

# THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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## Press Statement

### **Programme for Resumption of Conduct of Administrative Unit (Village and Parish Level) and Women Councils and Committees (Village to National Level) Elections, 2018**

#### **1) Introduction**

I welcome you to this press briefing in which the Electoral Commission will release the programme for resumption of conduct of Administrative Unit Elections from the Village (LC I) level to the Parish (LC II) level, and Women Councils and Committees Elections from the Village to the National Level.

#### **2) Resumption of Electoral Programme for Administrative Unit (Village and Parish Level) and Women Councils and Committees (Village to National Level) Elections, 2018**

As you are aware, the Electoral Commission, in compliance with two Court Orders issued by the High Court at Kampala on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017, and another one issued by the High Court at Jinja on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017, suspended the programme for Administrative Units (LC I & II) and Women Councils and Committees Elections, 2017.

On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Court advised the Commission and the petitioners to explore an out of Court settlement and report back to Court on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

The Electoral Commission engaged in discussions and deliberations with the petitioners, and (the parties) came to a settlement that was filed and endorsed by Court. This cleared the way for the Commission to resume the process leading up to the conduct of the said elections.

Please note that at the time of suspension of the elections, the Commission had already undertaken several activities and spent considerable amounts of money, hence there was need for additional funding in order to resume and effectively conclude the electoral programme. Hence the Commission submitted a request to Government to provide some additional funding and I am glad to report that Government has provided the required funds.

Accordingly, the Commission has approved a revised programme and we will briefly highlight here below some key activities and dates for the electoral programme.

#### **3) Verification of residents and compilation/update of the Village LC I Register and the Village Women Register: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

The Electoral Commission has appointed Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018, as the period during which willing village residents will register to participate in Administrative Unit (LC I), and Women Councils and Committees Elections.

During this period, eligible and willing residents shall turn up in person at the registration centre within the village of residence to register.

**Please carefully note the following:**

- a) This is not a fresh registration of all village residents across the country, but rather a compilation/update exercise, to enable the Commission register eligible residents of 18 years and above, who are not yet registered in the Residents Register, as well as those who were not registered before during the exercise conducted in October 2017 for purpose of Administrative Units (LC I & LC II) and Women Councils and Committees Elections;
- b) Accordingly, persons who registered during the exercise conducted in October 2017 for purpose of Administrative Unit (LC I & LC II) and Women Councils and Committees Elections and were successfully verified as residents will not be required to register again during this compilation/update exercise. This is because the Electoral Commission already has their particulars in the Village Residents and Village Women's Registers.
- c) However, the Commission notes that a total number of 1,138 new villages have been added on the list of villages since the suspension of the electoral activities in November 2017. This means that residents in these new villages who had registered in the old villages and those who could have transferred residence are advised to register in their current place of residence.
- d) The registration exercise shall cover the compilation/update 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;
  - ii. The Village Women's Council Register for purposes of electing the Village Women's Committee;
  - iii. Willing village residents and willing village women residents shall be registered in separate register books provided by the Electoral Commission; and,
  - iv. The willing women residents will register in both registers and participate in both elections.
- e) The registration exercise shall be free of charge, and will be conducted from 7:00am until 6:00pm on each of the appointed dates, including weekends;
- f) A person must fulfill the following requirements in order to be registered in the Village Council Register:
  - 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:
  - a) Names,
  - b) National Id Card, National Id Number or National Id Application Number,
  - c) Age,
  - d) Gender, and,
  - e) Village of Residence.

#### **4) Display of the Voter's Registers: 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

The display of the Village Council Register and the Village Women's Council Register will be conducted from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

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.

#### **5) Composition of Village Women Committee, Nomination of Candidates, Campaign Period and Polling Date for Village Women Committees Elections**

##### *Composition of Village Women Committees*

The Village Women Committee shall comprise of the following:

- a) Chairperson
- b) Vice Chairperson
- c) Secretary
- d) Publicity Secretary,
- e) Secretary for Finance

##### *Nomination of Candidates in New Villages for Village Women Committees: 27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> June 2018*

The Electoral Commission has appointed Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29 June 2018 as the dates for nomination of candidates for election of the above five (5) members of the Village Women Committee in new villages.

The nominations of candidates shall be conducted at the respective Parish Headquarters by the Parish Election Official, starting at 9:00am until 5:00pm on each of the above dates.

#### **Please carefully note the following:**

- a) Nominations shall be conducted in the new villages only; the candidature of persons nominated during the exercise conducted in November 2017 remains valid;

- b) An aspiring candidate for any office on the Women’s Committee shall be a female ordinarily resident in the village, aged eighteen (18) years or above and a citizen of Uganda;
- c) An aspiring candidate shall be registered on the Village Women Council Register;
- d) No academic qualifications shall be required; and,
- e) No nomination fee shall be required.

*Campaigns and Polling for Village Women Committees*

Campaign meetings shall be held for a period of four (4) days, that is, from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 2<sup>nd</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.

The Commission has appointed Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 as polling day for Village Women Committees.

Polling shall take place in a public/open place within the village, and shall be by lining behind the nominated candidates or their representatives or their portraits or symbols, in accordance with Section 111(2) of the Local Governments Act CAP 243 (as amended).

**6) Election of Executive Committee Members from the Parish/Ward to the National Level**

The Parish/Ward Women’s Council shall consist of all the members of the village women’s committees in the parish or ward.

The Sub-county/Town or Division Women’s Council (electoral college) shall consist of members of the parish or ward women’s committees in the Sub-county/Town or Division and a representative of women with disabilities elected from among the disabled women in the Sub-county/Town or Division through their structures.

The District/City Women’s Council (electoral college) shall consist of the chairpersons of the Sub-county/Town or Division women’s councils and a representative of women with disabilities elected from among the disabled women in the district/city through their structures.

The election of the Executive Committee Members from the Parish/Ward to the National Level will be conducted in accordance with the attached programme (Appendix B.).

**7) Composition of Village (LC I) Executive Committee**

There shall be an executive committee at each village (LC I) consisting of eleven (11) members as follows:

- i. Chairperson
- ii. Vice Chairperson who shall also be Secretary for Children Welfare
- iii. General Secretary
- iv. Secretary for Information, Education and Mobilization,
- v. Secretary for Security,
- vi. Secretary for Finance,
- vii. Secretary for production and environmental protection;
- viii. Secretary for Youths;

- ix. Secretary for Women and also the Public Health Coordinator;
- x. Secretary for Persons with Disabilities Affairs; and,
- xi. Secretary for the Council of Older Persons.

**8) Nomination of Candidates for Village (LC I) Chairperson: 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The Electoral Commission has appointed Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018, as the dates for nomination of candidates for election of Village (LC I) Chairperson.

The nominations of candidates shall be conducted at the respective Parish Headquarters by the Parish Election Official, starting at 9:00am until 5:00pm on each of the above dates.

**Please note that these elections shall be conducted in accordance with the multi-party political dispensation. Therefore political parties should prepare accordingly.**

- i. Aspiring candidates for election as Village (LC I) Chairperson may collect nomination forms from the Parish Election Official (Nominating Officer) of the parish in which the village is located;
- ii. An aspiring candidate for Village (LC I) Chairperson shall be a citizen of Uganda of 18 years and above, a resident in the village where he/she intends to stand, and must be registered on the respective Village Council Register.
- iii. No academic qualifications shall be required for election of Village (LC I) Chairperson and no nomination fee shall be required.

Additional and detailed information on the nomination procedures are outlined in the guidelines that are to be issued to the general public and political parties, and also made available through the media and on the EC website.

**9) Campaign Period and Polling Date for Village (LC I) Chairperson:**

Campaign meetings for elections of Village (LC I) Chairperson shall be held for a period of four (4) days, that is, from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 9<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.

Polling for election of Village (LC I) Chairperson will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018, in a public/open place within the village, and shall start at 7:00 am and end at 4:00pm.

The election of the Village (LC I) Chairperson shall be by the voters lining behind the nominated candidates or their representatives, or their portraits or symbols, in accordance with Section 111(2) of the Local Government Act CAP 243 (as amended).

For avoidance of doubt, the following program shall guide the flow of activities on voting day:

- 7:00-10:00 : Assembly and Verification of voters by the Village Election Official (Presiding Officer)
- 10:00-11:00 : Voter education and briefing of voters on voting procedures by

		the Village Election Official (Presiding Officer)
11:00-11:30	:	Voting by the electorate lining up and counting of votes
11:30-12:00	:	Filling of Form EC10 and declaration of Chairperson-elect.
12:00-04:00	:	Nomination and approval of Executive Committee members by the Village Council and filling form EC11

Please note that the following Village (LC I) Committee members shall be nominated by the elected Village Chairperson from among members of the Council present and approved by the Council one by one by show of hands:

- i. Vice Chairperson who shall also be Secretary for Children Welfare
- ii. General Secretary
- iii. Secretary for Information, Education and Mobilization,
- iv. Secretary for Security,
- v. Secretary for Finance,
- vi. Secretary for production and environmental protection,

Furthermore, the Committee members below shall join the Village Executive Committee by virtue of having been elected Chairpersons of the respective Village Committees of Special Interest Groups:

- i. The Chairperson of the Village Youth Council, who shall be the Secretary for Youths;
- ii. The Chairperson of the Village Women Council, who shall be the Secretary for Women and also the Public Health Coordinator;
- iii. The Chairperson of the organization for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) at the Village who shall be Secretary for Persons with Disabilities Affairs; and,
- iv. The Chairperson of the Village Council of Older Persons who shall be the Secretary for the Council of Older Persons.

### **10) Election of the Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson and Executive Committee Members**

The members of the Village Executive Committees in the respective parish/ward will comprise the Parish Council for purposes of election of the Parish/Ward Chairperson.

The election of the Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson, nomination and approval of Parish Executive Committee Members will be conducted in accordance with the following programme:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>
1.	Compilation of Parish/Ward (LC II) Voters' Register	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
2.	Display of Parish/Ward (LC II) Voters' Register	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
3.	Nomination of Candidates for Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
4.	Campaigns for Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
5.	Polling Day for Election of Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2018

### **11) Compliance with the Law**

The Electoral Commission has issued comprehensive guidelines to enable stakeholders participate in the entire electoral programme, which is progressive in nature, that is, from the Village to the Parish (in the case of Administrative Units) and from Village to National level, in the case of Women Councils and Committees.

The Commission, therefore, urges all aspiring candidates and stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the relevant laws and guidelines, in order to appreciate their respective roles and responsibilities before, during and after these elections.

### **12) Appeal**

The Commission appeals to all political parties to study this programme and undertake necessary preparatory activities (e.g. election of flag bearers) in time to comply with the guidelines and requirements for each level for this electoral process.

### **13) Conclusion**

The Commission urges all Ugandans to participate in this electoral programme, and to do so in accordance with the guidelines for each activity. This will ensure a smooth electoral exercise.

I thank you,

For God and my Country,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mugenyi Simon', is written over a light blue rectangular stamp or watermark.

Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon  
**Chairperson, Electoral Commission**

**Appendix A: Summary Programme for Administrative Units (Village [LC I] & Parish [LC II]) Elections 2018**

<b>Village (LC I) Level</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>
1.	Verification of residents & compilation of Village Voters' Registers	22 <sup>nd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
2.	Cut-off date for compilation of the Village (LC I) Voters' Register	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
3.	Display of the Village (LC I) Voters' Register	26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
4.	Nomination of candidates for Village (LC I) Chairperson	4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
5.	Campaigns for Village (LC I) Chairperson	6 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
6.	Polling Day for Election of Village (LC I) Chairperson (lining, counting, filling forms, declaration of winner; nomination and approval of Executive by the Village Council Meeting)	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>Parish/Ward (LC II) Level</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>
1.	Compilation of Parish/Ward (LC II) Voters' Register	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
2.	Display of Parish/Ward (LC II) Voters' Register	13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
3.	Nomination of Candidates for Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
4.	Campaigns for Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	25 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
5.	Polling Day for Election of Parish/Ward (LC II) Chairperson	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2018



**Appendix B: Programme Women Councils and Committees Elections (Village to National level)**

<b><u>Village/Cell (LC I) Level</u></b>		
<b>No</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>
1.	Compilation of Village Women's Register	22 <sup>nd</sup> –25 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
	Cut-off for compilation of Village Women's Register	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
2.	Display of the Village Women's Register	26 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
3.	Nomination of candidates for election of five (5) Members of the Village Women's Committee at the respective Parish/Ward Office	27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
4.	Candidates' Campaigns for election of Village Women Committee	29 <sup>th</sup> June - 2 <sup>nd</sup> July
5.	Polling Day for Election of five (5) Members of Village Women Committee (lining, counting, filling forms & declaration of winners)	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018
<b><u>Parish/Ward Level</u></b>		
1.	Compilation of Parish/Ward (LC II) Women's Register	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
2.	Display of Parish/Ward (LC II) Women's Register	13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
3.	Nomination of Candidates for Parish/Ward Women Committee	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
4.	Candidates' Campaigns for Parish/Ward (LCII) Women Committee	16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
5.	Polling Day for Election of Parish/Ward (LC II) Women Committee	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018
<b><u>Sub-County/Town/Municipal Division Level</u></b>		
1.	Compilation of Sub county/Town/Municipal Division Women's Register	27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
2.	Display of Sub County/Town/Municipal Division Women's Register	30 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2018
3.	Nomination of Candidates	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2018
4.	Candidates' Campaigns	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2018
5.	Polling for elections of Sub County/Town/Mun. Div. Women Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018
<b><u>District/City Level</u></b>		
1.	Compilation of District/City Women's Register	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018
2.	Display of District/City Women's Register	6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> August 2018
3.	Nomination of Candidates for District/City Women Committee	8 <sup>th</sup> August 2018
4.	Candidates' Campaigns for District/City Women Committee	9 <sup>th</sup> –10 <sup>th</sup> August 2018
5.	Polling Day for Election of District/City Women Committee	13 <sup>th</sup> August 2018
<b><u>National Conference for Election of the National Women Committee</u></b>		
1.	Display of the National Women's Register	22 <sup>nd</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018
2.	National Conference for the National Women Committee Elections	23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> August 2018