



The EC Bulletin

For Regular, Free and Fair Elections

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In this Issue

EC Accredits; Briefs Referendum Observers	2
Final Results of the 2005 Referendum	2
Training Display Officers – The Facilitator's Role	4
The People Factor in the Electoral Process	5
Election Report	7
BOOK REVIEW: How To Get Rich	8
EC Launches Website Pictorial	8
A Simple 'Bounjour' (The French Greeting)	10
EC Confirms; Promotes Staff	12
Gender Balance or Imbalance? Does Awareness Determine Voter Turnout?	14
2006 Polls; Dialogue Holds the Key!	15
Give Proper Names to EC Office Blocks	16
Looking Down, On Kampala Streets	17
	18
	20

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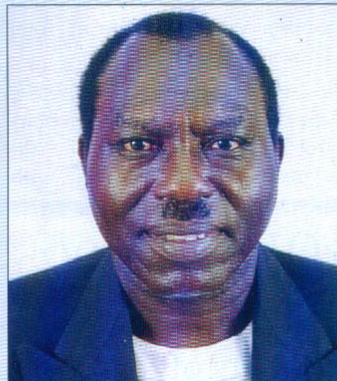
FOREWORD

DEAR READERS - the electorate, political actors and other partners; it is a pleasure to pass to you warm greetings from the Electoral Commission.

This foreword presents to me a unique opportunity to share with you a few observations at this critical period of Uganda's political transition.

As you are aware, the country has just gone through a major electoral activity. The program for the referendum on Change of political systems was wrapped up with polling on 28th July 2005.

Organising and conducting the 2005 referendum presented opportunities, as well as challenges for the Electoral Commission. The referendum was the first opportunity for the current Electoral Commission to test its capacity of organizing an electoral activity at a national scale.



Commissioner Tom Buruku

It should be noted that before the referendum, the Commission had successfully organized several by-elections for Members of Parliament (MPs) and Local Councils (LCs) and the National Youth Council (NYC) Executive.

Looking back, I can confidently say that in spite of a few challenges, the referendum was well-organised, and that the result reflected the will of the electorate.

continued on page 12

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 Accredits; Briefs Referendum Observers



PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

Same cause: Members of election observation teams from the African Association of Election Authorities (AAEA) pose for a group photograph after meeting members of the Electoral Commission on 29/7/2005.

IN THE July referendum on *Change of Political Systems*, the Electoral Commission accredited more than two hundred national and international observers, to monitor proceedings at polling stations, country-wide.

The Commission chairman Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu welcomed the observers to a briefing at Hotel Africana on 26th July 2005.

Closing the briefing ceremony, EC Deputy Chairperson, Sister Margaret Magoba requested the observers to share their findings with

the Commission. "In the event of any deviations or misconduct by election officials, I request you to bring out constructive suggestions so that they act as learning areas for emulation in preparation for national elections early next year", she urged.

continued on page 3

FINAL RESULTS OF THE 2005 REFERENDUM

The side campaigning for the opening of political space ('YES' side) won the July referendum on *Change of Political System*. The table below contains details of the referendum result by district.

Table 1: Final Results of the 2005 Referendum

Dist. Code	District	Yes Side	No Side	Valid Votes	Invalid Votes	Casted Votes
01	Apac	38,836	5,034	43,870	1,127	44,997
02	Arua	70,243	23,475	93,718	4,471	98,189
03	Bundibugyo	39,415	1,294	40,709	1,039	41,748
04	Bushenyi	158,735	8,134	166,869	2,540	169,409
05	Gulu	37,843	7,245	45,088	2,683	47,771
06	Hoima	51,928	6,139	58,067	1,090	59,157
07	Iganga	97,247	8,263	105,510	2,386	107,896
08	Jinja	38,085	4,661	42,746	1,267	44,013
09	Kabale	157,072	3,594	160,666	3,966	164,632
10	Kabarole	65,015	2,343	67,358	1,139	68,497
11	Kalangala	2,536	516	3,052	86	3,138
12	Kampala	74,103	10,057	84,160	2,125	86,285
13	Kamuli	106,934	6,792	113,726	2,371	116,097
14	Kapchorwa	49,245	2,009	51,254	1,572	52,826
15	Kasese	71,331	4,649	75,980	2,303	78,283
16	Kibaale	85,141	7,580	92,721	2,689	95,410
17	Kiboga	37,900	2,558	40,458	1,540	41,998
18	Kisoro	63,699	1,214	64,913	1,688	66,601
19	Kilgum	34,658	5,524	40,182	1,330	41,512
20	Kotido	45,172	2,689	47,861	2,264	50,125



... continued from page 2

EC Accredits; Briefs Referendum Observers

"Your findings during this referendum will form a basis for our improvement. While in the field, the Electoral Commission expects you to be impartial and non-partisan yet committed to the observation and monitoring mission at hand" she stressed.

Sister Magoba also pledged the Electoral Commission's co-operation with the observers. "The Electoral Commission promises total co-operation and support at all levels, during the 2005 referendum", she noted.

International observers for the referendum were drawn from various countries including the USA, Egypt, Canada, Kenya, Tanzania, Algeria, Rwanda, Sudan and India. Other organizations that sent observers include USAID, the American Embassy, the British High Commission, the Embassy of Rwanda, the German Embassy, the Austrian Embassy and the Embassy of Ireland.

The Electoral Commission also accredited local organizations including the Democracy Moni-

toring (DEM) Group, Mubende Development Association, South Buganda Journalists Association, Makerere Law Society, Youth Empowerment Foundation and several individuals (Ugandans).

According to the observers' debriefing report, the 2005 referendum process was free and fair with a result that represented the will of the Ugandan electorate.

The Electoral Commission will also seek to accredit National and International observers for the next cycle of elections. ○

Dist. Code	District	Yes Side	No Side	Valid Votes	Invalid Votes	Casted Votes
21	Kumi	45,516	6,680	52,196	1,385	53,581
22	Lira	43,425	6,752	50,177	1,558	51,735
23	Luweero	46,731	5,561	52,292	1,092	53,384
24	Masaka	79,513	4,714	84,227	1,996	86,223
25	Masindi	49,502	6,894	56,396	2,636	59,032
26	Mbale	174,217	11,662	185,879	4,474	190,353
27	Mbarara	334,861	7,228	342,089	3,646	345,735
28	Moroto	20,248	1,632	21,880	955	22,835
29	Moyo	12,869	2,806	15,675	519	16,194
30	Mpigi	41,088	3,615	44,703	1,188	45,891
31	Mubende	95,410	7,494	102,904	2,202	105,106
32	Mukono	57,819	9,165	66,984	2,195	69,179
33	Nebbi	34,648	14,230	48,878	2,319	51,197
34	Ntungamo	133,250	4,490	137,740	1,408	139,148
35	Pallisa	128,803	8,147	136,950	2,449	139,399
36	Rakai	69,493	2,759	72,252	2,226	74,478
37	Rukungiri	64,675	2,933	67,608	669	68,277
38	Soroti	37,186	3,669	40,855	609	41,464
39	Tororo	123,201	10,319	133,520	2,352	135,872
40	Adjuman	13,035	2,990	16,025	433	16,458
41	Bugiri	54,194	7,139	61,333	1,617	62,950
42	Busia	30,044	5,309	35,353	835	36,188
43	Katakwi	31,151	5,964	37,115	2,023	39,138
44	Nakasongola	18,241	1,224	19,465	314	19,779
45	Ssembabule	49,628	1,557	51,185	591	51,776
46	Kamwenge	74,030	2,057	76,087	2,099	78,186
47	Kayunga	32,633	3,391	36,024	931	36,955
48	Kyenjojo	82,252	3,018	85,270	1,339	86,609
49	Mayuge	39,685	4,584	44,269	937	45,206
50	Pader	30,056	5,699	35,755	1,159	36,914
51	Sironko	96,735	3,862	100,597	1,215	101,812
52	Wakiso	51,444	7,846	59,290	1,621	60,911
53	Yumbe	27,472	4,732	32,204	1,052	33,256
54	Kaberamaldo	18,745	2,311	21,056	859	21,915
55	Kanungu	66,978	1,317	68,295	495	68,790
56	Nakapiripirit	24,142	1,493	25,635	547	26,182
Grand Total		3,658,058	299,013	3,957,071	93,621	4,050,692

Note: More details about the 2005 referendum results, including the votes garnered by the two sides in all constituencies, are available from the Electoral Commission's website: www.ec.or.ug ○

TRAINING DISPLAY OFFICERS – THE FACILITATOR’S ROLE

By Liz Kobugabe

TRAINING display officials is a key ingredient for organizing free and fair elections because these officials are supposed to work with the electorate to correct possible errors on the voters’ register. It therefore calls for diligence and comprehensive planning on the part of the trainer, to make the most out of training for display officers.

The trainer’s requirements

The trainer requires a check-list of items required for training sessions to ensure that everything is in place. The trainer requires the necessary personal effects to ensure that s/he is comfortable while in the field.

More importantly, the trainer



should secure training materials in sufficient quantities. Such materials include notebooks, pens,

flip charts, markers, erasers etc. Having enough training materials pre-empts the possibility of embarrassments due to shortages while in the field.

Preparation for training

Get reasonably priced but decent accommodation, and take some time to review the training content ahead of the sessions. This will ensure that you are in command of the presentation and credible to the trainees, in order for them to take you seriously. Remember appearing credible to trainees is vital for the learning process.

The Dress Code

Through the District Registrar and other contacts, find out about the

continued on page 7

REFERENDUM 2005: EC TRAINS JOURNALISTS

“At the Electoral Commission, the media is considered and accorded unique consideration as a key strategic partner”.

These were the words of EC Chairman, Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu, while addressing journalists from Central Uganda on 12th July 2005, at Hotel Brovad in Masaka.

The Electoral Commission held seven media seminars in July 2005, to sensitize journalists about their role in informing and educating the electorate on referenda and elections (see table below).

Media seminars conducted in July 2005.

No	Date	Region	Venue
1	6 th July 2005	Northern	Acholi Inn, Gulu
2	6 th July 2005	Central-South	Hotel Brovad, Masaka
3	8 th July 2005	Mid-West	Kenneth Inn, Fort Portal
4	12 th July 2005	Near-East	Mt. Elgon Hotel, Mbale
5	12 th July 2005	South-West	Agip Motel, Mbarara
6	13 th July 2005	Far-East	Soroti Hotel, Soroti
7	15 th July 2005	Central-North	Hotel Equatoria, Kampala

The seminars, organized by the Public Relations Section, drew participants from the print and broadcast media in the seven electoral regions, as demarcated by the Electoral Commission. ○

INSIGHT

THE PEOPLE FACTOR IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

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

Introduction

ELECTIONS are held to enable people choose their leaders. By participating in elections, people have an opportunity to determine who manages public affairs.

From this point, we can illustrate by borrowing from the common definition of democracy, and say that regular elections are intended to reflect the choices and wishes of the people, by the people for the good of the people.

This would imply that in a good election, people are the winners, while

in a bad election, politicians are the winners. Elections (decisions by the electorate), therefore, can determine the future stability and prosperity of a given country.



Students of Kololo High School count votes cast during a Mock Referendum: Schools provide good ground for creating awareness about voting rights.

The challenge to the government and Election Management Bodies (EMBs) is to ensure that out-comes of electoral processes represent a win-win situation, in which the electorate and politicians agree with the result.

The assumption here, and rightly so, is that all members of the society, including those who don't vote are stakeholders in the electoral process and the democratization process. For that matter, the voter should take into account interests

continued on page 6

IN THE SHOES OF DR. BADRU KIGGUNDU: A STUDENT'S TALE

In July 2005, The New Vision conducted a number of mock Referenda in selected secondary schools, country-wide, to sensitize students about their roles, rights and responsibilities in electoral processes.

In the following story, Mr. Lutaaya Roger, a student of Kings College Budo who acted as 'Chairman' of 'the Electoral Commission' in the school reflects on the experience(Ed).

IT WAS lunchtime and every Budonian was in the dining hall. Suddenly, our English teacher, Mr. Edison Walusimbi, walked in and informed us that a mock referendum on *Change of Political Systems* was to be organised in our school with the support of The New Vision and the Electoral Commission, and announced the names of the 'Commissioners' and the 'Chairperson'.

Wow, could this be true? I, Roger Lutaaya a senior four student of Kings College Budo turning into a 'Chairman' of the 'Electoral Commission'!

The seven (7) 'Commissioners' and myself (Chairman) had to prepare ourselves for the task ahead.

One of the major challenges was 'voter education', as most students at Budo, were totally clueless about the impending 'referen-

dum' in the school. Not only did they not know what 'referendum' means, they also didn't know its purpose.

Our voter education strategy included organizing debates, with information materials provided by The New Vision and the Electoral Commission, enriching the exchange between students.

continued on page 9

... continued from page 5

THE PEOPLE FACTOR IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

of children, and foreigners living and working in the country, (who can not vote but contribute to the economy, through taxes, which finance the elections).

It is interesting to note how the collective contribution of these different groups makes elections a complex but necessary undertaking.

What then is required of the people?

Improving delivery of elections requires the participation of everyone, including people who are not entitled to vote. It is important to teach all stakeholders to know and carry out their civic responsibilities. For example, in national elections, non-citizens are not members of the electorate but can help the electoral process by refraining from attempts to register unlawfully, which ensures a clean register. They can limit their participation to observation without undue interference in the electoral process.

Mobilising the People Through Voter Education

Voter education is meant to facilitate and enable (adult) citizens to meaningfully and effectively participate in the social, economic, political and development decisions of their communities and the country at large through voting in elections.

Voter education helps nurture democracy through the practice of regular elections. In countries where elections are relatively a new practice, it is important that the urban/elite are brought on board on the matter of voter education.

They can ably provide the lead in developing institutions and values

of participatory democracy. This is because the peasants have confidence in the counsel of the elite; they assume that the elite can help evolve an understanding of the political order and its wider implications.

While we may conclude from the above assumptions that the urban/elite are in a much better position to sustain the development of the electoral process in Uganda, it remains clear that achieving the goal of free and fair elections is the responsibility of all of us and requires concerted effort.

The People and Election Violence

In order to eliminate violence during elections, enthusiastic and informed participation of the electorate and other members of the public is very important, because they are always involved either as the targets or the victims. Wherever election violence occurs, the result is always loss of interest in the electoral process by sections of the electorate.

However, this apathy does not help develop democratization, and therefore the electorate should exploit other options available to them. For example, they can identify the non-violent candidate and rally behind him or her to represent them.

Violence is not peculiar to rural areas. As our experience shows, it occurs even in urban areas. The difference may be in degree. Perhaps the various media (radio and newspapers) available to the urban electorate helps minimize the incidence of conflict by keeping the spotlight on the perpetrators.

Although this may not always be necessarily true, it is more prob-

able that where the less privileged (rural) voters may have engaged in physical fight, the urban voter will probably engage in debate.

The challenge for the electorate, whether rural or urban, is to raise the debates above petty issues to wider issues. The urban/elite, who are able to draw examples from their wider political, social and economic experience, can take the lead to enhance political awareness in the communities. With improved debate and informed electorate, the elections will portray a positive image of the country as democratically progressive and politically mature.

The People and the Register

Under the Uganda electoral laws, only citizens of eighteen (18) years and above are eligible to register as voters. Ensuring a fraud-free election does not start on polling day, but from the time of registration of voters. Dissatisfaction with this stage of the electoral process can discredit the entire process.

Therefore, in order to deliver fraud-free elections, the people, together with the Election Management Body (EMB) have to ensure that only eligible persons are registered and that they are the only persons allowed to vote on polling day. A clean National Voters' Register is credible and reliable and this in turn qualifies the election as fair.

The People and the Candidates

The people nominate candidates from among themselves. It would profit much if they (the electorate) identified and supported only those persons who qualify to stand (as candidates) under the

continued on page 9

... continued from page 4

TRAINING DISPLAY OFFICERS – THE FACILITATOR'S ROLE

social-cultural values of the people you are going to train. This shields you from the embarrassment of dressing inappropriately, which is also proven to inhibit the training/learning process. Consult about the values of the audience will also guide you to be sensitive during the presentation, particularly the examples you give. You should be able to strike a balance between the presentation and the beliefs of the trainees.

This reminds me of an experience where I had traveled on a similar assignment with other election officials. Many of them who had not prepared sufficiently did not enjoy their assignment and stay in the field.

At the training venue

Be punctual, appear appropriately dressed and switch off your cell phone. Getting there late and answering calls as you talk to your audience gives the impression that the audience is not important and that you do not value them or their time.

Where necessary, the presentations should be divided so that presenters don't contradict each other. Each speaker should prepare his/her presentation and give a copy to the others, so that should the speaker not be able to make it to the training venue for whatever reason, some one else is able to fill in for them without a hitch.

If you need to illustrate a point or two from time to time, make sure you do not talk with your back to the audience as your words will be muffled and inaudible.

If a trainee asks a question that you cannot answer, any of the colleagues should be able to step in and answer that question. Also if you do not have the authority to make a pronouncement on a particular issue, say so; do not court trouble. You are not superman!

It is more practical to have the more talkative among the group speak last, so that they are able to talk about the miscellaneous issues and then stretch out into the question and answer session smoothly.

continued on page 19

ELECTION REPORT

BALIKUDEMBE TAKES BUSIRO SOUTH, MASINDI ELECTS STEVEN BIRIJA.

BALIKUDEMBE JOSEPH MUSISI was declared the duly elected Member of Parliament for Busiro South Constituency, in a by-election conducted by the Electoral Commission on Thursday July 09th 2005.

The table below represents a summary of the results for the by-election for the Busiro South County.

Results of the by-election for Busiro-South

Candidate	Votes Attained	Percentage
BALIKUDEMBE J. M.	13,237	53.3%
KIGGUNDU Fred	89	0.4%
MUBANDA Freda N.	6,288	25.3%
SSENKUBUGE Charles	5,234	21.1%
VALID VOTES	24,848	-----
INVALID VOTES	424	1.7%
TOTAL VOTES	25,272	47.9%

The Busiro South seat fell vacant following the death of the incumbent, the late Hon. Fred Musisi.

Meanwhile, the Electoral also concluded the by-election program for the Masindi District Chairperson

on 31st August 2005.

Mr. Stephen Birija was declared the duly elected Chairperson for the district after obtaining 19,515 votes (36.9%), beating three other candidates.

The other candidates, Mr. Isingoma Wilson, Mr. Kaahwa Wilson and Mr. Wamara Jos obtained 14,374 votes (27.2%), 11,695 votes (22.1%) and 7,306 votes (13.8%) respectively. ○

BOOK REVIEW: How to Get Rich

Author: Donald J. Trump
with Meredith
McIver

Publisher: The Random
House Publishing
Group

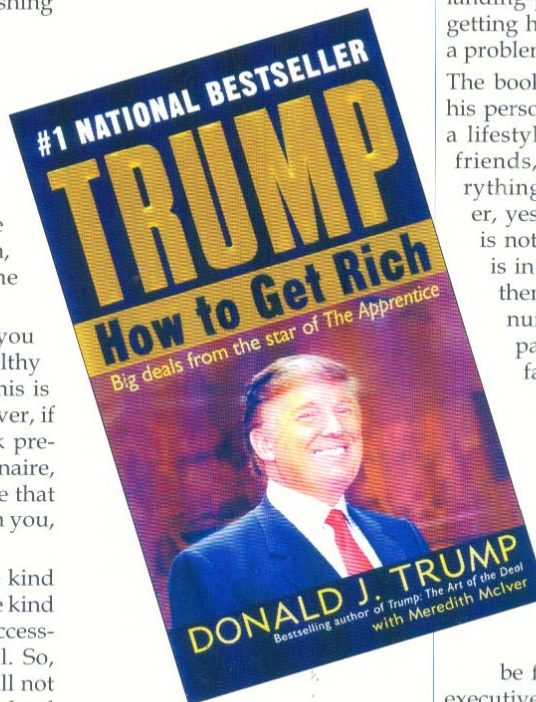
Reviewed by: Constance
Obonyo

THE BOOK *How to get rich* is written by a 'Wavamunno' of New York, and that is why I, and probably anyone would like to read it. I mean, wouldn't you like to be the next tycoon in town?

The twist about it is that, if you are looking for ways to get filthy rich, as the title suggests, this is not the book for you. However, if you are looking for a sneak preview into the life of a billionaire, to copy his ways in the hope that some riches might rub off on you, then it is the book for you.

It is a study of a street-wise kind of business management; the kind that only an experienced, successful businessman can reveal. So, some of that information will not be found in any Business School or book.

The Author, Donald Trump takes us through his lifestyle, particularly his typical day. He typically takes only fifteen minutes for lunch, sometimes skipping it altogether!



And what does he have for lunch? Sandwiches, not *katogo*, which will cause him to doze-away the afternoon! He must look after his assets, so he must keep awake.

Trump is a Real Estate developer. He deals in land and buildings.

He owns a famous tall tower in New York, the *Trump Tower*, and lives in a Penthouse on top of it. Also on top of *Trump Tower* is a landing-pad for his chopper. So getting held in traffic jams is not a problem to him.

The book is also takes a peek at his personal life. It is a drama of a lifestyle – his family, his golf friends, his workmates – everything. It includes his latest, er, yes – girlfriend, Melania. It is not clear what number she is in the queue – he has had them in large numbers, with numerous arrivals and departures! He has had two failed marriages too.

He was once declared bankrupt, turned into a beggar on the streets.

And what is his advice to those who want to get rich? **Play golf.** Could this be the reason why Kintante golf course is now "the place" to be for Kampala's corporate executives – including those who are clueless about holding a golf club? Well, just asking!

The book "How to get rich" is available from leading bookshops in Uganda, and goes for Ushs. 23,000= only (ed). ○

EC launches Website

THE EC has finally gone cyber, with the launch of the organisation's website: www.ec.or.ug. The website was launched at a colorful dinner hosted for media professionals and executives, at Grand Imperial Hotel, on 24th June 2005.

The launch dinner also presented an open platform for informal interaction between the EC's top-brass and leading media professionals in Uganda.

Addressing the media during the dinner, EC Chairman, Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu, described the evening as a 'unique' interactive opportunity: "To-

night's function is intended to be an opportunity for the Commission to know you better, as a pre-requisite towards building a closer working relationship", he noted.

The Chairman praised the media; "The priceless information you provide enables voters and the public to meaningfully participate in electoral processes, and hence promotes voter education".

Dr. Kiggundu also pledged to provide timely information to the media, to enable journalists to adequately inform and educate the electorate. ○

... continued from page 6 THE PEOPLE FACTOR IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

laws governing that particular election.

In pursuit of fairness, the law provides for the electorate to raise objections before the EC to the suitability of aspirants before nomination, or challenge the nominated candidates before the polls; or contest the qualification of an elected candidate after the polls by petitioning through court.

This explains why the electorate should always participate in campaign meetings, by listening and asking questions. It gives them an opportunity to learn more about the programmes of different candidates but even more important, their credentials. Informed voters are often characterized by confidence and are more likely to make wise decisions on polling day.

The People and the Way Forward

In order to develop the electoral process, both the EMBs and the

electorate should endeavor to cherish the following principles:

Respect for Human Rights: This principle demands (especially from the law makers) for respect of human rights, so that individuals (the voters, parties, and candidates) are able to participate in the election without coercion or restriction and having equal access to opportunities available in order to contest (in the case of parties and candidates or to participate as voters).

The principle requires that a legislative framework will create favorable socio-political conditions under which the democratization process can thrive and guarantee the freedom of all persons to engage in debates, express opinion on the conduct of elections, and in case of dissatisfaction, seek redress through courts of law.

Transparency: The principle of transparency in elections demands that there exists a competent, honest and non-partisan election management body to ensure a credible

electoral process. At the same time, it demands that the electorate act responsibly by complying with the laws governing the elections.

Integrity: The principle of integrity demands for honesty and reliability on the part of the EMB but also sets the same standards for the electorate. At best, the EMB can only provide acceptable standards. Achieving the desired levels of fairness calls for the committed partnership of the voters.

Accountability: The principle of accountability demands that the EMB should take full responsibility for all its decisions. It therefore calls for good faith. The electorate on the other hand, should also be satisfied that they have exercised their right of choice; they should own their actions, and/or inactions. ○

Ed: This article was originally written for *The Defender*, a magazine produced by Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI).

... continued from page 5

IN THE SHOES OF DR. BADRU KIGGUNDU

On one occasion, the area Member of Parliament graced our activities, and gave us an insightful talk about the referendum. The reading materials and posters provided by the EC and The New Vision greatly helped to boost our voter education drive.

On polling day, 13th July 2005, there was anxiety all over the school. Most students were voting for the first time. They did not know what to expect. Fortunately, items required for polling, like ballot papers, indelible ink, pens, basins etc were in place.

When polling commenced, we were amazed at the high level of voter turn-out! Students queued

up and patiently waited to cast their ballot papers.

Polling at Kings College Budo was graced by the presence of the 'original Kiggundu' - the Chairman of Uganda's Electoral Commission! The Budo 'Commissioners' took some snaps with him!

In the presence of several observers, the ballot papers were counted, and the final results indicated that 60.1% of the voters (Budo students) support opening-up political space and multi-partism i.e. the 'Yes' side. The 'No' side in support of the Movement system obtained 34.9% of the votes, while the invalid votes were 5%.

I would like to commend The New Vision, the Electoral Commission and the school administration of Kings College Budo for supporting us. We learnt a lot as 'Commissioners' and voters, which will make us better citizens. We thank Dr. Kiggundu for turning up for the 'referendum'. These exercises should continue, as they open up the eyes of Uganda's future generation. Like the Baganda people say 'gakyali mabaga' (there is more to come - ed).

For God and my Country.

Note: Mock referenda like the one at Kings College Budo were organised in twenty-five secondary schools country-wide (Ed). ○

PICTORIAL



PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

You see: A member of the Sudan Observation Team makes a point to EC Secretary, Sam Rwakojo.



PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

EC Chairman, Dr. Kiggundu exchanges souvenirs with a representative of Kenya Electoral Commission.



PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

It turned out well: Eng. Dr. Kiggundu and Sr. Magoba discuss observations on the Referendum polls with the Chairman of EC/Burkina Faso, and President of the Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA), Mr. Moussa Michel Tapsoba (right).



PHOTO: ASSISTANT DISTRICT REGISTRAR KAYUNGA

Much smarter: The EC has provided uniforms for its officials for clear identification during polling.



PHOTO: ASSISTANT DISTRICT REGISTRAR KAYUNGA

Computerising: During the Referendum, the EC equipped district offices with computers to improve accuracy in tallying of results.



PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

Accurate: Members of the Commission closely monitor the processing of Referendum results at the nationally tally center, Hotel Africana Kampala 29th July 2005.

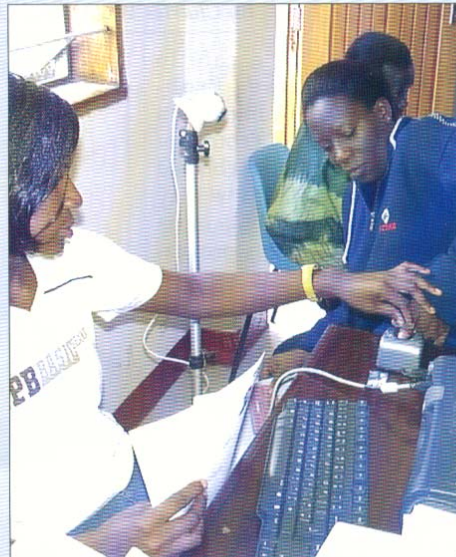


PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

EC staff saving for the future: An NSSF official captures the bio-data of an EC employee during the ongoing re-registration of workers in the country.



COURTESY PHOTO

Training for better service delivery: Ms. Nalukwago Robinah (3rd left, front row) and Mr. Okiror Sam (1st right back row) of Registry Section pose with fellow participants after attending a Records and Information Management Course held in August 2005 at the Center for Procurement Management, Nakawa, Kampala.

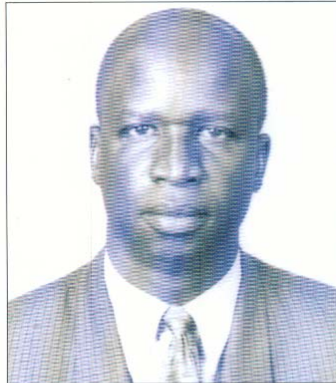
A SIMPLE 'BOUNJOUR' (THE FRENCH GREETING)

By Charles W. Ochola, Desk Officer EC/Returning Officer

YOU ARE in a café in Montparnasse. Probably you are waiting for a French friend you met a couple of days earlier in the Metro. You had liked each other's company. May be it is love at first sight, a mega infatuation or simply a warm camaraderie! Well, the wait is sliding into a bout of anxiety.

But look, could it be her? Uh, finally, your friend arrives, sauntering happily down the busy boulevard! What would you do?

In England it would be standing up and a beaming 'helo'. In the United States, a welcoming 'hi' from whatever position. At home in Uganda, it would be '*nsanyuse okukulaba*', (happy to see you), if you are from the vast central region.



In France, there are the delightful and neat obligatory kisses on either side of the cheeks. A lovely custom, eh, but one that also generates complications. How many kisses do you give for instance?

One? It just isn't enough! Two? Yes, often...but doesn't it expose a meanness of spirit? Three?

Why not, but there is that awful hesitation as to whether or not to indulge in some more. Four? Yes, but aren't you over-doing things, or even crossing the 'border-line'?

Well, hailing from the Pearl of Africa, with a different greeting culture, you may get confused or out-rightly embarrassed!

In my time in France, I never learnt a particular greeting (kissing) formula to pass to you, but you too can try it out the next time you are in France.

But please, please, don't dare kiss a platonic friend or acquaintance on the lips, as this amounts to sexual molestation! To the French, swapping of lips is a reserve for intimate lovers...if you know what I mean! ○

... continued from page 1

FOREWORD

On behalf of the Electoral Commission, I wish to particularly thank the electorate for actively participating in the referendum. I also thank the two sides to the referendum and various political leaders for mobilizing the electorate. I also in a special way salute the Uganda Police and other security agencies, whose support ensured that the referendum was conducted in a truly orderly, lawful and peaceful environment.

Like we have pointed out before, the referendum was one program in a busy election cycle, which is scheduled to continue with local council and general elections.

For the Electoral Commission, the key lessons learnt from the exercise include the need for timely enactment of enabling laws and

timely release of sufficient funds. This would ensure that the Electoral Commission prepares sufficiently, for all aspects of the elections including provision of adequate voter education for the electorate. Adequate voter education would in turn ensure that the electorate participates more meaningfully in elections.

As has become our policy and practice, the Electoral Commission will again look forward to the participation and co-operation of all partners, to successfully organize the more challenging elections that are next in the cycle.

I wish to remind you that at the Electoral Commission, we are human beings, and may not be perfect in whatever we do all the time. This is why we always

invite not only complements, but also positive criticism, to inform continuous corrective interventions by the Commission.

We would like to however reaffirm our commitment to meticulous conduct of elections, and to full compliance with electoral laws.

Finally, I wish to commend the staff of the Electoral Commission for the unwavering commitment, the sleepless nights and resilience, which keeps the institution going! I urge you to keep the flame burning, because there are more hurdles ahead!

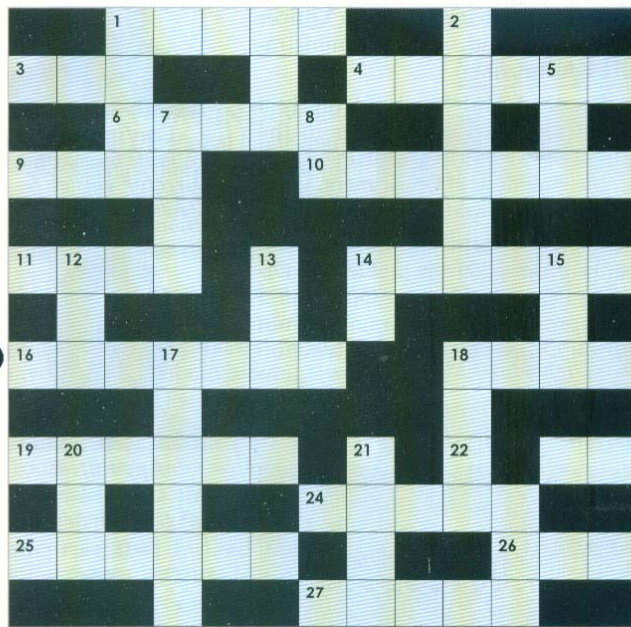
For God and my Country. ○

Tom Buruku

Commissioner,
Electoral Commission.

EC BULLETIN CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 2

Prepared by Mhuwezi David (EO/Data Processing Department)



Across

1. Heads the EC Bulletin Editorial Board (5)
3. An un-returnable stroke in tennis (3)
4. Deputy of electoral body (6)
6. Wear away, gradually (5)
9. A narrow strip of material for fastening, labeling etc (4)

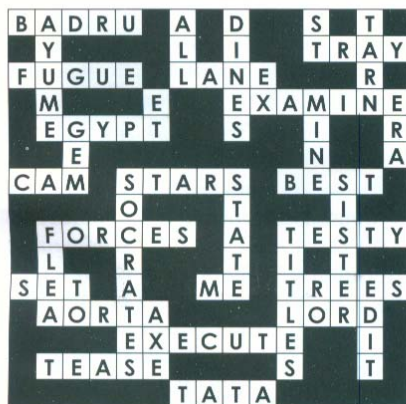
10. UPDF the life and property of Ugandans (7)
11. Enthusiasm, hearty and persistent effort (4)
14. An object believed to bring good luck (6)
16. He is commissioner at the electoral body (7)
18. A standard of reckoning (4)

19. A single part in a treaty or contract (6)
22. EC is mandated to organise and fair elections (4)
24. Use or be used extravagantly without adequate result (5)
25. A unit of weight for measuring fineness of yarn (6)
26. Accounting officer at EC (3)
27. Cereal, from the prairies (5)

Down

1. Small sturdy 4-wheel drive vehicle, for sports and army (4?)
2. Way out (6)
5. Leaf or flower not fully open (3)
7. Occurring as a fact (4)
8. Editor (2)
12. Variant of aeon (3)
13. US Investigation bureau (3)
14. Second degree, abbr. (2)
15. Away from, not in a place at a particular time (3)
17. New district in Eastern Uganda (6)
18. A flat floating structure of timber, etc used as a boat (4)
20. The sheltered side (3)
21. Strike violently (4)
23. Cease from a tiring activity (4)

Answers to Crossword No.



All the editions of *The EC Bulletin*
are now available on the EC's
Website. www.ec.or.ug

STAFF NEWS

EC CONFIRMS; PROMOTES STAFF

IN RECOGNITION of excellence as well as in a bid to motivate and boost staff morale, the Electoral Commission recently confirmed a number of employees previously holding positions, in acting capacity.

Key among the confirmations is that of Mrs. Jovita Byamugisha, formerly Head, Administration, who was confirmed as Director, Finance and Administration, a position she has also been holding, in an acting capacity.

Mr. Opar Malakwang P.N, a veteran Election Officer in the Voter Registration Department, was elevated to the

position of Principal Election Officer (PEO)/ Ag. Head of the Administration Department.

Mr. Leonard Mulekwah, formerly a long-serving Election Officer in the Election Management Department was appointed as Head of Department, Voter Education and Training Department.

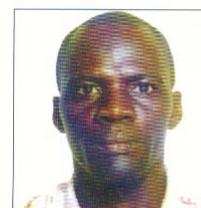
Other promotions included Mr. Charles Nsimbi, promoted from an Election Officer to Principal Election Officer and Mr. Cyprian Ogwang promoted from Election Officer to Principle Election Officer. ○



Confirmed:
Mrs. Jovita Byamugisha,
Director, Finance &
Administration.



Appointed:
Mr. Opar Malakwang,
Ag. Head, Admin.



Promoted:
Cyprian Ogwang,
Senior Election Officer,
Planning and Research.



Greatest rewards:
Mr. Leonard Mulekwah.

EC Staff Confirmed and promoted

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION BEFORE*	DESIGNATION (CURRENT)*
1.	Mrs. Byamugisha Jovita	Ag. Dir. F&A	Dir. F&A
2.	Ms. Molly Kamukama	EO/VE&T	Ag. H/VE&T
3.	Mr. Nsimbi Charles	EO/Ag. H/VR	PEO/Ag. H/VR
4.	Mr. Opar Malakwang	EO/VR	PEO/Ag. H/VR
5.	Mr. Omedo Peter	EO/VR	SEO/VR
6.	Mr. Ogwang Cyprian	EO/P&R	SEO/P&R

(DR — District Registrar; ADR — Assistant District Registrar; EO — Election Officer; SEO — Senior Election Officer; PEO — Principal Election Officer; P&R — Planning & Research Dept.; VR — Voter Registration Dept.; VE&T — Voter Education & Training Dept.; F&A — Finance & Administration Dept.)

Several other district staff were also promoted, while others were transferred.

EC District Staff Promoted/Transferred

Name	Position Previous	Position New	Former District	District Trans. to
1. Mr. G. Sempima	ADR	DR	Hoima	Mbale
2. Mr. I. Kizindo	ADR	DR	Luwero	Iganga
3. Mr. Ogwang J.	ADR	DR	Kotido	Kptido
4. Mr. Serunjoji R.	ADR	Ag. DR	Hoima	Hoima
5. Mr. Shesa Adam	ADR	Ag. DR	Apac	Kumi
6. Ms. Nakasi Flavia	ADR	ADR	Bundibugyo	Luwero
7. Mr. Ruhemba D.	ADR	ADR	Kasese	Bundibugyo
8. Mr. Okira J.	DR	DR	Katakwi	Nakapiripirit
9. Mr. Omona J.	ADR	Ag. DR	Katakwi	Katakwi
10. Mr. Kunihiro R.	ADR	ADR	Masindi	Kampala
11. Ms. Atim F.	EA/CT	EA/CT	Pader	Luwero
12. Ms. Mambakire C.	EA/CT	EA/CT	Luwero	Pader

We wish the following members of staff, who have left the Electoral Commission, to serve the country in other capacities, the greatest rewards for their service:

1. Mr. Mulekwah Leonard, formerly Head of Dep't, Voter Education & Training
2. Ms. Nyaoi Sarah Precious, formerly ADR/Kabarole District
3. Mrs. Annet Nsubuga-Kasi, formerly of Procurement Unit
4. Ms. Constance Obonyo, formerly of Voter Registration Department
5. Mr. Kavuma Terence of Legal Department (leaves EC end of November 2005). ○

GENDER BALANCE OR IMBALANCE?

By C. A. Onekalit

THE CHANGING dynamics in the global labor-market have necessitated the integration of rules and procedures to encourage men and women to compete for jobs equally.

While some developed countries encourage affirmative action, at no point is any particular gender favored. It is all about proving that you are better than the competition.

Today, many more women other duties aside, act as 'father' and mother to their families. It's no surprise that indeed today's woman can effectively perform what was previously 'a man's job' in the days perceived by some men, as the time when 'Men were actually Men'.

In this review, I dare to critically scrutinize the top brass and other echelons at the Electoral Commission (EC).

If I may, my starting point will be with the cream of creams, the authorities, and decision makers in this organization. Just a quick glance points to a male Chairperson and a female Deputy. That's gender balance, don't you think?

Then more closely, there are 4(four) Commissioners, 3(three) male 1(one) female. There is a male Accounting Officer/ Secretary to the Commission.

Lets dissect further. Refer to the current EC management structure. Below the Accounting Officer are two directorates with 2 (two) Directors, and you guessed wrong, they are not male - both happen to be female. But then again rove your eyes just a bit and visualize



PHOTO: PAUL BUKINYA

Same weight: Electoral laws provide for one person, one vote. There are still questions whether this applies in other areas of life.

the rest of the management team. Out of 9 (nine) departments, there are 9 (nine) male heads.

Oh, it seems like we missed out something, did we just say the 9 (nine) departments are headed by men? We actually did. The gender-balancing act seems to have got lost somewhere along the line. Maybe there is a worthwhile explanation.

Could it be that the Ugandan woman has reached what gender experts popularly call the glass

ceiling, a point where by they cannot climb the professional ladder further because they seem to have reached their limit? I ponder. Or is it that out of the millions of women in Uganda² none is qualified or can brave such a job. Well, is there a gender balance in regard to positions of decision making at the EC? A critical analysis could link us to the hidden answer, or is it not so hidden?

But then again, these are just my contemplations. ○

PERSPECTIVES: DOES AWARENESS DETERMINE VOTER TURNOUT?

By Gusongoirye David L

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION was accused of failing to conduct adequate voter education in the run up to the 28th July Referendum on the *Change of Political System*. According to the critics, the evidence of this assertion is the low voter turnout. The results posted on the Electoral Commission website (www.ec.or.ug) indicate that about 47.3% of the registered voter population participated in the referendum. This was lower than that of the 2000 referendum where 51.1% voted.

So who is to blame for this low turnout? Was it a result of inadequate voter education? What was the anticipated percentage with a comprehensive voter education programme? Is there a correlation between the level of awareness and voter turnout?

While addressing the residents of Masindi after the LC V by-election, the EC's top gun, Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu said, *"mathematically, there is no evidence that the level of awareness is equal to voter turnout. One can be aware of the election but choose to stay at home"*. The by-election registered a low voter turnout of about 37.2% yet it was a highly publicized exercise.

While it is true that to some extent awareness can cause people to participate in an exercise which they would otherwise have not got involved in, the driving force in participation is interest as opposed to awareness.



The Electoral Commission did a commendable job as far as voter and civic education is concerned. To begin with, it accredited a number of civic and media institutions to conduct a countrywide voter education program. The selection of these organizations was strictly on merit. In addition to the above, almost all the media houses had referendum adverts running seven days a week; this was in addition to the numerous radio and television talk shows, flyers, posters etc.

A media consultancy was contracted to monitor the quality and frequency of the referendum adverts run by the various media

houses. I would also like to remind you that the referendum sides were reasonably facilitated and it was incumbent upon them to effectively mobilize the voters. On the eve of the election, the Commission employed the services of an SMS media company to send messages to potential voters. All this was done in order to create awareness and to urge voters to go out and vote.

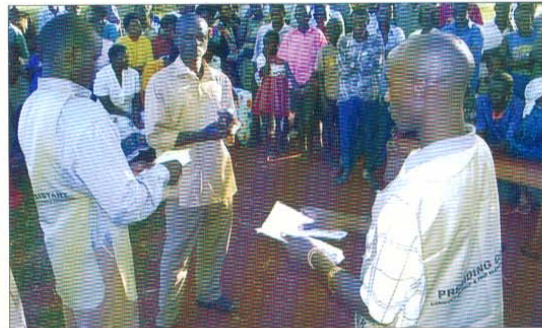
If it is true that the Commission played its role in creating awareness, what could have gone wrong?

Lets first critically analyze the referendum results. Some districts like Kanungu and Kabale registered over 80% voter turnout, yet these are districts with relatively low media coverage as compared to districts like Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, which didn't go past the 30% mark. With all honesty, if the measure of voter turnout is awareness, the latter should have performed far better than the former.

By implication, it means that there are factors other than voter education, which could explain the poor participation in the referendum on the *Change of Political System*.

A number of opposition politicians vehemently campaigned for a countrywide boycott. Their argument was that, "Since the ruling movement government endorsed the multi party system at the Kyankwanzi National executive meeting, it would be a wastage of taxpayers

continued on page 20



Our vote is our voice: Voters observe the counting of ballot papers after elections. Sometimes voter turnout depends on factors other than awareness.

PERSPECTIVES: 2006 POLLS; DIALOGUE HOLDS THE KEY!

By Noor N. Mukiibi

"How one says something is as important as what one says"

THE ELECTORAL arena is presently composed of a society fragmented by heated debate. In some unpalatable instances, debate about electoral issues has actually degenerated into fist-fights, or worse!

But does it have to come to this? I say no. Dialogue, debate and consensus-building should ideally be the key ingredients of electoral and democratic processes. Candidates have often debated with rival candidates, with disputes often resolved through dialogue, sometimes facilitated by the Electoral Commission.

Although the atmosphere in debates tends to be more charged than in dialogues, there is no need for threatening, or use of violence in either of the two. The EC and other relevant arbitrators should enforce civility during elections.

Imagine what the electoral environment would be like, if all parties and candidates embraced dialoguing to cool the 'heat' generated from debates and to resolve disputes!

Election violence would either be banished or at least trimmed down to minimal levels. Cracked skulls and broken legs would only be a

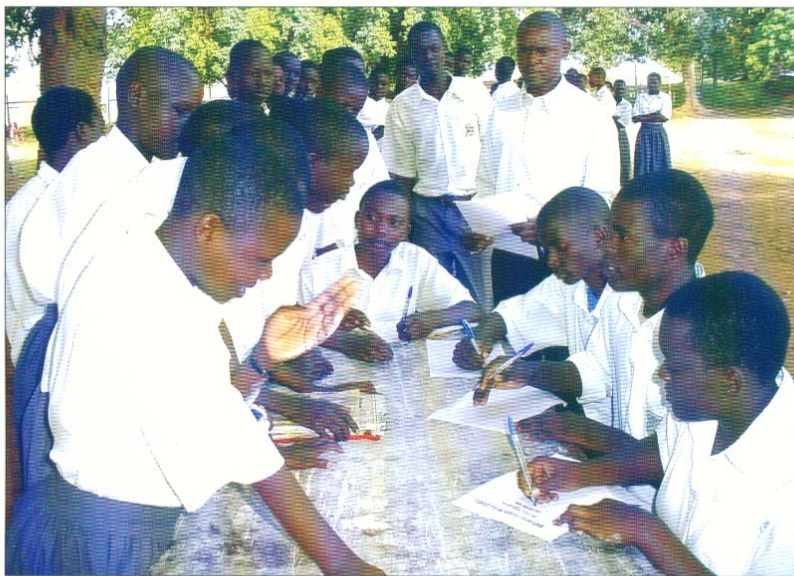


feature in the movies, not an ugly sight dogging elections! Phenomenal amounts wouldn't be lost in post-election litigation and in by-elections resulting from disputed results!

Now that the electorate has voted in a referendum to release parties from the 'political freezer', we can expect a flurry of activity in the rush to recruit members, and garner support ahead of the March 2006 general elections.

For these processes to be harmonious, positive debating and dialoguing should be the core values.

The EC, parties, candidates, agents, and voters...we all need to nurture the etiquette of decent debate and dialogue in diversity in electoral environs, in order to keep mother Uganda in one piece. What do you think? ○



Please let us agree: Students of Teso College, Aloit, discuss the procedures before casting their votes in a Mock Referendum organised by The New Vision. Ugandans, especially the young generation should appreciate the need for dialogue in resolving political disputes.

PHOTO: THE NEW VISION

OPINION: Give Proper Names to EC Office Blocks

By Bukenya Paul

I ONCE assured my visitor that he would not find a problem tracing my office at the EC Headquarters: *I work in the White House*, I said, *Ask for Bukenya Paul, and you will be directed straight to my desk*.

Well, he got there, but kept wondering why the office block bears the name 'white house'. It was as interesting as it was puzzling, and finally I told him we do very important work, including being 'mid-wives' to elections that take people to Uganda's 'White House'.

The occasion gave me an opportunity to study these names closely.

A random survey among staff has now confirmed that there is growing discomfort with the 'names' of several office blocks at the Commission. In fact there is resentment that some blocks have been named after not-so-good-incidents that have taken place in Uganda, for example, Kanungu and Kichwamba blocks.

These names to some are reminiscent of the Kibwetere cult mass murder in Kanungu and the ADF murder of students at Kichwamba respectively.

The discomfort with such names is understandable. 'Kanungu' office block is so-called because it is a long block with only one exit, similar in structure to the buildings in which thousands of people perished in Kanungu district

in March 2000. We know that people lost their loved ones and it borders on the insensitive, to honor their memory in this manner.

Kichwamba is so-called because it is a gigantic iron-sheet-structure, and temperatures get very high in there. This could be an exaggeration, but it can hurt the feelings of people whose sons and daughters perished in the real fire at Kichwamba.

I agree that the office blocks should have names, but I believe we should find appropriate names. I propose that we honour the contributions of our former commissioners to the development of electoral-democracy in Uganda, by naming some of these office blocks after them.

For example, the renovated 'Kanungu' can be named 'Akabway Block' while 'White House' can be

called 'Kasujja Block'; The Reception Block can be named after one of our long serving or outstanding officers, for example, the Director, Elections Mrs. Gladys Nduru. In the same way, we can honour another officer by having the Printery Block named after him/her.

Ms. Alexandra Nkonge was involved in drafting most of the electoral laws that we have now, and we can honour her by having Nkonge Block, while Mr. Joshua Wamala, whose work in elections dates back to 1980, can be honoured by having the Election Management Registry Block, named after him.

I do not think of many other ways to motivate our people. Let us acknowledge their good work. Besides, this will also be a big plus to our on-going image building campaign. ○



PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

Monster machine: EC will finally board off the Nissan Patrol vehicles that have formed part of its fleet since 1996. This particular vehicle has been to every part of Uganda, including Kalangala and Buvuma Islands.

... continued from page 7

TRAINING DISPLAY OFFICERS – THE FACILITATOR'S ROLE

Disruptive people

The role of the trainer is to impart knowledge and skills through effective communication with the audience. The trainer should therefore be fully in charge of the training, and this involves dealing skillfully with some 'difficult' trainees like:

The experienced 'Election Official'

This type of person will seek to dominate the group. As a presenter you must balance the contributions of these people, because they may cause disruptions in the training. Do not encourage them but redirect the discussions gently but firmly. Offer to talk to them after the session.



PHOTO: PAUL BUKENYA

Ready for work: EC Staff load display materials for use during the update of the National Voters' Register and Issuance of Photo-bearing Voter Cards 29th Sept – 28th Oct 2005.

Another Officer's disciple

This person will refer to some one else apart from the presenters and go on to expound what that other officer told them to do in a past election. They seek to impose their own point of view on the group. Do not encourage them. You must restrain them in the interest of time. Tell them you will talk to them at the end of the meeting and let them know that the training has its own agenda – imparting knowledge to the group as a whole.

The Self-appointed 'Trainer'

This person will roam from one end of the room to the other, attempting to resist the training and will cause a disruption, in

the spirit of the exercise. Discourage their contributions. Meet them aside and ask them to be submissive but do not threaten them.

The Rambler

This person meanders through a forest of words for minutes without making a point, or repeating the point which s/he has made. He tends to cause feelings of discomfort and boredom thus disrupting the learning process. For this type, have them stick to the issue and politely stop them if the point has been made.

The Critic

This person will continuously express personal opinions about the election process and always has an opinion especially where

their interests are concerned. He will tend to disrupt the training, and you must stop him, and if necessary follow him up later and get him to explain.

After all has been said and done, do not omit to tour the town, meet new people, make friends and contacts.

Conclusion

In this article, I sought to share my experience with the training of display officers. I believe that since the display of the voters' register for the 2006 elections is drawing closer, there is need to plug-up possible loop-holes in the training for the officials, since the task they perform significantly contributes to the credibility of elections. ○

... continued from page 16

money to go for the referendum over the same issue".

It is on record, that some politicians actually jubilated because of the low turn up. The Sunday Vision July 31, 2005, reported that the G6 expressed doubt over the genuineness of the voter turnout figures for the referendum released by the Electoral Commission. They believe it was lower than that.

Voter apathy. One of the biggest challenges, which the Commis-

DOES AWARENESS DETERMINE VOTER TURNOUT?



Mobilising: Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu addresses candidates and voters during campaign meetings for by-election of District Chairperson, Masindi.

sion has had to contend with, is voter apathy. Some voters are actually tired of elections. On polling day, I had an opportunity to ask an elderly lady in Gulu, why she

had not voted. This is what she had to say, "Those things mean nothing, and all I care about is how to get food for my family in the camp"

Was this elderly lady aware of the election? Was it significant to her at the time? The answer is yes! She was aware but ranked it lowest on her list of priorities.

Therefore who is to blame for people who missed under similar circumstances?

What happened? ○

LEISURE: LOOKING DOWN, ON KAMPALA STREETS

Bukenya Paul

AN ADVERT at the Constitutional Square caught my eyes sometime back: a picture of two smartly dressed men walking with executive gait, and a caption beneath reading 'Walking on Cleaner Streets!'

I imagined it was taken in one of the western capitals, or possibly downloaded from the internet. When that sounded unpatriotic, I tried to convince myself that it was actually taken in Kampala; after all it was about Kampala, and showing how the city authorities were determined to give us cleaner streets. In the end, I decided to concentrate on the message, or what was slowly becoming a dream.

In a few days later, it disappeared, not knocked down by a car or stolen by a scrap metal dealer, but completely covered by dust. A little rain salvaged the situation; it re-appeared, although it had lost its appeal, at least to me.



My dream of seeing a cleaner Kampala was boosted a few months later when the authorities started gravelling the pavements. But just as this great work was progressing, some telecom company started digging up trenches along the pavements, some of them big enough for defensive positions. At the end of the day, everyone could see why they should never (if it is in their power) tamper with the original - it is difficult, if not impossible to replace.

Looking back now, I can say we are almost there. I think the authorities realized their dream as visualised in the advert - the streets are much cleaner. There is still some dust, but so what? Perhaps we can never do away with the dust - it is part of us (*from dust to dust*). I think we need to be constantly reminded of that. Flu is one of the stubborn 'diseases' in developed nations where the streets are well paved and are routinely washed. After all, to walk on cleaner streets does not mean 'dust-free streets'. I believe they were careful with the superlatives.

And I think I have now got the full meaning of my dream. A dream is a dream, and you don't always get what you dream about. My big dream was trimmed to size by reality. The streets are much cleaner, and I am a much happy sojourner through the city. In fact, if it were not for a missing slab on the pavement, or a protruding metal at another walk way, or a boulder at a corner ... ○