

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Registration of Residents for Administrative Units Elections and Programme for By-election of Member of Parliament for Igara East Constituency, Bushenyi District

1. Introduction

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

Today the Commission will brief you on the commencement of the registration exercise for compilation of Village Residents' Register for Administrative Units (LC I & II) and Women Councils and Committees Elections, and the electoral programme for by-election of Member of Parliament representing Igara East Constituency, Bushenyi District.

2. Commencement of Registration Exercise for Compilation of Village Residents' Register for Administrative Units (LC I & II) and Women Councils and Committees Elections

In preparation for the Administrative Units (LC I & II) and Women Councils and Committees Elections, the Electoral Commission will compile a register of residents in each village throughout Uganda from tomorrow Thursday 26th to Monday 30th October 2017.

The purpose of this registration exercise is to enable all willing village residents to register in order to participate in the above elections.

The registration will be conducted from 7:00am until 6:00pm on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

All stakeholders are urged to note the following:

- a) Eligible and willing residents shall turn up in person at the registration centre within the village of residence to register;
- b) The registration exercise shall cover the compilation of two registers:
 - i. The Village Council Register, for purposes of electing the Village (LC I) Chairperson and approval of members of the Village Executive Committee; and,

- ii. The Village Women's Council Register for purposes of electing the Village Women's Committee.
 - iii. The village residents and village women residents shall be registered in separate register books provided by the Electoral Commission;
 - iv. The willing women residents will register in both registers and participate in both elections.
- c) For one to register in the Village Residents Register, he or she must fulfill the following requirements;
- i. Must be a citizen of Uganda, who is ordinarily resident in the Village of registration;
 - ii. Must be eighteen (18) years of age and above at the time of registration;
 - iii. Must be willing to be a member of the Village Council;
 - iv. In the case of the Village Women's Council Register, the person must be a female and a citizen of Uganda of eighteen (18) years and above, and must be ordinarily resident in the village of registration;
 - v. A person appearing for registration shall be required to provide the following particulars to the Village Election Official:
 - Names;
 - National Identity Number or Application ID Number;
 - Age;
 - Gender; and,
 - Village of Residence.
 - vi. The registration exercise shall be free of charge.

The Commission has further appointed Monday 30th October 2017, as the cut-off date for registration of willing village residents.

The registration of residents in each village throughout Uganda will not be conducted after this date.

The display of the Register will be conducted from 31st October to 1st November 2017 in all the 59,624 villages.

The display of the above Registers shall begin at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm at the designated public/open place in the respective village.

During the display, voters are urged to turn up in large numbers and check for the correctness of their particulars, such as names, National ID Number or Application ID Number, age, gender and village of residence.

Residents are further urged to report to the Village Election Official the following categories of persons for removal from the Registers:

- a) The dead,
- b) The under-aged, and,
- c) Those who do not reside in the village.

Please refer to the summary program attached for the rest of the activities.

3. Electoral Programme for By-election of MP for Igara East Constituency, Bushenyi District

a. Introduction

The vacancy of the Directly-elected Member of Parliament for Igara East Constituency, Bushenyi District occurred following a court nullification of the election of former Member of Parliament.

As required by law, the statutory deadline for conducting a Parliamentary by-election is sixty (60) days after notification from Clerk to Parliament on the occurrence of the vacancy. The Commission received the notice on 17th October 2017, and therefore, the statutory deadline for holding the by-election is 17th December, 2017.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the electoral programme for this by-election.

b. Banning of Fundraising Activities in Igara East Constituency, Bushenyi District

During this by-election programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in Igara East Constituency, Bushenyi 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 Friday 3rd November 2017, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Igara East Constituency, and will continue until polling day.

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

c. Stakeholders Meeting: Tuesday 31st October 2017

The Electoral Commission will hold a stakeholders meeting on Tuesday 31st October 2017, at Bushenyi District Council Hall, to discuss any issues of concern that should be addressed by the Commission to ensure a free and fair by-election.

This meeting will also help to foster collaboration between the Commission and stakeholders in Igara East Constituency, and achieve high participation in the various activities, in accordance with the laws.

The stakeholders who have been invited to the meeting include the constituency 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.

d. Update of the National Voters' Register: 30th October - 3rd November 2017

Igara East Constituency currently has a total number of **51,396** registered voters (as at 30th September 2017) and 82 polling stations.

An update of the Voters' Register will be conducted from 30th October - 3rd November 2017, at update stations within each of the twenty seven (27) parishes in Igara East Constituency, 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 within Igara East Constituency, 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 3rd November 2017 as the cut-off date for registration and/or transfer of voting location in for Igara East Constituency.

e. Display of the Voters' Register and Issuance of Voting Location Slips: 13th - 22nd November 2017

The Electoral Commission has appointed 13th– 22nd November 2017, as the period for display of the National Voters' Register in Igara East Constituency.

The display of the Voters' Register shall begin at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm at all polling stations in the Constituency, 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, 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 eight (8) days, from 27th November – 4th December 2017, at the respective parish 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.

f. Nomination of Candidates, Inspection of Nomination Papers, Campaigns & Polling Day
The nomination of candidates shall be conducted on 22nd and 23rd November 2017, at Bushenyi District Headquarters.

The nomination will be followed by a period of six (6) days, that is, from 22nd– 27th November 2017 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-election.

Campaign meetings shall be held for a period of seventeen (17) days, that is, from 26th November to 12th December 2017. 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 shall take place on Thursday 14th December 2017 at all polling stations in Igara East Constituency, and (polling) shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

g. 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.

h. 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 not later than 8thDecember 2017.

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 24th November – 12thDecember 2017, 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 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.



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission

Appendix A: Programme for the Conduct of Administrative Units (Village and Parish)
Elections 2017

Village (LC I) Level		
No.	Activity	Period
1.	Recruitment of Village Election officials	11 th – 14 th October 2017
2.	Display of names of Village Election Officials for inspection at the Parish Headquarters	14 th – 20 th October 2017
3.	Training of Village Election Officials	23 rd October 2017
4.	Verification of residents & Compilation of Village (LC I) Voters' Register	26 th – 30 th October 2017
5.	Cut-off date for compilation of the Village (LC I) Voters' Register	30 th October 2017
6.	Display of the Village (LC I) Voters' Register	31 st Oct – 1 st Nov 2017
7.	Issuance of Nomination Forms to aspiring Candidates	24 th – 31 st October 2017
8.	Nomination of candidates for Village (LC I) Chairperson	15 th –16 th November 2017
9.	Campaigns for Village (LC I) Chairperson	17 th –20 th November 2017
10.	Polling Day for Election of Village (LC I) Chairperson (lining, counting, filling forms, declaration of winner & Council Meeting)	21 st November 2017
Parish/Ward (LC II) Level		
No.	Activity	Period
1.	Compilation of Parish/Ward (LC II) Voters' Register	22 nd –23 rd November2017
2.	Display of Parish/Ward (LC II) Voters' Register	24 th –27 th November2017
3.	Nomination of Candidates for Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	4 th December 2017
4.	Campaigns for Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	5 th –6 th December 2017
5.	Polling Day for Election of Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	7 th December 2017

Appendix B: Programme for the Conduct of Women Councils and Committees Elections 2017

<u>Village/Cell (LC I) Level</u>		
No	Activity	Period
1.	Compilation of Village Women's Register	26 th – 30 th October 2017
2.	Display of the Village Women's Register	31 st Oct – 1 st Nov 2017
3.	Nomination of candidates for election of five (5) Members of the Village Women's Committee	6 th -7 th November 2017
4.	Candidates' Campaigns for election of Village Women Committee	8 th -13 th November 2017
5.	Polling Day for Election of five (5) Members of Village Women Committee (lining, counting, filling forms and declaration)	14 th November 2017
<u>Parish/Ward Level</u>		
1.	Compilation of Parish/Ward (LC II) Women's Register	22 nd -23 rd November 2017
2.	Display of Parish/Ward (LC II) Women's Register	24 th -27 th November 2017
3.	Nomination of Candidates for Parish/Ward Women Committee	28 th -29 th November 2017
4.	Candidates' Campaigns for Parish/Ward (LCII) Women Committee	29 th -30 th November 2017
5.	Polling Day for Election of Parish/Ward (LC II) Women Committee	1 st December 2017
<u>Sub-County/Town/Municipal Division Level</u>		
1.	Compilation of Sub-County/Town/Division Women's Register	8 th December 2017
2.	Display of Sub-County/Town/Division Women's Register	11 th -12 th December 2017
3.	Nomination of Candidates for election of Sub-County/Town /Division Women Committee	13 th December 2017
4.	Candidates' Campaigns for election of Sub-County/Town /Division Women Committee	14 th -18 th December 2017
5.	Polling Day for Election of Sub-County/Town/Division Women Committee	19 th December 2017
<u>District/City Level</u>		
1.	Compilation of District/City Women's Register	8 th -9 th January 2018
2.	Display of District/City Women's Register	10 th -11 th January 2018
3.	Nomination of Candidates for District/City Women Committee	12 th January 2018
4.	Candidates' Campaigns for District/City Women Committee	15 th -16 th January 2018
5.	Polling Day for Election of District/City Women Committee	17 th January 2018
<u>National Conference for Election of the National Women Committee</u>		
1.	Display of the National Women's Register	29 th -30 th January 2018
2.	National Conference for the National Women Committee Elections	31 st Jan - 1 st Feb 2018

**Appendix B: Programme for By-election of Member of Parliament for Igara East Constituency,
Bushenyi District, November – December 2017**

No.	Activities	Period
1.	Update of the National Voters' Register	30thOct-3rd Nov 2017
2.	Cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Igara East Constituency, Bushenyi District	3 rd November 2017
3.	Recruitment of officials to conduct Display of the Voters' Register	6 th -7 th November 2017
4.	Display of lists of recruited Display officials at the Office of the District Returning Officer and sub county headquarters	7 th – 12 th November 2017
5.	Consultative Meeting with stakeholders in Igara East Constituency	31 st October 2017
6.	Training of Display Officers, VLS Officials, Supervisors and issuance of appointment letters	11 th - 12 th November 2017
7.	Display of Voters' Register at Polling Stations in Igara East and Issuance of Voter Location Slips (VLS) by Parish Supervisors	13th - 22nd November
8.	Display of Parish Tribunal Recommendations for deletion from or inclusion on the Voters' Register at the parish headquarters	27th Nov-4th Dec 2017
9.	Nomination of Candidates at Bushenyi District Headquarters	22nd - 23rd Nov 2017
10.	Period for inspection of candidates' nomination papers and lodging of complaints	22 nd - 27 th November
11.	Returning Officer's Meeting with candidates to harmonize campaign programmes and formation of Liaison Committees	24 th November 2017
12.	Campaigns	26th Nov - 12th Dec
13.	Recruitment of polling day officials (<i>to include written interview</i>)	28 th - 29 th November
14.	Production and issuance of accreditation tags to Political Parties and Organisations and accredited observers	24 th November - 12 th December 2017
15.	Display of names of polling day officials for inspection at Office of the Returning Officer and Sub-county Headquarters	29 th November - 11 th December 2017
16.	Training of Polling day officials, BVVK officials, Tally Clerks, Candidates' agents and issuance of appointment letters	11 th - 12 th December 2017
17.	Polling Day and Tallying of results	14th December 2017