted at the respective District Headquarters, starting at 9:00am until 5:00pm on each of the appointed dates. An aspiring candidate for Councillor Representing Workers to District Councils shall be a citizen of Uganda, and a registered voter, who is ordinarily resident in the District in which he/she seeks to stand.

The aspiring candidate shall be required to observe the following:

- a) The nomination documents of a candidate shall be submitted to the Returning Officer by the aspiring candidate himself or herself;
- b) The nomination shall be supported by a proposer and seconder who are voting members of the respective Electoral College;
- c) Payment of a non refundable nomination fee of Shs. 50,000/-, which may be paid in cash or bank draft to the respective District Council;

**The following shall be attached to the nomination paper;**

- a) A statement under oath indicating the person's eligibility to stand;
- b) A person's consent to his or her nomination for the office;
- c) An appointment of official agent of the candidate, acceptance of appointment, and oath authenticating statement; and,
- d) Two (2) postcard sized photographs of the candidate's own straight face.

The nomination of candidates may be sponsored by a political organization or a political party or by a candidate standing as an independent candidate.

**v. Campaigns**

The Electoral Commission has appointed Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May to Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 as the period for candidates' campaign meetings for election of elections of Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils.

During this period, candidates shall not use or publish any language or defamatory words, which incite public disorder, hatred, violence or which threatens war.

The Commission urges all candidates, their agents and the public to adhere to set rules and regulations guiding the campaign period.

**vi. Polling Date and Mode of Elections**

The Commission has further appointed Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018, as the polling day for elections of Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils.

The elections shall be conducted at the respective District Headquarters, and shall be by secret ballot using the (respective) District Electoral College.

- a) No person shall be allowed to vote if she/he is not a member of the Electoral College.
- b) Polling shall not commence before 7:00 a.m. in the morning and shall not continue beyond 4:00 p.m. in the evening.
- c) The Presiding Officer shall ensure that at least five (5) eligible voters (members of the Electoral College) are present before opening of polls.
- d) Each Candidate may appoint not more than two agents to oversee the conduct of polling and vote counting.

**vii. Vote Counting and Declaration of Results**

The votes cast for each candidate shall be counted at the polling station immediately after the Presiding Officer declares polling closed, and the candidate who has obtained the highest number of votes, shall be declared elected by the District Returning Officer.

**viii. Appeal**

The Electoral Commission calls on all stakeholders to participate in the above activities in accordance with the guidelines for this election.

#### **g. 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 respective District Returning Officer, not later than 13<sup>th</sup> July 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 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – 16<sup>th</sup> July 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.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The Commission urges all stakeholders in the new Municipalities, Town Councils and Sub Counties, and for elections of Councillors Representing Workers to District Councils to turn up in large numbers and participate in the above electoral programmes, 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**