



# The EC Bulletin

For Regular, Free and Fair Elections

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## FOREWORD

Dear Readers,

It gives me immeasurable pleasure to honour the invitation of providing a Foreword for the fourth edition of The EC Bulletin. In a very special way, my thanks go to the Chairperson of the Editorial Board, Dr. Jenny B. Okello and her Editorial Team for this very rare opportunity offered to me to say a few words on behalf of the Electoral Commission.



*Stephen D. Ongaria: Commissioner,  
Electoral Commission*

Looking back to the quarter period under reference, and, indeed the whole year since this is an edition that sums up the year, I can only say that 2004 has been an eventful and very successful year in the consolidation of the Electoral Commission.

At the national level, we fulfilled our Constitutional mandate of conducting free and fair elections by successfully organizing by-elections for Members of Parliament, and Local Councillors in various electoral areas:

*continued on page 2*

## 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





..... continued from page 1

	Category/Level of By-election	Electoral Area	Cause of Vacancy	Elected Candidate
1.	Member of Parliament	Mbale Municipality	Death - Late Hon James Wapakhabulo	Hon. Wanjusi Wasieba
2.	Member of Parliament	Koboko County	Death - Late Hon Ayume	Hon. Abbas Awongo
3.	District Chairperson	Kamuli District	Death - Late Baligeya Kaloli	Bangu Fred Aggrey
4.	Chairperson, and Councillors	Kaliro Town Council, Kamuli District	Newly created Town Council	Various Candidates
5.	Chairperson and Executive	National Youth Council	Expiry of term of office	J. Okwakau Chairman NYC
6.	Councillors Pader Local Council	Various Sub counties in Pader District	Deaths, resignations,	Various Candidates

The Electoral Commission currently enjoys strong dialogue with various stakeholders in the electoral process:

- a. Seven regional workshops to sensitise senior Police and Army officers on electoral laws and activities were organized and conducted between June and July 2004.
- b. Commissioners and technical staff toured their regions and explained various electoral issues to the leaders, asking them for their partnership in political mobilization, voter education and registration, which is a continuous process.
- c. A media dialogue was successfully organized on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2004 at Hotel Equatoria, Kampala. We believe the media has a big stake in informing the public about electoral issues.
- d. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Federation for Electoral Systems (IFES) organized and financially supported the first-ever Basic Election Administration Training (BEAT) Workshop for EC Headquarters and district officers from 9<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> August 2004 at Hotel Africana, and

another one for Commissioners and senior staff at Nile Resort Hotel, Jinja from 16<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2004.

- e. The Commission enjoys healthy relations with other election management bodies around the world, and has been invited to participate in a number of election-related conferences and workshops. As a result, a number of Commissioners and technical staff have visited countries like Rwanda, Ghana, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso since May 2004.
- f. The Commission believes in an open door policy, and to this end, a good working relationship with big organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has been strengthened. These include, Foundation for Human Rights Initiatives (FHRI), DEM Group Uganda, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), among others from which the Commission receives a lot of assistance in the form of lobbying government, sensitizing the population, and information exchange.

Finally, the Commission is in regular dialogue with government in regard to the promised early release of Shs. 3.5 billion field debt to win the support of field electoral officers. As the Commission awaits the final government decision on the referendum, we, however, are concerned about the time left in order for us to implement any electoral programme meaningfully.

In the eyes of the Commission, 2005 will not only be a year of great political excitement and anxiety, but will also be a watershed in the development of the country's democratic programmes. We ought, therefore, as a Commission, to be adequately prepared for the events ahead of us in all ways possible.

As we prepare to play our part in ensuring a smooth electoral process, we call upon all the political actors, organizations and individuals alike, to operate within the law. We further appeal to all eligible voters (Ugandans of 18 years and above) to register in time. While it is your right to vote, it is also your responsibility to register. Do it early to avoid disappointment.

On behalf of the Electoral Commission, I wish to thank very much all our stakeholders e.g. the electorate, Parliament, local authorities, the police, development partners and others, for the support rendered to us in 2004. Your continued support will be needed even more, once the peak election season gets underway, in 2005.

Lastly, I wish you good returns for the year, a refreshing festive season, and a happy new year - 2005!

Stephen D. Ongaria  
COMMISSIONER, ELECTORAL  
COMMISSION



# AN APPEAL TO ELIGIBLE UGANDAN VOTERS TO REGISTER EARLY

*By Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu - Chairman, Electoral Commission*

## Introduction

Constitutionally, the Electoral Commission is mandated to continuously register voters. The Commission commenced the effort across the country in early 2003, at each District Office, where necessary facilities were made available. Continuous registration also opened at the Electoral Commission's headquarters, though the turn-up to-date is very dismal!

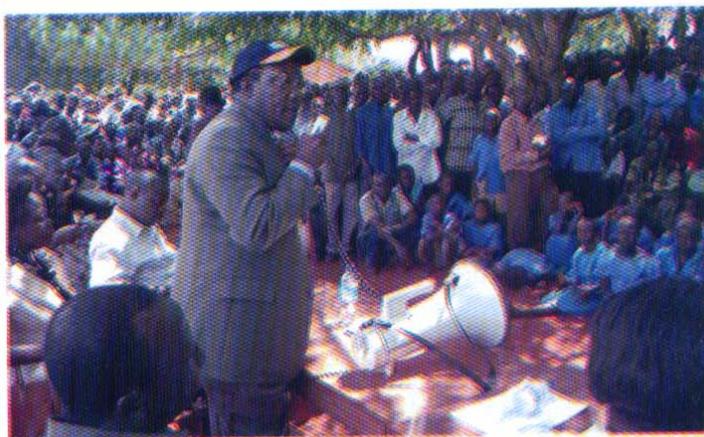
## Strategies

Realising that the returns from District Offices were in general disappointing, new strategies were conceived which include:

- Drawing registration programs at parishes;
- Drawing registration programs at Secondary and tertiary institutions;
- Taking registration services to government institutions like Ministries, Parliament and others with unregistered numbers in excess of 20;
- Intensified recapturing of voters whose bio-data was available but with photographs missing. This strategy has produced good results even in districts without electoral activities.
- Working with the media, especially radio stations to advise unregistered voters to take advantage of the lull period.

## Last Minute Rush

The disappointing experience is that most would-be registrants often ask whether there is any impending electoral event. In



*Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu addresses the electorate during the campaigns for the LCV Chairperson for Kamuli.*

other words, crisis operations are the norm for many would-be voters. Let us change this attitude and take on a proactive position.

I refer to an article on the Yahoo News dated October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004 in which it was reported that *voters flock to register by deadline*. Pamela Swafford, Deputy Director of Ohio's Hamilton County Board of Elections reported thus "... they are coming in buckets...". In other words, the officials handling intending voters were overwhelmed, as the polls in USA drew closer. In New Jersey, the over-enthusiasm was equally observed. In fact Janis Britting of Toms River, New Jersey said, "I think it's important to help decide who runs this country". In Georgia, Cathy Cox, Georgia Secretary of State who oversees elections remarked: "if you walk in the mail room, we have stacks and stacks of new forms coming in".

The above extracts are reflective of a 'fire-fighting' approach many

eligible voters take, when it comes to registering.

## The Electoral Commission's Appeal

In Uganda, we can avoid the above stampede if all unregistered voters came forward and got duly registered early. Please call at our headquarters or any District Office of the Electoral Commission, and your needs will be attended to. You can come and be registered from the Electoral Commission headquarters, if you are in Kampala. You can also call telephone numbers **041 337 561** and **041 337 523** for further assistance.

I wish you well as you endeavor to be registered in preparation for the crucial electoral events in the near future. Remember *your vote is your power* to decide the leadership of this lovely country. Register now and prepare to exercise your power through your vote.

For God and my Country!



## COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

By Sr. Margaret Magoba Deputy Chairperson - Electoral Commission

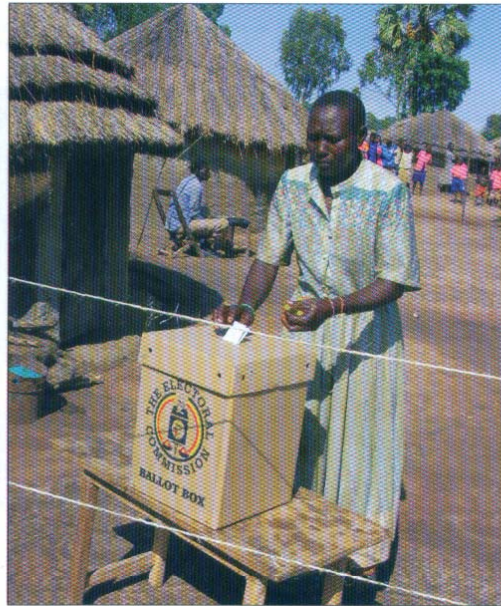
I would like to recall the famous slogan of "Free and fair elections", and state the responsible stakeholders in the process of achieving the desired goal/results.

What do we actually mean by the above expression, which normally comes at the close of polls and pronouncement of election results or even during the electoral process? It implies that all players or at least key ones have responsibly done their part. It also implies that the final result has been free and fair, meaning that voters have freely and willingly expressed their will in choosing a leader.

I wish to remind the readers that while the Electoral Commission is mandated to ensure free and fair conduct of the exercise, the cooperation of other key stakeholders is equally important.

In order to reach the above ideal situation, there is need to develop and stress the issue of political ethics, integrity and teamwork, if Uganda is to promote democracy. Candidates, agents, electorate, Electoral Commission staff, name it, must be ethical if there is to be quality leadership. For instance, politicians must have a sense of responsibility to save society from any risk of moral, political and economic decadence. Politicians, government, the electorate, security organs and other people in leadership positions must be people of integrity, if Uganda is to benefit from their presence and

4 services!



A Voter casts her ballot in Pader District: The right to elect leaders extends to all and the Commission ensures this service is delivered.

### Genuine method of winning votes

As a start, let me make a passionate appeal to politicians because they are at the center stage. Dear politicians, be persons of respect and integrity and you will earn popularity from your voters. Love peace and preach it to your agents and voters. Emphasize honesty and fairness to ensure strength of character, and you will be applauded. Avoid intoxicating your agents with alcohol or marijuana or the like.

Desist from harmful, deceitful and mudslinging utterances. Try as much as possible to work for the unity of the electorate and public. Avoid buying votes either in cash or kind. Above all, avoid corrupting your sons and daughters serving as election officials!

*Always remember* that life continues even after elections. It is also true that: "Whenever you share the goodness in your heart, you always end up winning because life is an echo. It gives back what you have given."

- Responsibility is an all time important element, therefore, be responsible everywhere you are. Do your duty as required, and in the best way. We all have a duty towards God, people and society.
- Politicians like any team leaders are advised to be trustworthy, so that the people they lead can faithfully rally behind them. To win the trust of people, leaders are advised to 'walk the talk' i.e. act what they say – "they should not preach water and drink wine," as it is commonly said.

### How about the voters?

For the voters, keep this in mind:

- Avoid being confused by whoever comes. Always stop and ask your self, why, before taking any decision.
- Your worth is priceless; you are the image of God.
- Who would bear the brunt of election violence? It is not the politicians who some times incite it, but voters.
- The un contemplated decision you make will affect you, your children and the community at large.
- Collective responsibility is an inevitable ingredient in improving the electoral process in Uganda today.

How I pray, God grants Uganda such politicians and electorate!



## IFES Conducts Basic Election Administration Training (BEAT) Workshop for EC Officials

The Director of USAID-Uganda, Ms. Vicki Moore, has urged the Electoral Commission to prepare sufficiently for the challenging tasks ahead in the run-up to a possible national referendum in early 2005, and thereafter, a cycle of elections leading to the general - Presidential and Parliamentary elections in 2006.

She cited the likely shift to a pluralistic political landscape, the requisite legislation, which is not yet in place, the sizable number of eligible voters who have not been registered, scarce government resources, and the possibility of election violence as some of the most challenging areas.

Ms. Vickie Moore made these observations at the closure of the first two-week Basic Election Administration Training (BEAT) Workshop for Electoral Commission officials at Hotel Africana, Kampala, 9<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Sister Margaret Magoba, described the training as timely, considering that Uganda is transiting from the movement system to multiparty politics. She said the knowledge acquired would be very useful to the EC officers, most of whom have not organised elections under a multi-party political dispensation before.



*IFES Facilitator, Don Campbell guides a group of participants, during the BEAT Workshop for EC Staff.*

She called upon the officers to put the knowledge and experience gained to good use, and extend it to the rest of Commission staff and other stakeholders in the electoral process.

The workshop was funded by USAID and IFES (International Foundation for Election Systems), and was facilitated by Mr. Don Campbell, an IFES consultant from the Australian Electoral Commission.

In a related development, and following on the first BEAT Workshop, an abridged six-day version for Commissioners and senior officers of the Electoral Commission was held from 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> October, at Nile Resort, Jinja.

The Workshop, which covered areas like election planning and logistics management, ethics in election management and conflict

management, was the second of, hopefully, a series of BEAT workshops to be conducted by IFES and funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Electoral Commission.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu, appreciated the support given by IFES through equipping election managers around the world with skills to deliver free and fair elections.

Eng. Kiggundu stated that the training would go a long way in reinforcing and broadening the focus of the Electoral Commission to properly plan and manage future elections, and pledged to extend the knowledge to field officials.

The workshop facilitator was Mr. Don Campbell.



## THE BALLOT SEASON

*(Extracted from 'Tales from Kibaale' by Bukenya Paul)*

The harvest season, as the people now call it, brought many exciting changes in our area and momentarily changed the social life of the people. It ushered in plenty and provided opportunities for them to feast on free things.

The health centre was quickly refurbished, and its pharmacy fully stocked. Suddenly, the trunk roads were paved and the drainages repaired. The Honourable Member of Parliament donated new beds, mattresses and several pairs of cotton bedsheets for the new operating theatre. He also donated a generator to provide un-interrupted power supply. A sewage disposal system and huge water tank were installed to help improve the hygiene. He pledged that if we returned him to the House, he would work closely with his colleague, the Minister of Health, and ensure that the health centre is elevated to district hospital status.

The church was extensively renovated and new pews were purchased; the top was redesigned and the old tin-roof was replaced with new brick-red iron sheets. A new steel cross was placed at the top. It was now visible from miles away, and soon became the new major landmark and talking point in our county. The honourable member bought a new set of choir gowns, and promised to buy a piano and brass equipment for the church. At his request, the elders hurriedly submitted the plan and budget for carrying out electrical installations in the church building.

Later, a big mass was conducted in the village square and the laity were commended for keeping the



faith in the midst of great heresy. I noticed the discomfort among the people because the reverend made this statement while pointing in the direction of the honourable member's opponent, who was a regular member of our church. But Caleb, as he was called, seemed undisturbed by the remarks and gestures.

There were more surprises for us. For example, the Honourable Member narrated his genealogy, and disclosed that his family was among the first to embrace the Islamic faith in the area. He worshipped with the Muslim community and recited several portions of the Koran. He also offered air-tickets for two local Muslim leaders to enable them perform the Hijja to Mecca. Later, the District Khadi introduced him as a brother during the grand mauledi.

The main market was fenced and all the stalls were refurbished. A new garbage disposal system was put in place. It was a completely new system, with fascinating technology - incinerators and recycling plant. The Council hailed the action and at the launching ceremony, the honourable

member assured the people that with garbage gone, problems associated with pollution and environmental degradation, and diseases like diarrhoea and cholera would be things of the past. I could see the mothers smiling, holding their infants even more tightly. Indeed, the future had never looked so bright.

The women took leave from the shambas to feast on the bounty of the ballot season. Everyday, for forty days, the honourable member's red limousine roamed the villages, stopping at each polling station and dishing out gifts, which ranged from traditional gourds, bursting with local liquor, polythene bags containing exotic detergents, sugar and salt packs. The honourable member said it was all a gesture of the new friendship with the people, who indeed received it with great enthusiasm.

The sky was clear over the fields and hills of Kibaale, and the masses hastily gathered for the harvest of the ballot season. Each rally was unique, and after listening to such passionate oratory from the opposition, the crowds would surge towards the honourable member's rally. It seemed like their sympathy for the opposition would disappear the moment his opponent appeared.

But I know people like fancy things. It was not everyday that such a motorcade graced the area's dusty and pot-holed roads. It was a great feast for the eyes, a break from the dirty-rusty Co-operative Union lorries that occasionally come to collect produce. The honourable member travelled in a big convoy, with over ten vehicles and an equal number of

*continued on page 10*



## Staff News...

### *Yaweh Goes to Bath!*



Herbert Yaweh, an Election Officer in the Voter Registration Department left for the United Kingdom on October 4<sup>th</sup> 2004 to pursue further studies at Bath University.

Yaweh, who holds a BA (SWASA) of Makerere University and a Diploma in Information Technology from CAPTECH, will embark on a self-sponsored Master of Science (Development Economics) course.

The Electoral Commission indeed wishes Mr. Yaweh good returns from his efforts.

## MY EXPERIENCE AT EC: A FORMER INTERN REFLECTS

The Electoral Commission is a big organisation employing about 520 employees with a vision to "promote peaceful continuity of governance through an impeccable electoral process". I always prayed for an opportunity to train in such an environment. That's why I applied to train as an intern with the Public Relations Section for three months.

The environment at the EC was welcoming; the employees did not interact alone but also freely with the visitors. They looked strange yet friendly and caring. EC employees who by passed me noticed that I was an intern and their faces showed it. The moment I met the PR staff, they looked welcoming. I admired and loved to be a member of the team; this was like a dream come true.

In most cases when one goes to a new place, the expressions of the people in that place will always read the 5W and 1H (what, when, who, why, where and how). This was evident from the number of people who kept by-passing the

PR department the moment I had entered the office.

In the office, the Secretary warmly welcomed me and this made me free and comfortable. I was offered a cup of tea and a newspaper to read. Later, I was given an assignment to work in the studio. This became my best place and I wished I wouldn't need to end my internship. When I talked to my friends about my whole experience, they envied me and wished they had applied in the same place.



*Nambigo Faridah*  
Islamic University in Uganda,  
Mbale

## DEPARTMENT REPORT

### *EC Studio Gets New Equipment*

The Electoral Commission has purchased new audio equipment to boost the operations of the Editing Suite/Studio. The equipment includes a 12-channel mixer, amplifier, monitor speakers and a cordless microphone set. The studio formerly had only video editing equipment, but this new acquisition now makes the facility complete.

The Studio also functions as an audio-visual archive for the Commission and contains, among others, the following items:

1. Photographs of various electoral activities since the Commission for the Constituent Assembly (1994);
2. Audio recordings of various electoral activities since the Commission for Constituent Assembly (1994);
3. Video recordings of various electoral activities executed by the (previous) Commission(s) since 1994.

These materials (videos) can be viewed on request, but cannot be taken away since they are in BETACAM format, which is incompatible with domestic VCR systems. People interested in viewing them can do so on appointment with the Public Relations office.



## PICTORIAL

2004 was a busy year at the Electoral Commission. In this pictorial, we take you through some of the key activities of the year



The Chairman of EC / Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu presents a paper to participants during EC / Development Partners conference held on 1st September at Hotel Africana, Kampala.



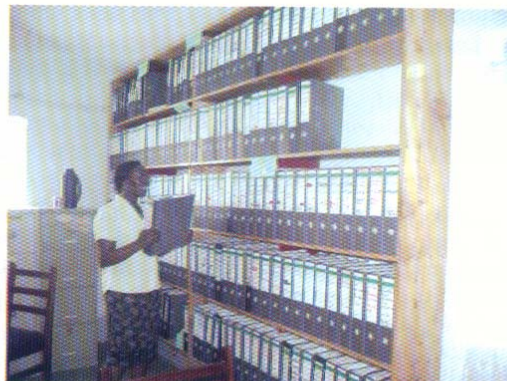
Facing the press. EC Chairman Eng. Dr. Kiggundu (R) talks to reporters, during the EC Donors Conference.



US Ambassador Jimmy Kolker visited EC ON 3rd August 2004 to acquaint himself with activities being undertaken by EC as the country prepares for a transition in 2006



Here's your picture: Mr Pontius Namugera EC Database Administrator demonstrates how data is managed to Dr. Male Mukasa, Director of Uganda Bureau of Statistics, (26.05.2004)



Ms. Judith Kahindi of Management Election has more space for her work following the opening of a new Registry



## PICTORIAL

2004 was a busy year at the Electoral Commission. In this pictorial, we take you through some of the key activities of the year



*This is better: EC Election Officer Charles Ochola, makes a call a top a tree during the Pader by-election*



*Right: Let there be power: Eng. Dr. Kiggundu cuts the tape during the commissioning of a new power generator*



*Kamuli District Registration Officials Joyce Wadri (Right in T-shirt) and Hakim Mamuli (seated in striped T-shirt) explain the registration process to people who visited the EC Stall at the National Agricultural Show held in Jinja Town (14th - 19th July 2004)*



*Better skills: Joseph Musoke and Paul Tamale (Right) pose with Certificates awarded after a 10 - day training workshop in Heidelberg, Germany, October 2004*



*Thirsty for Knowledge: EC Commissioners and senior staff listen to Don Campbell during a training session at Nile Resort, Jinja.*



*'Harvest of the Year': Mr. Patrick Kirungi (EC. Mpigi) and Mrs. Rose Nalule tied the knot on 28th August 2004 at Namirembe Cathedral*



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## THE BALLOT SEASON

big motor cycles. Looking at such big numbers, I concluded that the honourable member had already won. It would take a miracle for the opposition to reverse this lead, and win the seat. But in competitive politics, nothing can be taken for granted.

At one of the rallies held in the village square, the member donated soccer balls. He jumped and trotted across the platform with the pride of a newly breasted girl. The children

impolite to refuse them. Then the Chief said it was illegal to remove a poster, especially the Honourable Member's poster. As a result, many were plastered on residences and workplaces of individuals supporting the opposition. Soon the multi-colour posters were flying all over the place, like butterflies, waving on the peeling door of the peasants' hut, pasted on the giant trees in the market place and pinned against

his wife made a wrapper out of the Party flag, and the colourful posters now adorn the mud walls of his rounded hut.

The Honourable Member also started visiting people's homes. Infact, he descended low, allowing young children to touch his beard while naughty boys played with his bald head. The pictures of dirty children straining their voices, chanting unfamiliar tunes in his praise are still vivid in my

mind. His popularity soared overnight, which is easy to explain because even our toilet paper now bore his smiling face.

During the last campaign meetings, the Honourable Member insisted that the people should address him as Candidate. He explained that the title

Honourable Member would give him undue advantage over his sole opponent, Caleb. But I noticed it was hard for people to drop the title of Honourable Member. I discovered that to some, the title Candidate was now synonymous with Caleb. Other voters thought Candidate and Honourable weighed differently, and believed the former lowered his stature and chances of re-election.

Politics, elective politics...that is it! You need to be in the mould of our Honourable member to go around it.



*Supporters celebrate: A Candidates victory does not come easy*

each other, each victor winning a detergent pack, and an affectionate hug from the honourable member. The children chanted like hungry parrots: Our Man! Our Man!. The men too, fought to have a turn at arm wrestling. Having whipped up the frenzy, the Member then sat back with the pose of a triumphant chief and watched and laughed with each completed feat, his belly rocking to and fro.

His campaign team distributed coloured posters, littering them allover the countryside. At first the team said it was

the thorny fence of the giant kraal. It became usual to find coloured posters glued on the messy floors of makeshift latrines.

Banners and posters are some of the common materials synonymous with the ballot season. Most colourful were the member's banners, flying high, with the party colours providing a beautiful background to the convincing slogans. After one of the rallies, a dozen young men fought for them, but the Parish Chief intervened. We hear he later took them to cover his children at night. I also heard that



## DISTRICT IN FOCUS

### PVRIS: UP-DATE FROM MASINDI DISTRICT

#### Background

**M**asindi, originally part of Hoima district was curved out and elevated to the status of a district in 1974. It comprises 4 counties, namely Buruli, Bujenje, Bullisa and Kibanda, with the headquarters at Masindi Administration in Buruli County.

It has 14 big sub counties, 47 parishes, 603 Villages and 244 polling stations. The district is sparsely populated, with a total of 469,865 people, according to the 2001 population and housing census. It neighbours DR Congo in the West, Apac and Gulu in the North, Nakasongola in the East and Kiboga and Hoima in the South.

The EC office is strategically located in the centre of Masindi Town Council, neighbouring offices of other big organisations like National Social Security Fund (N.S.S.F), Action Aid, Cotton Development Organisation and Uganda Revenue Authority.

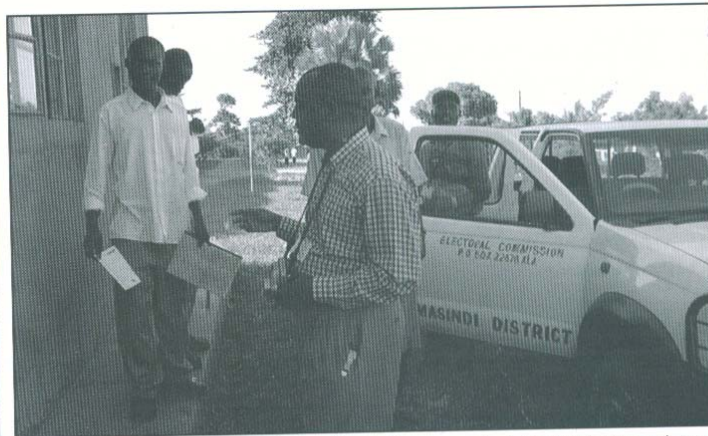
#### PVRIS project.

In Masindi district, 141,735 eligible voters were registered during the November 2001 registration exercise that was carried out by the Electoral Commission countrywide.

In May 2004, 498 eligible voters were registered and this was attributed to intensive mobilisation efforts by the EC's Masindi district team. This figure is still low considering the district's total population of 469,865 people, although this also includes those below 18 years.

#### Challenges to registration

The exercise has dispelled fears and speculation by some of the locals that the photographs taken



*Deo Natukunda, District Registrar Masindi prepares to take a new voters picture at a school in Masindi*

during the registration of Nov. 2001 were "air". EC Masindi district staff have been previously asked: "What about the photos you took in November 2001 during the national registration exercise?"

Whenever we go to the field, we show the photo-bearing register to the people, as evidence that the pictures were indeed taken for registration purposes. The register bears the names, photos and details of the eligible voters who registered during November 2001 exercise. This motivates those who have never registered to do so for purposes of future elections.

The exercise has registered a high turn up in institutions within the sub counties, with the support of the institution administrators i.e. Headmasters, Directors and Principals. Many head teachers have often given the EC some time (up to 3 hours) off the schools' timetables, to carry out the exercise.

During exam time, when it is not possible to gain access to the students, we leave behind registration forms for them to fill, and we pick them later, as we

take their pictures as well. This has enabled us to register not only students originating from Masindi, but also some from the neighbouring Districts of Arua, Gulu, Apac, Lira, Hoima, and Nakasongola. After scrutinising the filled forms, we photograph them and take their thumbprints as well.

Before the exercise takes off in the schools, the Registrars assemble the students and we sensitise them about the need for registration. Those who are registered, those below 18, and non-Ugandans are identified, to establish the ones eligible for registration. With the assistance of the District Education Officer, all schools and institutions have been reached.

We explain to the students the responsibilities of the EC, the requirements for eligible voters, the various electoral activities: display of registers, by-elections at all levels, nature of elections ahead, offences like double registration, how to transfer from one polling station to another, etc.

*continued on page 13* **11**



## EC AT UMA: FROM AN EXHIBITOR'S NOTE BOOK

By Bukenya Paul

The Uganda International Trade Fair (UGAITF) 2004, held from 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October at the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA) Showground, Lugogo, attracted more than six hundred exhibitors, including a "strange" new entrant - the Electoral Commission.

The first to absorb the shock were the exhibitors. Our neighbour to the left, Bee Natural Uganda were amazed by our strange merchandise but soon discovered that we were not such threatening competitors. Our neighbour to the right, Solar Construct was very receptive, and quick to suggest we use his solar power, which he thought was more reliable than the erratic power from UEDCL, for our stall during the show.

One of the visitors on the first day wondered whether we would make it through the seven (hot) days. But this and many other negative comments could not break the resilient spirit of the Exhibition Team. Incidentally, for every negative word, there were two positive words.

A number of people seemed to be shocked by the banner and tried to keep their distance. I wondered what was so offensive about us and inquired. One of the apprehensive fellows said he had had a bad experience in previous elections. We invited him in and tried to counsel him. We realised that he even never registered during the PVRIS in August - September 2001. His picture and data are now on our electoral database.

Then there was this lady from Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation (UPPC), Entebbe



*We are here for you: EC Staff attend to visitors during the show*

who swore we were the smartest exhibitors. What a complement! In fact, she suggested we exchange our T-Shirts, just like football players after a match. It was not a bad idea, because our colours were yellow (KCC) and Red/White (Arsenal) - imagine an exchange of team uniforms between these two soccer giants! Anyway, I still have my T-Shirt because she did not turn up on 11<sup>th</sup> October the closing day.

An exhibitor from Kenya felt at home because it is common in Kenya for all ministries to have pavilions during such trade fairs. But our economy is private-sector-driven and very few government departments have a presence at the show.

Mzee Stephen Besweri Akabway (that is how he signed in the Visitor's Book) was surprised by the initiative. The former election-boss-now-turned-tax-collector (at Uganda Revenue Authority), was full of praises for the PVRIS, and pronounced a blessing on our work.

A teacher confessed before his pupils that he never knew it was wrong for them (pupils) to give out sweets

during campaigns for school prefect. We hope the conduct of elections in that school changes for the better.

A sales executive from MTN wondered who gave the Commission this strange marketing idea. 'This is why organisations need young people like you', he said. I looked around and almost agreed with him.

An old man from Apac district said we should put up a stall during big market days in the district because they attract thousands of people. His companion opined that the organisers (UMA) should create a prize category for the surprising new entrant.

And then came the surprises: did you know that Henry Makabayi (EO/Data) speaks in tongues? He talked to the visitors in one language after another, but it is his command of Swahili that impressed me

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## POLICE WELCOMES EC SENSITIZATION INITIATIVES

*Report by Superintendent of Police (SP) Tubonane Chris*

In August 2003, the Electoral Commission held discussions with the Commissioner of Human Resource Development in the Uganda Police Force, Mr. Fred Iga, on the possibility of organizing sensitization seminars for police officers.

The first such seminar was held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2003 with officers from Kampala-Extra region. A countrywide program was later drawn, under which seminars were conducted in various regions of Uganda, as illustrated by the table below:

	Region	Date	Venue
1.	Southern/Central	2/06/2004	Hotel Brovad, Masaka
2.	Western	7/06/2004	Rwizi Hotel, Mbarara
3.	Southern,	9/06/2004	Hotel Brovad, Masaka
4.	Eastern	24/7/2004	Mbale Resort Hotel
5.	Northern	16/06/2004	White House Hotel, Lira
6.	South-Western	22/6/2004	Kolping House, Hoima

There is no doubt that the Seminars have gone a long way in

strengthening the already-existing good relationship between the Police Force and the Electoral Commission. The Commission deserves to be thanked for this initiative.

The seminars were timely in view of the impending political transition, and enabled fruitful exchange of experiences, which both parties face in executing their mandated tasks. The Police officers were able to acquire knowledge about the Commission, electoral laws and police's role in this context.

Among the recommendations made was that election matters

should be included in the training curriculum of various police courses, and that voter education materials should be availed to police for further reference.

It was also recommended that such seminars should be organized down at district level, to enable all officers attain this knowledge for their competence and for uniformity of purpose.

Finally, on a sad note, I report the death in a motor accident of our DPC Kitgum, the late Patrick Tumwine (Superintendent of Police), who perished in an accident together with his colleague the late Nyaru, District Internal Security Officer, Kitgum, as they drove back to their district, after a workshop in Gulu.

**Editors Note:** The Electoral Commission prays to the Almighty to rest the souls of the deceased in eternal peace.

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## PVRIS UP-DATE FROM MASINDI DISTRICT

Many students don't know the details of the administrative units of their places of origin and residence, especially parishes and polling stations and therefore we guide them. The students finally get to appreciate the need to register in order to participate in future elections.

### Registration in villages

Continuous registration has not been very successful at village level. The EC Masindi Office sampled Nyabyeya and Kabango trading centres in Nyabyeya and Kabango parishes respectively in Budongo Sub County. The turn up was very

low, which was attributed to:

- The lack facilitation for LC1 Chairpersons to enable them mobilise those who are not registered.
- Lack of awareness of the efforts towards voter registration – there is need to sensitise people through radio or use of the mobile megaphone.
- Lack of interest by residents in the exercise since there is no immediate electoral activity they expect to participate in.
- Lack of assistance by sub county and parish chiefs to the Commission's mobilisation

efforts –they say they are too busy assessing and enforcing graduated tax to raise revenue for their parishes.

Finally, however, the exercise has picked up in the district, especially with evidence of photo-bearing registers being displayed at the Masindi District Office, which proves to people that the 2001 registration exercise was genuine. As a result of such initiatives, since January 2004, when continuous Voter Registration exercise resumed, an average of 250 people register every month, and so far, about 1500 eligible voters have been registered at the EC district office. 13



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## Brief on Accessing HIV/AIDS Care, Treatment and Support to Public Officers

### Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to update our readers on the progress being made to access ARV's to EC staff.

The Electoral Commission was invited by the Ministry of Public Service to attend a meeting of the Self-Coordinating Entity (SCE) of line ministries/departments that comes together once every month to discuss issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS.

The main objective of the SCE is to share experiences and strategies on how government ministries/departments can build concerted efforts to help public servants to access treatment for HIV/AIDS. The Office of the President plays the coordinating role of the SCE's.

- The Meeting was informed that Ministry of Public Service issued a circular advising public servants that the government was in the process of establishing distribution centers where ARV's could be accessed free of charge.
- The Ministry of Public Service was tasked to develop access codes for every Ministry/Department that would enable registered public servants to make use of this facility.
- The process of establishing the ARV Centres has not yet been successful. Progress on the same will be communicated to all ministries/departments in due course.

Meanwhile, the SCE Meeting proposed and agreed that:

1. All ministries/departments should budget for HIV/AIDS within their re-current budgets.

2. Departmental focal persons should be nominated, through whom staff members would be encouraged to go for voluntary counseling and testing. The focal persons would also form a committee that would be tasked with the budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes and also overall coordination with collaborators such as JCRC and Ministry of Health.
3. Ministries/departments should endeavour to train the

focal persons in skills such as counseling. This could be done through collaboration with TASO.

4. Ministries/departments could consider applying for supply of condoms from the coordinator of AIDS Control Program (ACP) or the coordinator of Reproductive Health in Ministry of Health. This would constitute the proactive measure of curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

*Francis Peter Ojede*  
Head, Human Resource

### Gusongoirye's article on ARVs is misleading!

I refer to the article: **HIV/AIDS: EC should provide ARVs to staff:** by Gusongoirye David L. which appeared on page 16 of your issue of August 2004 (Vol. 2 No. 2).

In the article, Gusongoirye suggests that Electoral Commission should put in place "policies aimed at ensuring that all its employees have access to ARVs and quality medical care in general". He further suggests that if the EC adopts that program, it shall be '... assured of a healthy, efficient and highly productive work force'.

The connotation behind this article is that the current EC work force does not measure-up to the tasks due to HIV/AIDS! This is defamatory and inflammatory because it not true of all EC staff.

It is probably true that some EC staff are living with HIV. And for these, giving them the requisite ARVs would be a welcome and positive development. But for the author to allege that all EC staff need ARVs is a fallacy of generalization that lacks basis in evidence and fact.

*By Twinobusingye Severino*  
Election Officer - Election Management Department.



## EC CHIEF APPLAUDS INTERNS

*By Gusongoirye David L. Data Processing Department*

'We lead the way and others follow'. These were the introductory remarks from the Electoral Commission Public Relations Officer on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2004 as he kick-started the first ever Intern farewell party in the Electoral Commission history at Hotel Africana.

The Chairman of the Electoral Commission, Eng. Dr Badru Kiggundu and the Deputy Chairperson, Sister Margaret Magoba attended the party organized in appreciation of the services rendered by four PR interns during their three-month internship.

The EC has been hosting interns before but on a small scale. In June 2004, the PR Section pioneered a new move when it took on four interns, namely, Ms. Nambigo Farida, Ms. Nandaula Rashida, Mr. Ntambi Yusuf and Ms. Carol Magambo from Mbale and Mukono universities respectively.

Eng. Dr. Kiggundu commended the Section for providing a training opportunity and advised the interns to put their three-months experience to good use.

The exciting evening was also punctuated by words of



*EC Chairman Eng. Dr. Kiggundu (L) hands a gift to Yusuf Ntambi (R) one of the interns. Looking on (C) is Peter Okello Principal PRO.*

advice from the distinguished educationist and Deputy Chairperson, EC, Sr. Margaret Magoba, whose way of dispensing words of wisdom is estimable. In a motherly but firm tone, the good nun implored the EC staff and interns to always pursue unity and openness in whatever they do. She also advised the young media students to have long term plans if they are to succeed in life.

On behalf of the interns, Ms. Carol Magambo appreciated the warm reception accorded to them and pledged to be ambassadors of the EC in their respective university

communities.

Thereafter Eng. Kiggundu blessed the sumptuous meal carefully prepared by Hotel Africana's very best chefs, and the dinners started nibbling away at the huge chunks of chicken with utmost attention akin to a surgical operation. A colleague who confessed having profound love for appetizing soup, destroyed vast amounts of it leaving little space for the food.

With the words of wisdom and the sumptuous meal served in vast quantities, one can not help but say that this was a party worth attending.

*... continued from page 1*

most. Another officer who had her linguistic skills put to test was Rose Kasagala (EO/VET). I marvelled as she explained the electoral process to a delegation from Burundi in flawless French!

Did you also know that our legal officer, Mrs. Jennifer A. Barya perfected her skills at

## EC AT UMA

negotiating deals? When a team from National Social Security Fund (NSSF) came announcing the organisation is carrying out a national re-registration exercise, she proposed that they register first as voters, before the EC Exhibition Team could visit their office to re-register. When the deal was done, two NSSF staff had registered

as voters while one EC staff re-registered with NSSF.

On the whole, the EC's mission at the exhibition was accomplished. More than six hundred people visited the EC stall, of which 118 were registered as voters. It was time well spent, and we can only look forward to the next exhibition, and other similar outdoor events.



## EC'S CARD LAMINATION "COMES OF AGE"

*By Rugomoka Byron - Technician, Data Processing Department*

If you have been to the Electoral Commission premises, to be more precise, in the printery, somewhere in the middle of the warehouse-like building, lie two machines assembled in line. As a layman, you may imagine that they have some thing to do with the printing press, which is within the same premises. You would be wrong! The two machines are the industrial D&K laminator and the M224 optical registration punch machine commonly known as the die-cutter.

Little would you know that the two machines have a production capacity of their own in this country. The laminator and the die-cutter give us the final production stage of the photographic voter cards, turning computer printed compound plastic paper like material into plastic voter cards which can last two years, out doors exposed to all kinds of weather.



Lamination is done at a temperature of over 100 degrees centigrade. The laminated cards are die-cut with round corners making it impossible for them to flip open even if efforts are made to open them with the intention of altering the information on them, making them highly forgery-proof cards (not fire proof though).

Whether you manufacture plastic decorated material digitally printed or any other

die-cut products in the graphic arts industry, the die cutting at the Electoral Commission gives you the flexibility and precision you need. At a production rate of up to 150 strokes per minute, the EC card production section will produce up to 30,000 cards in an eight-hour working day. I am yet to find any other organisation/company in this country with a capacity that high!

The Commission has a regularly updated database meaning that even if the Government wanted to produce massive national identification material, say National Identification Cards, the Electoral Commission has the necessary machinery to handle the task.

While the laminator will not laminate any flat material, the wide format male/female dies of the M224 will cut through materials like paper, boards, plastic and thin metals.

With IT experts and selfless members of staff, the Electoral Commission is not only transforming its image to uplift its mission (for regular free and fair elections), but also slowly but surely putting whatever concerns the electoral process under one roof.

On my own behalf and all the Ugandans who believe in transformation, I would like to appreciate all effort made by Government and the Electoral Commission staff who have made the photographic voter registration project a success. Who ever you are and whatever you do, do not underestimate the ability of the Electoral Commission, and to be precise the Data Processing Department!



*Peter Oyata of Data Processing, in white shirt and neck tie, demonstrates how the die-cutter works during a visit by the Cabinet Sub Committee in November 2003.*