

The EC Bulletin

For Regular, Free and Fair Elections

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FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

It is a pleasure to come out with the third edition of the EC Bulletin. I wish to thank all our readers who have given us feed-back on the editions so far produced. We value the interactions and indeed, since November 2002, the outward focus of the Electoral Commission has, through various fora, been to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between itself and all stakeholders in elections and democracy in Uganda. This, - so that all parties appreciate that there is mutual dependency between the Commission, its partners and the electorate - that each party understands that it has a vital role to play if

File Photo



Dr Jenny B. Okello: Commissioner, Electoral Commission

Uganda is to be grounded in a democratic culture.

The pace of interactions has certainly been steadily picking up as Uganda moves towards what promises to be a pivotal 1½ years in the country's democratic development. The interactions have taken various forms:

- Visits by the Chairman, Deputy Chairperson and Commissioners, supported by technical staff, to the various Districts under their stewardship to meet the District leadership
- Stakeholders' meetings during by-elections involving (prospective) candidates, their agents and the local leadership

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The EC's Standing Resolution

To 'Promote public confidence in the Electoral Commission as a credible institution in charge of management of the electoral process through a transparent, accountable and efficient human resource, conducting continuous voter education and update of the Voters' Register in order to deliver peaceful free and fair elections and referenda in accordance with the Constitution'.

The EC'S Vision

The EC'S Vision is to: "promote peaceful continuity of governance through an impeccable electoral process".

The EC's Mission

For Regular, free and fair elections



EC/ UNEB TO FIGHT FORGERY OF ACADEMIC PAPERS

The Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu, paid a courtesy call on the Secretary, Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB), Mr. Matthew Bukenya, on 2nd July 2004.

During the meeting at UNEB offices in Ntinda, Eng. Kiggundu said the EC considers UNEB as a key partner in the electoral process. He stated that the Commission relies on UNEB's expertise to establish the authenticity of academic documents presented by aspiring candidates, especially when it comes to ascertaining documents

or qualifications equivalent to A-level, that is required of persons aspiring to become Members of Parliament.

Eng. Kiggundu said that the Commission is concerned about

the colossal amounts of money that the tax-payer loses, when the academic papers of candidates or MPs are successfully challenged in courts. He thus called for closer cooperation between UNEB and the EC to identify loopholes and tighten the vetting system to eliminate cases of forged papers and impersonation.

The EC Chairman proposed that in future, in addition to publication in the government gazette, UNEB should consider publishing the academic documents of aspiring candidates



Seeking solutions: EC Chairman Eng. Dr Kiggundu (R) and UNEB's Matthew Bukenya (L)

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- Workshops for various stakeholders, among them the Press, the Police and the UPDF
- Voter education over the Radio
- Production of the Electoral Commission Bulletin

Through all these fora/media, the Electoral Commission has sought to stress its mandate and to provoke Ugandans individually and as members of institutions, to look critically at themselves and weigh what role each one has to play in the democratic process; for each one to ask herself/himself whether her/his attitude and actions contribute positively towards Uganda's goal of democratisation:

- What are "general elections" if only a small fraction of eligible voters actually vote?
- What legitimacy does an election have if the winning candidate uses bribes or intimidation or both?

- If as a voter, I accept a bribe, do I really still have any claim on my representative?
- What role do I have to play in elections as an individual?, as a member of a state institution entrusted with certain duties?
- Can I, as a voter, really make a difference?
- As a candidate; a leader or prospective leader, what example am I setting? Is it something my followers should emulate? If not, what does that say about me? etc.

Of course, as the institution with the mandate to, among other things, organize and conduct free and fair elections/referenda, the Electoral Commission has a big role to play. At every opportunity, the Commission has stressed this mandate and revealed its philosophy and the strategies, which it has instituted in order to be an effective and efficient implementer of the mandate. The Commission has equally stressed the cooperation and behavior it expects from all

stakeholders if an impeccable electoral process is to be realised each time.

It is the hope of the Electoral Commission that by the time the national elections and possibly referendum come around, every Ugandan shall have had every opportunity to reflect on his/her role in it, will be ready and eager to exercise his/her democratic right and duty, and that our development partners will be equally ready and willing to complement the Commission's efforts. Each of us surely has a role to play. Lets play it responsibly.

We continue to invite comments and constructive criticisms not only of anything you read in this Bulletin or past editions, but also regarding any aspect of the Electoral Commission over which you would like to express yourself.

J. Okello

Dr Jenny B. Okello

COMMISSIONER, ELECTORAL COMMISSION

EC SENSITISES POLICE/ ARMY ON ELECTIONS

During the financial year 2003/4, the EC organized a series of Training of Trainers' (TOT) workshops for senior officers of the Uganda Police and the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF).

The broad objective of the TOTs was to sensitize the forces about the challenges faced by the Electoral Commission during elections, and brainstorm with participants on security issues during elections. The sessions were also designed to sensitize the participants about democracy and their role in the realization of free and fair elections.

The workshops for the UPDF drew senior officers from various divisions in the country, including Central (held in Masaka), 1st division (in Mbarara), 3rd Division (in Moroto), 4th Division (in Gulu) and 5th Division (in Lira).

The Police workshops were held in venues including Masaka (for Central region), Lira (for officers from Northern region), Hoima (for mid-Western region) and Mbale (for officers from Eastern region).

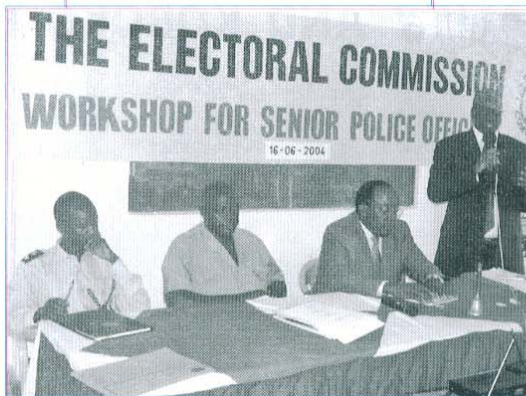
Participants from the Police included Regional Police Commanders, District Police Commanders, and other senior officers. The Commissioner of Police in-charge of Human

Resources and Training, Commissioner of Police (CP), Fred

battalions. The UPDF Chief Political Commissar, Brigadier Kale Kaihura, coordinated the workshops for UPDF officers.

The candidness and active participation of the officers during the workshops indicated their appreciation of the challenges in organizing elections. The forces pledged to cooperate with the EC if called upon, to ensure free and fair elections in the country.

Following the success of the TOT workshops with the forces, the Electoral Commission has developed a broader arrangement, under which other stakeholders like the media, statutory agencies, politicians and opinion leaders will be sensitized about elections.



EC's Commissioner Joseph Biribonwa (standing) addresses Senior Police Officer at White Horse Hotel, Lira

Yiga, worked closely with the Electoral Commission during the sessions.

From the UPDF, the participants included Division Commanders, Brigade Commanders, Intelligence Officers, Political Commissars, Legal Officers and Administrative officers from

Table showing Dates and Venues for the TOS's Undertaken by the EC

Date	Venue	Participants
31 st May 2004	UPDF General Hqrs Bombo	UPDF Officers
2 nd June 2004	1 st Division, Kakiri- Hotel Equatoria	UPDF Officers
7 th June 2004	Mbarara -Rwizi Arch Hotel	Uganda Police Officers
8 th June 2004	Mbarara - Rwizi Arch Hotel	UPDF Officers
9 th June 2004	Masaka - Hotel Brovad	Uganda Police Officers
10 th June 2004	Moroto - Soroti Hotel	UPDF Officers
14 th June 2004	Gulu - Acholi Inn	UPDF Officers
15 th June 2004	Lira - White House Hotel	UPDF Officers
16 th June 2004	Lira - White House Hotel	Uganda Police Officers
22 nd June 2004	Hoima - Kolping House	Uganda Police Officers
24 th June 2004	Mbale - Mbale Resort Hotel	Uganda Police Officers

THE ELECTION POEM

By Akora E.M.M.

District Registrar, Kabarole.

Look, what's coming,
What? That's it. What!!
Elections. Elections?
Yeah! Riding up and down
The sidewalks of areas, towns,
districts
And even countries.

A form of democracy, they say it is.
With boxes, what do they call them?

Ballot boxes and ballot papers placed
in them.
Quick, tick or place your inked thumb,
Where? On your candidate.
Majority places our man or woman
as winner.

But what about the rigging of votes?
Fear no more and don't live in the
past
We are in a new democratic nation.
New standards, new bosses, new
skills and labor.
Fair and square; the votes will be.

And the leaders you get
Will be your choice.



ELECTION REPORT: EC CONCLUDES NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL; MBALE MUNICIPALITY AND KOBOKO ELECTIONS

Ugandan youth are a happy lot, after the highly anticipated National Youth Council elections were eventually conducted by the Electoral Commission on 27th and 28th May 2004, in Mbale. The Electoral Commission convened the National Youth conference (electoral college), and filled the vacancies in the Executive Committee of the National Youth Council.

The vacancies in the Executive Committee and the respectively elected office bearers are: Joseph Okwakau (Chairperson), Agaba Abbas Mugisha (Vice Chairperson), Binega Vunde Jenaro (Publicity Secretary), Kabuga Daniel Mulindwa (General Secretary), Namagowe Hagira (Secretary for Women), Kavuma Samuel (Secretary for Student Affairs), Birungi Rebecca (Secretary for Labor Affairs), Ahmed Shaban Mugweri (Secretary for Sports and Culture), Obua Denis Hamson (Secretary for Finance), Okwi James (Secretary for External Relations), and Bigirwa Julius (Secretary for Legal Affairs).

Meanwhile, the Electoral Commission conducted the by-election for the Member of Parliament for Mbale

Municipality, on 25th May 2004. Mr. Sylvester Wanjusi Wasieba was declared the victorious candidate, after he polled 5,238

municipality seat, and their respective number of polled votes were, Mr. Hassan Wasswa Galiwango 4,349 votes (35.31%),

Mr. Masika George Jafeth 2,139 votes (17.36%), Ms. Wasagali Sarah 349 votes (2.83%), Mr. Magomu Mashate Peter 170 (1.38%) and Mr. Woniala Kasola Wilson 73 votes (0.59%).

The Mbale Municipality seat fell vacant after the death (in March 2004) of the then MP, Hon. James Wambogo Wapakhabulo, who was also the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Electoral Commission also concluded the by-election program for the Member of Parliament for Koboko constituency, Arua district, on 16 June 2004. The Koboko by-election program was relatively unique – one candidate, Mr. Ahmed Awongo was nominated, and subsequently declared unopposed at the close of nominations, on 16th June 2004.

The by-election for Koboko constituency resulted from the death (in May 2004) of the then MP, Hon. Francis Ayume, who was also serving as Attorney General.



Congratulations: EC Chairman Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu shakes hands with the newly elected chairman of the National Youth Council Mr. Joseph Okwakau. Looking on (R) is the EC Secretary, Sam A. Riwakoojo, and (L) EC Commissioner Joseph Biribonwa

votes (representing 42.52% of the valid votes cast). The other contestants for the Mbale



The team: The newly elected National Youth Council Executive, from R to L, Mr. Joseph Okwakau (chairman), Julius Bigirwa (Sec. Legal Affairs), Samuel Kavuma (Sec. Students Affairs), Ms. Hagira Namagowe (Sec. for Women), Mr. Vunde Birega (Sec. for Publicity), Abbas Agaba (Vice chairman), Shaban Mugweri (Sec. for Sports and Culture), and Kabuga Daniel (General Secretary)

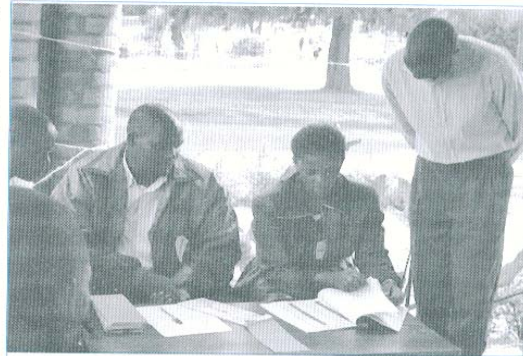


PHOTO-BEARING REGISTER (PVRIS) EXCITES MUBEND

By Nalubega Rosemary Kisembo
District Registrar, Mubende

The release of the PVRIS register has excited many people in Mubende district. Every day people turn up at the Electoral Commission's district offices to verify their names, pictures and bio-data. It is always a joy for those who find their photos on the register - some even request to take them (photos)!

The most disappointed are those who find their particulars but with their photos missing. The EC has to explain why some photos don't appear on the register. Some voters make allegations, e.g. that the photographers did not submit them because the Commission owes them money. The Commission has promised this category that their photos will appear on the register, after having them retaken.



The Photo-bearing Voters' Register has reduced cases of impersonation during elections

In Mubende, the highest number of missing photos are in Mityana Town-council, where you find in some instances a register missing up to 400 photos. Apart from this exception, the furthest Sub-counties without electricity and

with very low literacy levels are the most affected - most of the photographers in these places were those who had not gone far with their education.

I would like to express gratitude to Radio Si Net, a newly established FM radio station in Mityana town. This station has co-operated with the EC Mubende office, to publicize our

continuous voter registration schedules for some time now.

The publicity has enabled us to popularize the Photo-bearing register and remove the allegations that EC had failed to produce it.

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with A-level 'equivalents' in the conventional media to stem cases of forgery and impersonation.

Eng. Kiggundu thanked UNEB for their swift response and cooperation in disposing of complaints or queries regarding academic qualifications of candidates. He cited a recent case in which a candidate was disqualified for using forged papers during nomination. He requested UNEB to consider seconding some of its trusted network of scouts to the service of the Commission during elections.

Mr. Bukenya revealed that UNEB has a network of over 7000 trusted scouts who could assist the Commission during elections, and pledged UNEB's willingness to

work even more closely with the EC in future.

Dr. Kiggundu's meeting with the UNEB Secretary followed similar meetings with other stakeholders including Kampala City Council, *The New Vision* and *The Monitor* newspapers.

After the meeting at KCC in March 2004, the Mayor of Kampala, John Ssebana Kizito, pledged to offer support to the Electoral Commission's programs in the city.

Similar meetings with other stakeholders are planned for the near future. The Commission hopes to build on such interactions and other initiatives to deliver free and fair elections/referenda.



This way Mr Chairman: Kampala Mayor, John Ssebana Kizito (C), EC Chairman Eng. Dr Kiggundu (R) and KCC's Herbert Semakula (L), head to the City Chambers for discussions

WHO ARE THESE POLICEMEN AT THE EC? WHY?

*By Inspector of Police, Kasalawo Chris
Officer-In-Charge, Security/EC.*

If you have been to the Electoral Commission's premises, you must have seen them. To a casual observer, they could pass for a bunch of mean-looking, often gun-wielding men deployed to prevent the public from accessing the institution's officials.

But hey, take heart. We are only officers and men from the Uganda Police, who have got a job to do at the Electoral Commission. It is the job of providing security to the offices, officers and visitors at the Electoral Commission. We also provide security during field electoral activities...it is an entire security department at the Electoral Commission.

As the department charged with security, we appreciate the support of the leadership at the Commission, that has significantly eased our work. And as officers of the Uganda Police, we feel our Mission: *"To secure life and property in partnership with the public in a committed professional manner in order to promote development"* has been largely achieved at the Electoral Commission, where we are currently deployed.

Our duty at the Electoral Commission is to offer supportive security, a key pre-requisite for free and fair elections. This role, I believe, we have executed in an efficient and transparent manner during the elections so far conducted by the Commission.

The Electoral Commission's security office also performs other routine duties. While deployed at the Commission, our duties include:

- Protecting life and property of government and individuals at

- the Electoral Commission during and after office hours;
- Detecting and preventing crime;
- Preserving law and order;
- Maintaining and ensuring security;
- Advising the Commission on security issues;

We are therefore enjoying the support of the Commission staff, which has made our work easier. Our hope is that as departments of the Commission, we continue supporting one another in order to execute our mandate in a truly flawless manner i.e. "organizing free and fair elections and referenda".



*The In-charge, Security I.P. Chris Kasalawo (2nd R)
with part of his unit, at the EC offices*

- When necessary, liaising and cooperating with other agencies for purposes of ensuring security;
- Implementing electoral laws and regulations was a big challenge in the past. As a result, there were incidences of infringement. Through continuous sensitization, the present Commission has however tremendously pre-empted unlawful acts, by involving the entire Electoral Commission family, up to the ground level.

The Police Unit at the Electoral Commission extends appreciation to the Electoral Commission Chairman, Commissioners, members of Management and staff for the support, and a job so far well done.

To the Electoral Commission's visitors: Don't be afraid of us – we are here to protect you as well. We shall only round-up those who we have grounds for suspecting to be "bad guys".

EC IN REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ELECTIONS

From 15th to 18th May 2004, an EC team comprising Commissioner Dr. Jenny B. Okello and Ag. Head, Voter Registration, Mr. Charles Nsimbi participated in a "pan-African conference on elections, democracy and governance", in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The issues considered during the conference included "Democracy and Governance", "Guidelines for AU Elections Observation and Monitoring" and "Prospects for the Establishment of an Electoral Assistance Fund in Africa".

The EC delegation raised the issue of funding of election management bodies stressing that not only should the funding be adequate but it should also be timely. This proposal was adopted by the conference.

The meeting underscored the importance of putting in place a Code Of Conduct for parties involved in elections. Uganda suggested imposition of deterrent measures for those who would not respect the agreed code of conduct.

On Guidelines for Election Observation and Monitoring, the areas examined included; criteria for determining the nature and scope of AU electoral observation and monitoring; mandate, rights and responsibilities of AU observation and monitoring missions, code of conduct for AU Election observers and monitors; and principles governing democratic Elections in Africa.

It was agreed that the AU should observe all elections in Member States and agreed that member states should always invite the AU

Commission to be involved in monitoring and observing elections.

Uganda proposed an amendment of the guidelines to the effect that AU observers and monitors must recognize and respect the culture of the host country and behave with courtesy to all the people they come in contact with -the amendment was adopted by the meeting.

It was further proposed that the

possibility of accessing such sources for the electoral assistance fund.

Finally, the meeting recommended that the AU Commission be mandated to convene a meeting of Legal and other experts to examine the Draft Document (charter) on democracy, elections and governance and put it in appropriate legal language for adoption by relevant AU policy organs.



The Head of the Ugandan Delegation, Commissioner Dr. Jenny B. Okello, (c), at the AU Conference on 16th May 2004.

AU should explore the possibility of observing elections world-wide.

On the establishment of an electoral assistance, it was proposed that such an electoral fund should be operated as a trust fund, and that multinational corporations operating in member states be encouraged to contribute to the fund.

The AU Commission was called upon to speed up the study of alternative sources of funding for the African Union (AU) Commission and explore the

The member States that participated in the meeting include Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Egypt, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahara Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

PICTORIAL

The Electoral Commission has an elaborate training policy for members of staff. Between May and June 2004 a number of staff underwent training programmes including:

1. Francis Peter Ojede, Head, Human Resource Department and Agatha Mutenyo, Senior Accountant enrolled for a course in Fraud detection and prevention at the African Management Development Centre, Durban, South Africa.
2. Ester Naluyiga, Administrative Assistant enrolled for a programme for Administrative Assistant and Secretaries, at the same institute (as in 1)
3. Moses W. Watasa, a Senior Election Officer (PE) enrolled for a Proactive Management Course conducted by the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) at Mombasa, Kenya



A beaming Francis Peter Ojede (R) Head of Human Resource Department at the EC receives his certificate



I've got it: EC's Esther Naluyiga flashes her certificate after the course



My view: EC's Moses Watasa (R) consults with Mr Martin Lyewe (L) of ESAMI, during a Proactive Management Course at Mombasa, Kenya on 26th May 2004



EC's Senior Accountant, Agatha Mutenyo (L), receives her certificate



8 Diginitaries inspect the EC's stall during the World Population Day event in Mpigi in June 2004. Extreme left is Finance Minister Hon. Gerald Sendaula. Centre (in specs) is EC Chairman Eng. Dr Kiggundu



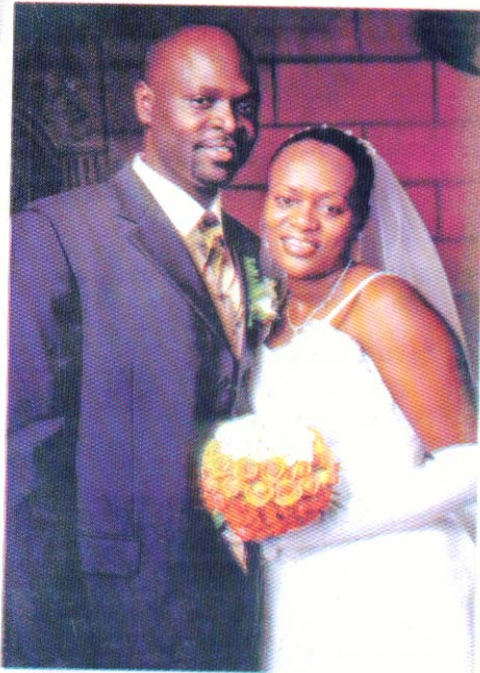
Principle Election Officer (PR) Peter Okello Jabweli, attended a Customer Care Management Course hosted by ESAMI in Durban. South Africa

PICTORIAL

The EC is also doing well socially. Five members of staff wedded between June and July 2004. They include Hebert Wamboko, Ag. Head of Data Processing, Jacqueline Atuhairwe, Sylvia Kahingi, Joy Nansamba and Celestine Mulumba, Election Officers at the EC.



Got you! Mr and Mrs Wamboko wedded in July 2004. The groom, Mr Herbert Wamboko is the Ag. Head of the Data Processing Department at the EC



For eternity: EC's Jacqueline Atuhairwe (R) wedded Peter Mwebesa (L) from the IGG's office



Take me home: The Kakyeteros step out of church, after tying the knot in July 2004. The bride Sylvia, is an Election Officer at the EC



Left: Two become one: Mr Celestine Mulumba, an EC Election Officer wedded Ms Irene Nansamba in May 2004



Husband and wife: Ms Joy Nansamba, an EC Election Officer, tied the knot with Mr Kikambi in May 2004

S.AFRICAN ELECTIONS: AN EC OBSERVER REFLECTS

By Opar Malakwang P.N.

Election Officer, Voter Registration Dept.

After steadily descending, the air-bus was finally about to touch down the land of the famed Mzee Madiba Mandela. It was 12.45am according to my watch, but the Television screen in the plane was showing 11.45 pm (S. African time). This could not be true.

I trust my Seiko, for the machine neither gains nor loses more than a minute in a month. Surely the TV time was wrong; or was it?

The descent continued. Below us were myriads of lights that would stretch for some time before disappearing and soon others appear and disappear as the plane gently traversed the airspace of the land of the legendary king Shaka the Zulu. We landed at 1.30 am, but the clock at the terminal building was equally wrong because it was one hour late. Gosh, this must be a crazy world!

At the immigration desk, a lady who apparently seemed not to like my looks demanded to know why I did not include my actual date of birth in the passport. I politely told her that at that time I was too young to know and my mother being illiterate could not recall the

exact date either. With a suppressed mischievous smile she stamped my passport.

Welcome to South Africa! South Africa is notorious for a high crime rate particularly in Johannesburg. At the arrival lounge we avoided a guy who had

3.00 am on Saturday morning 10th April 2004.

We were in South Africa at the invitation of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa to observe the National and Provincial elections. The Electoral Commission

Uganda delegation headed by Commissioner Tom Buruku comprised Commissioner Steven Ongaria, Mrs. Mbura Muhindo Jacqueline the District Registrar Kyenjojo and yours truly - the writer. The two Commissioners traveled on an earlier flight and arranged for our welcome at Jan Smith airport.



How we do it: EC's Commissioner Steven Ongaria (2nd R) talks to ladies from the Independent Electoral Commission of S. Africa, next to him (in a dark suit) is Commissioner Tom Buruku

apparently come to pick us (he waved a placard with the name of our hotel).

It took the intervention of police and a phone call to Commissioner Tom Buruku to convince us that the welcome party was indeed genuine before we boarded the waiting limousine en-route to Pretoria. We only felt safe when we were ushered into the hotel where a visibly relieved Commissioner Tom Buruku gave us a bear hug. Time check: It was

The next morning the EC delegation visited the headquarters of IEC (South Africa). Now the IEC (S. Africa) is quite some place. Any body would be proud to work in that place. Access to the facility is restricted. Even staff members go through security scanners at the entrance, as a measure to eliminate possible infiltration by idlers; hawkers and unwanted visitors. The delegation also visited the Result Center where the results from all over the

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EC OBSERVER REFLECTS

country are received, audited and finally released and displayed on giant screens. The EC (Uganda) delegation was photographed and issued with identification tags for easy access to the Result Center and polling stations.

Over the weekend, in order to acquaint themselves with the election environment, the delegation visited areas around Pretoria, Johannesburg and Sunton city where the living legend and international celebrity Mzee Nelson Madiba Mandela resides.

What pleasantly amazed me in Pretoria was the absence of flies. So I have an idea to sell to our own Mayor His Worship John Ssebaana Kizito of Kampala City Council. We could land good money if we lobbied for a consultancy to breed flies and marabou stork (Karoli) in Pretoria!

While in Soweto township, I was surprised to note that contrary to my expectations and belief, the living conditions in that place is far better than the average suburb of Kampala. Soweto (South Western Township) has a well planned housing, road network, water and electricity supply. The shacks (*muzigos*) exist but the situation is not as scary as I had been made to believe. I was so overwhelmed to visit Bishop Desmond Tutu and Mr. Mandela's homes in Soweto, that I picked flowers from the gardens and brought them back here as a souvenir. You could actually read from the faces of the Sowetans that they are proud of these great sons of the land. It will surely take very many years to beat the ANC party here.

Sunday was Easter holiday. After attending a live T.V Easter

summon from my room, I decided that the day would be spent better in the expansive Park in front of the magnificent Union Building, the seat of the President of the Republic of South Africa. I chose that park because it was the venue where the installation and swearing-in ceremony of the President-elect would take place. In preparation for the event, a number of activities were taking place there and in any case it was a walking distance from our hotel. Together with Mrs. Mbura-Muhindo we toured the park and interacted freely with tourists who had also come to appreciate the beauty of the park. Despite the sensitivity of the place, there were no visible intimidating mean-looking security personnel anywhere. The park was peaceful in true symbolism of Easter itself...serene and tranquil.

The next morning (Monday) was scheduled for briefing of observers. The Chairperson of the IEC - S. Africa Dr. Bam accompanied by a Commissioner, the Chief Electoral Officer and a team of other officials briefed the delegations from various countries. The Ugandan delegation was assigned to monitor two provinces of North West and Limpopo. IEC provided two chauffeured limousines for the delegation.

Before polling day, there are categories of people who apply to vote earlier. These include polling day officials, police, army, prisoners, disabled, the aged and some personnel with unique duties to perform on Election Day. For such people, mobile polling stations are used to reach the voters.

On the morning of Wednesday 14th April 2004, we woke up at 6.00am to witness the opening of Jubilee Park polling station in central

Pretoria. The enthusiasm of the voters to participate in the elections was very evident from the long queues that were in place before the opening of the station at 7.00 am. What we noticed in the first polling station was replicated in all other polling stations we visited in the day.

EC Commissioner Steven Ongaria and Mrs. Mbura-Muhindo monitored Limpopo Province while Commissioner Tom Buruku and myself traveled to North West Province, the heartland of the mines and home to the famous Sun City. Oh, Sun City! It is another whole story, and I would require more time tell this one, but what a beautiful city! I can bet that Commissioner Tom Buruku, who resided in that place, would attest to this.

While in S. Africa, we visited nineteen polling stations in both urban and rural areas. The lessons I learnt were as follows:

Registration of voters is computerized. The voter's codes are inserted in the National identity card, which is also used as a voters' card.

A training institution does the training of polling officials. The officials are well-paid high caliber professionals, who are attracted to work as polling officials because of the various incentives.

Results at polling stations are counted by counting officers specially trained to do so. After announcing the results at polling stations, the results are electronically sent to provincial result centers for auditing and onward transmission to the result center in Pretoria.

The visit to S. Africa was very educative. Uganda needs a lot of hard work and prayers to achieve S. Africa's level of development and sophistication.

EC HOSTS MEDIA DIALOGUE

The EC hosted a media dialogue on 21st May 2003, at Hotel Equatoria, Kampala, to nurture a mutually beneficial working relationship between the media and the Commission. The one-day dialogue brought EC officials together with senior reporters and editors from the print and broadcast media in Uganda.

Presenting a paper "The new EC: Achievements, Challenges and Way Forward", EC Chairman Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu pointed out the crucial role of partnerships in elections. "To achieve our set goals, the Commission continues to build and strengthen linkages with various partners including the media. Apart from the media, the Police, local and district leaders and Parliament are some of the other stakeholders we are working with to discharge our mandate", he said.

Dr. Kiggundu highlighted the EC's openness with the media, as a key partner. "The Commission recognises and appreciates the partnership and teamwork exhibited by the media in the electoral process, and we welcome proposals and suggestions aimed at improving our electoral system", said the Chairman.

He added: "The Electoral Commission appreciates the crucial role of the media and acknowledges your contribution to the democratisation process in our country. In executing your duty we believe that you will play a continuous role of unravelling all the options, perspectives and laws in a simplified way, to enable the masses participate in the electoral processes".

"Your educational role should therefore highlight civic rights and responsibilities of the

12 electorate and politicians,

especially in this time of political transition", added the Chairman.

Dr. Kiggundu ended his presentation with an appeal to the media to remain impartial, particularly during the unfolding political transition in the country.



EC Commissioner, Dr. Jenny B. Okello (L) moderating a paper presented by Dr. Goretti Nassanga (R) Head of Department, Mass Communication, Makerere University



Attentive: A cross-section of Media Practitioners who participated in the dialogue

"The media should strive to give sufficient coverage to all the players in the electoral process", he said, and thanked the media for the previous cooperation. "We are indebted to the media for the continued goodwill and support rendered during the past and current electoral processes. I therefore call upon the media for continued and strengthened partnership", he added.

Presenting a paper, "Looking towards 2006: responsibilities and challenges of the Ugandan media", the Head of Department, Mass Communication, Makerere University, Dr. Goretti

Nassanga discussed the pre-election, election and post-election roles of the media.

"As media professionals, you should endeavour to provide people with sufficient information, that will enable them to effectively participate in electoral processes".

The New Vision's senior reporter Hamis Kaheru advised the Electoral Commission to be open and responsive to media inquiries. "the Electoral Commission should always try and supply information requested for by journalists, to ensure accurate reporting, and

accountability to the public", he said. Mr. Kaheru also advised the EC officials to consider periodic media briefings, to up-date the public about on-going and up-coming activities.

Closing the dialogue, EC Deputy Chairperson Sister

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AN ELECTION OFFICER'S ADVENTURE IN KIBAALE

Neema Pavone

Election Officer, EC Head-quarters

It has been one of the longest projects the EC has ever embarked upon, and to the skeptics, it was roundly referred to as the "EC's most ambitious project doomed to fail". However, the Commission knew the importance of the Photographic Voter Registration and Identification System (PVRIS), and hence the commitment to its successful completion.

Before the PVRIS, there were allegations that the Commission had included under-age voters and duplicated particulars on the then text register. It was also alleged that as a result, there were incidences of unscrupulous people voting more than once.

The introduction of the PVRIS would put an end to such allegations, as the photo bearing register would carry each voter's photograph in addition to his/her particulars.

As part of the activities of the PVRIS, the Commission therefore dispatched its staff to partake of the training of the photographers and registration officials in the 56 districts in the country. Two of us were chosen to conduct training in Kibaale District. At the time, there were rumors of pockets of ADF infiltration in the area and my family and friends were highly fearful of my traveling to Kibaale. But being the adventurous type, I happily embarked on the long journey through Mityana, Mubende and finally Kibaale.

Together with the District Registrar and the Assistant Registrar, we drew a morning and evening training programme per parish that would cover the entire district in 21 days. At the training venues we were always received like visiting royalty and I was constantly addressed as "Madam Commissioner" (an apparently huge promotion!). Not that I particularly minded that, but I found it rather hilarious that as an

soon, some of the male members of the group were cracking jokes (some lurid - am afraid!), comfortable in the knowledge that I could not decipher the Runyoro-Kitara dialect in which they spoke.

The day of reckoning came. At the end of training, each of the people in my group had to say a word to the trainees - sort of concluding remarks. Imagine their shock, when I stood to pass my vote of thanks and I expressed myself in

perfect Runyoro for about 5 minutes. I looked around and could see the undisguised shock on the faces of most of the trainees, especially those who had been engaging in crude and rather unappealing jokes confident that Madam Commissioner was "green" about their local language.

Each one of us has in us a sort of sadistic trait. So to rub a bit of salt further in their

already festering wounds, I took over the duty of overseeing the payment of the trainees' allowances, to grab an opportunity to observe the reaction of the 'Kibaaleans', who had just discovered that I actually understand their language. I looked them in the eye and watched with concealed glee their squirming in front of me, as they signed upon receiving their payments. Oh Kibaale, an experience I will forget only at leisure!!!



Neema Paavone, EC Election Officer, knows a bit about Kibaale

Election Officer, I could be regarded so highly by the locals. Maybe the vehicle with registration number UB— did the trick or could it have been because I was from head-quarters?

The state of affairs continued to amuse me, as the trainees assumed that I only spoke and understood English and shaky Luganda. Thus they chose to address me in English and laboured Luganda. I let that be and

EC TO TAKE ON MORE INTERNS

By Ntambi Yusuf
Islamic University in Uganda
Intern, PR Section EC.

For along time the Electoral Commission has had few interns in its various departments. This year, however, the Commission allowed interns in some departments. The Public Relations Section took on four interns, one from Uganda Christian University (Mukono), and three from the Mbale-based Islamic University In Uganda (IUIU). But why this shift towards letting in more interns? And what is the EC's policy on internship? Mr. Sam A. Rwakoojo, the Electoral Commission's Secretary, explains in the following interview with Ntambi Yusuf (*The EC Bulletin*).

The Electoral Commission has not been accepting many interns but this year it did so, why?

We have been hosting interns before but on a small scale, for instance in the Legal and Data Processing Departments.

The EC has been too busy, however. In 1994 there were Women, Youth, and Local Councils Elections. No sooner had these ended, than the Referendum, and thereafter Presidential Elections in 2001 began. Even now, we have just ended a by-election.

EC has been busy and so it was difficult to spare time to handle issues concerning interns.



*Our doors are open: EC Secretary
Sam A. Rwakoojo*

What criteria do you consider when taking in interns?

Well, we take any on the recommendation of the institution the intern is coming from, provided that the program suits the department.

EC has many departments performing various duties. Are all these Departments open to interns?

All of them are accessible except in some instances like when the Photographic Voter Registration and Identification system (PVRIS) was underway in the Voter Registration and Data Processing departments. This was a new program, and so there was need for time to learn it. That's why interns could not access the two departments.

How have the interns been beneficial to the EC?

They relieve workload from the departments that they are working in.

"YOUNG" VOTERS: AGE OR A DICTATOR?

She quickly pushed her hand into the pocket and pretended like nothing was unusual. Rena was this girl at school who wanted to be noticed and accorded all the attention. If she had new shoes, she would come in late for classes. If she had a 'new catch', the canteen would be the place to find her. Well, the only problem with Rena (ironic) was that she claimed she was of defilement age.

Anyway, come 2001 Presidential elections talk was all over the school about who supported who i.e. of the protagonist candidates 'Base J'

Carol Magambo
Uganda Christian University, Mukono.
Intern PR Section EC.

or 'M7'. Our good Rena pretended that voting was not her business and that she didn't care who won the elections.

Come voting day, we who were of majority age voted, and consequently had the 666 mark on our thumbs, to prove that we had voted. On the day after elections, we happened to be at the dining hall having lunch as usual. There she was and guess what?! Yes, she

had the 666 mark on her thumb. Too late for good old Rena - we had spotted the mark by the time she remembered to slip her hand in the pocket.

Fellow youth, especially ladies, it's your right to vote and your lone vote can make a big difference. Much as our true age is a treasured secret, we should weigh the two extremes, and decide on what takes the day.

Preserve the secret of our age (by staying away from elections), or risk a dictator for a leader by not exercising our democratic rights.



MY FIRST IMPRESSION: AN EC INTERN SPEAKS OUT

By Carol Magambo

Uganda Christian University, Mukono; Intern, PR Section, EC.

Anyone who has visited the Reception of some organisations will tell you how the receptionists behave. If they don't 'give' you this 'other eye', which suggests you are an inconvenience, then they will keep you on hold until they feel like attending to you – if they remember.

This is what I have at the back of my mind, as I approach the Electoral Commission headquarters in trepidation.

At the gate, I notice two policemen, and my heart skips a beat, thinking that I am going to be subjected



Beneficiaries: Interns in the PR Section (L-R)
Nandaula Rashida, Carol Magambo, Farida
Nambigo and Yusuf Ntambi

to a ferocious interrogation by the apparently mean-looking men in uniform. On the contrary, they greet me and direct me to the Reception.

Inside the Reception lounge, a lady greets me and politely asks whom I wish to see. She picks up the phone and jabs some buttons. As she talks, I get nervous at her describing me to the officer at the other end. Shortly after, am directed to the Public Relations Office – oh what a relief.

YES; PATIENCE INDEED PAYS

BY Nandawula Rashida

Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU); Intern, PR Department/EC

There is an old adage, "a bad beginning makes a good end".

My first day at the Electoral Commission was so boring, I was uninterested in every thing around me, people looked strange, apart from my colleagues. Newspapers provided great relief during the long morning hours – and lunchtime often struck me like a breath of fresh air. I occasionally took a walk to the "loos" (not necessary to answer any call of nature but) only to stretch my legs.

However in a few days I got more work and a few friends, which made me feel at home. I realized that I could not wait for tomorrow. In fact, missing any

single day of training made me sick.

On the first day of our second week, the assistant Public Relations' Officer told us that we would be meeting the Chairman, Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu and the Secretary Sam Rwakoojo. For sure I could not wait to see the Chairman. I kept on wondering; "how does this powerful man really look?"

To my surprise, he was so free and gave us a word of welcome to the organization. Next, we went to the Electoral Commission Secretary, Mr. Sam Rawkoojo. He advised us to seek assistance from him any time we needed it, and said the Commission's doors were open for us.

My stay at the Commission has turned out to be a joyous experience. I have received a lot of support from the staff and my input has been appreciated. I have particularly enjoyed working in the studio, because it fulfills my longing for a chance to handle those big cameras and other equipments.

As an aspiring PR practitioner, and journalist, I would like to appreciate the time spared for me by the PR team and the staff of EC for every thing they have done for me. They have been there for me in times of need. It's good to thank people and appreciate what they have done and the Commission ought to be given the same.

May God bless you!

HIV/AIDS: EC SHOULD PROVIDE ARVS TO STAFF

By Gusongoirye David .L.

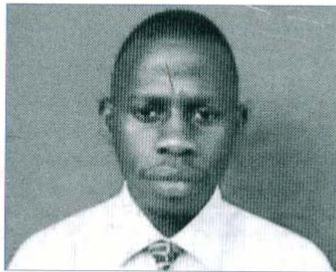
Election Officer/ Data Processing Department

HIV/AIDS is a major killer in Sub-Saharan Africa, only second to malaria. According to statistics from the Uganda Aids Commission, approximately 1.2 million Ugandans are HIV positive (Uganda Aids Commission, 2002). Of these, only 17,000 (1.4%) people have access to Anti-Retro-Viral drugs (ARVs), which cost about \$30 per person per month. This disease has decimated our population and has greatly reduced the level of productivity.

With the estimated proportion of infection at 1 for every 20 persons (Uganda Aids Commission), I suggest that an institution like the Electoral Commission, which employs over 500 people, should begin thinking of putting in place policies aimed at ensuring that all its employees have access to ARVs and quality medical care in general.

In contemporary systems, issues pertaining to the health of workers are of great concern to management. The Electoral Commission has taken measures to institute a health insurance policy. When the issue was first raised, members of staff rejected it. But probably it was not well explained. People tend to resist change because of the phobia for the unknown.

However, throughout the debate on health insurance, one thing that



EC Election Officer, David Gusongoirye, thinks ARVS should be considered as a matter of urgency

should have come out prominently is the provision of Anti Retroviral drugs to EC workers. My anticipation was that the Electoral Commission should have worked out an arrangement of at least subsidizing the cost of ARVs. It's true that the cost of ARVs has reduced from \$1500 per person per month to \$30 per person per month. This amount is still prohibitive considering that EC employees have to cope with other burdens like rent, school fees and transport. Under such circumstances, Management should consider subsidizing the cost of ARVs by paying half of the amount.

Government has undertaken measures to ensure that Ugandans get access to ARVs. On 12 June 2004, the Minister of Health, Brig. Jim Muhwezi, announced that Uganda would begin distributing free ARV drugs to HIV positive people. Funding for this program is initially

from grants from The World Bank and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Initially 2,700 patients will be treated, with priority being given to low-income earners.

This number is just a drop in the ocean. Organizations like the Electoral Commission should come in and support the move taken by government and provide ARVs to its employees. For an organization to establish and maintain a good corporate image, it should have a sound social responsibility policy. This involves addressing the social, financial and health needs of its employees.

Access to adequate health is a fundamental human right (Article 25 UDHR), which should be respected by every one. Therefore in a situation like this where HIV/AIDS is threatening to wipe out mankind, it becomes prudent to take necessary steps to curb the scourge.

ARVs are not a cure for AIDS. However, when properly used, ARVs can prolong life for up to 20 years. An HIV positive person can live a positive and meaningful life if he or she is put on ARV drugs. With anti retroviral drugs, HIV/AIDS is no longer the death sentence it once was. If the Electoral Commission took up this program, it would be assured of a healthy, efficient and highly productive workforce.

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EC HOSTS MEDIA DIALOGUE

Margaret Magoba thanked the media practitioners for turning up for the dialogue, and pledged more interactions with the media. "What we started here today is going to continue in other parts of the country, because it is not possible to gather all media practitioners under one roof. We will therefore

go to them in a similar manner", she said.

Sister Magoba pledged the EC's cooperation with the media, and also urged reporters to exercise their democratic rights by participating in electoral processes. "The Commission resolved to open up, and will not reverse on that

pledge. People who come to us in search of the truth in order to tell it to others will not be turned away", she said, adding, "I challenge you to become active participants in the democratisation process, by registering as voters. This way you will appreciate better the electoral processes. Do not remain outsiders", she said.