



# The EC Bulletin

For Regular, Free and Fair Elections

TRI-ANNUAL VOLUME 06 ISSUE 2 SEPTEMBER 2008 WWW.EC.UG

## FOREWORD



To our esteemed readers and partners, I extend to you warm greetings from the Electoral Commission. We are honoured to reach out to you once again through this newsletter.

This edition will feature updates on a number of developments within our institution; we will particularly focus on the importance of registering as a voter and acquiring a Voters' Card.

The Electoral Commission has been following, with interest, the increased use of the Voter's Card as an identification document in various activities other than elections. Banks, micro finance institutions, business organisations, educational institutions and even embassies, now consider the Voter's Card a credible identification document.

The Commission is gratified by the confidence these corporate entities, organisations and the general public have shown in our product.

First, this preference for the Voter's Card (VC) has helped motivate many eligible voters, especially the very busy entrepreneur class and youth, to register.

Secondly, it has added value to the card, making it a must-have for even citizens who are 'apolitical.'

Thirdly, the VC has, apparently, helped fill the vacuum created by absence of a National Identity Card.

As the VC attains multiple uses, we should not forget its principal purpose, which is identification during elections. The Commission, therefore, wishes to guide the general public concerning use of this Card as follows:

According to existing electoral laws of Uganda, registration as a voter is not compulsory; as a result, some eligible voters have not registered and do not have VCs. Therefore, non-possession of a VC for purposes other than elections, is not unlawful, and should not be used as grounds to reject an application for vacancy or loan, or any other transaction which requires identification.

VCs are distributed free of charge to registered voters, but are expensive to produce. Therefore, they should be handled well. Guard your card jealously to avoid inconveniences. Besides, good care will save the tax payer significant sums in replacement costs.

This Card remains the property of the Electoral Commission; as responsible citizens, please

report any abuse or misuse of the Voter's Card to the Police or contact your nearest District Electoral Commission Office. The EC is the final authority in all matters concerning the content, replacement, and use of the VC.

I appeal to all citizens, especially young and busy entrepreneurs, not only to register and get the cards, but also to come out on polling day and cast their vote and participate in determining their leaders.

*Sr. Margaret Magoba,  
Deputy Chairperson, EC*

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*The Vision of the EC is to be a model institution and center of excellency in election management*

## Briefs...

### EC participates in 16th National Agricultural Show



Ms. Flavia Mujurizi, DR/RO Jinja District, takes an eligible voter through the registration process as students watch during the National Agricultural Show held in Jinja August 2007 (Courtesy photo).

The Electoral Commission was one of the 'exhibitors' at this year's 16th Annual Source of the Nile National Agricultural and Trade Show, held from 22nd to 27th July 2008, at the Jinja Show Ground.

According to the District Registrar, Jinja District, Ms. Flavia Mujurizi (above), the EC Stall provided a one-stop-center for information on elections.

During the period, election officials were able to respond to numerous inquiries from the public and distributed voter education materials. 156 new voters were registered, while 206 Voter's Cards were issued to their rightful owners.

Registered persons from Jinja district were able to check and verify their particulars on the National Voters Register, and those with missing photographs had them retaken. EC staff also handled requests for transfer.

**THE EDITOR WELCOMES  
ARTICLES AND LETTERS  
FROM OUR  
ESTEEMED READERS**

## EC Applauded For Exemplary Election Management In Africa

The regular assignment of officials from the Electoral Commission, Uganda, to various Africa Union (AU) Election Observer Missions, is a sign of confidence in the Ugandan election management body.

The Chairman, Electoral Commission, Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu was one of the election officials invited to form part of the AU Observer Mission to the Rwanda Legislative Elections held on 15th September, 2008.

Another senior EC official, Commissioner Joseph Biribonwa, was invited to form part of the AU Observer Mission during the Angola Legislative Elections held on 5th September 2008.

In February 2007, Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu was appointed to head the AU Observer Mission to the Legislative Elections in Lesotho.

Since 2002, several EC officials have been asked to lead or form part of AU Election Observation Missions during presidential, legislative and local government elections in various African countries, for example, Ghana (2004), Mozambique (2004), Ethiopia



**Comm. Amb. Dr. T. S. Kiryapawo was part of the AU Observer Mission to the Rwanda Legislative Elections of September 2008.**

(2005), Zambia (2006), Kenya (2007), and Zimbabwe (2008).

Such election observation missions enable participating National Election Management Bodies/ Authorities to learn from each other on how to improve in the delivery of electoral services.

The Electoral Commission appreciates the confidence the AU has continued to vest on her, and will continue to work towards improvement of election management systems and promotion of democracy on the continent as enshrined in the AU Charter.



The EC Chairman, Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu (seated, 2nd left) represented Uganda at the Political Financing Workshop organised by Transparency International in Nairobi Kenya from 29th to 31st July 2008 (Courtesy photo):



## Feature

## HOW THE EC VOTER'S CARD BEAT OTHER IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

*Biwembwaku Zulaikha, Islamic University in Uganda*

Institutions like banks, embassies, and security officials always require visitors, clients, and applicants for jobs, loans, or visas, to submit authentic and valid identification documents. In the absence of a National Identification Card (NIC), officials have always considered the following:

- ▶ Valid Employer/Institutional ID
- ▶ Valid Passport
- ▶ Valid Driving Permit
- ▶ Valid Graduated Tax Ticket (s)
- ▶ Valid Village ID

Identification documents can be forged or altered; sometimes, officials may not be able to distinguish a genuine document from a fake one. This often results in fraud and loss (of money and reputation) to companies, organisations and nations, both locally and internationally.

In order to identify clients and visitors, a number of institutions have recently included another identification document, which seems to be overtaking the others in terms of preference, and reliability: the Voter's Card.

A Voter's Card (VC) is an identification issued by the Electoral Commission to registered voters and is required to enable a voter identify himself/herself in polling activities.

The full colour photograph bearing VC has the following features;

- ♦ The photograph of the registered voter;
- ♦ Bio-data of the voter, including date of birth and gender;
- ♦ Administrative units where the voter originally registered;
- ♦ Personal Identification number of the registered voter;
- ♦ Location codes (*of the voting location*) where the voter originally registered;



*So what gives the Voter's Card an edge over other identification documents?*

**We trust the Voter Card, because of its detailed features. It is also easy for people to acquire. Just go and register at the EC Offices – J. Baker, Loans Officer with a Micro Finance Institution in Kampala**

**Many of our clients present Employee IDs, which are very unreliable, given that there are many unregistered companies and institutions. Some of these cards can easily be bought from the streets; all one needs is to have a stamp! Is it a surprise that stamp makers and Identity Card vendors are neighbours on Kampala streets? The Voter's Card has a plus as it identifies you all the way to your residence! M. Joy, Loans Officer with a Savings and Credit Cooperative Society in Kibuli, Kampala**

**Most of our clients are women from the city's suburbs, and their main identification are Village Identity Cards (VICs), by the respective Local Council (LC.I) authorities. VICs are important but are not enough for identifying a person, as most people do not stay in one place for a long time. The Voter's Card is based on a central national database; this gives us confidence, as it eliminates cases of fictitious villages. M. T. Sophia, Credit Officer with a micro finance institution targeting women in Kampala**

- ♦ Security and tamper proof features on both the front and back sides; and
- ♦ Is laminated with heavy-duty transparent plastic material.

A number of reasons explain why this VC has gained wide acceptance as an authentic identification document:

First, it is issued by one central authority, namely, the Electoral Commission (EC). The Commission has tight control measures during the registration process, hence confidence in the final product.

Secondly, it has excellent tamper-proof features as mentioned above. Security officials have not reported cases of forged VCs, although some people have attempted to present cards (on polling day) that do not belong to them.

Thirdly, it is portable in nature, and unlike the passport, for example, is very user-friendly.

Fourth, it is issued free of charge. All other identification documents are acquired at (the owners) cost, while the VC is issued to individuals free of charge. All eligible voters, that is, Ugandan citizens of 18 years and above, can easily acquire a VC.



**An EC official proof-reads a pack of Voter's Cards before distribution. The VC has become an invaluable possession for many a Ugandan.**

## Highlight

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOTER'S CARD

**Section 26 of the Electoral Commission Act 1997 (as amended), empowers the Commission to design, print and control the issue of Voter's Cards to voters whose names appear in the National Voters' Register (NVR). Below are some of the 'dos and don'ts' related to handling of a Voter's Card (VC);**

**A** voter is not allowed to hold more than one valid Voter's Card. This is an offence which can attract, on conviction, a fine not exceeding sixty currency points (Shs.1.200.000/-) or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both.

**N**obody is allowed to collect a Voter's Card that does not belong to him/her. A registered voter is expected to personally collect and sign (thumb print) for his or her Voter's Card.

**A** voter who has lost, defaced, torn or otherwise damaged his or her VC, should report to nearest police station, and get a report for presentation to the nearest district election office. The statement shall state the circumstances of that loss, destruction, defacement or damage.

**A** copy of the voter's original Voter's Card with the word "DUPLICATE" can be issued, if the EC is satisfied as to the circumstances of the loss, destruction, defacement or damage of the original.

**A** duplicate Voter's Card can not be issued to any voter on polling day or within seven days before polling day. So report the loss or damage in time.

**I**f a registered voter's particulars and photograph appear on the National Voters' Register, s/he can be identified on polling day,

and allowed to vote, whether s/he has a Voter's Card or not; this means that holding of a Voter's Card does not entitle one to vote unless /she is on the National Voters' Register for the particular polling station where s/he wants to vote.

**T**he Voter's Card is different from Political Parties/Organisations Membership Card.

**W**hile the Voter's Card is issued and used for identification for purposes of voting at a polling station, the Political Party Membership Card is not.

**T**he Voter's Card is the property of the Electoral Commission, and is not to be bought or sold.

The Commission can withdraw a Voters' Card from any person who ceases to be a voter, for example, if found to be under-aged, non citizen, etc.

**T**he Commission can (when it is necessary), recall all or any Voter's Cards for the time being held by voters and in exchange issue new Voter's Cards.

**I**t is an offence to sell or buy any voters card, and this can lead, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding ninety currency points (Shs. 1.800.000/-) or to imprisonment not exceeding three years or both.

**T**here have been calls to include more security details on the card. The EC primarily designed the Voter's Card for use during our election exercise, which is currently non-electronic; this purpose has been well served.

**I**t is expected that the National Identity Card Project under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, will provide for such detailed security considerations.

**T**he pre-signed material EC uses for producing the cards was procured in bulk during 2001. As a result, the cards issued now still bear the signature of the then Chairman, Electoral Commission, Haji Aziz K. Kasujja. These cards are valid, until the pre-signed material stock is exhausted.

**I**t is not possible to produce a VC on the day of registration, because of the processes involved. For example, the bio data, including the applicant's photograph, have to be loaded on the National Database, and taken through a duplicate analysis scan to ensure the applicant is not already registered. Thereafter, Voter's Cards for cleared applicants can be processed.

**S**ince it is not economical to print one card at a time, the Commission has come up with an interim measure, namely the Voter Registration Data (VRD) Form, which can be used as a Provisional VC.

**The Mission of the Electoral Commission is to organise and conduct regular free and fair elections and referenda professionally, impartially and efficiently.**

## Commentary... WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO INTEGRATE VOTER EDUCATION IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

By Aguti Kate,



The functions of the Electoral Commission as stipulated in Article 61 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, include, among others '...formulating and implementing civic educational programmes relating to elections'.

Civic education is defined as the teaching of civic knowledge and skills, human rights and democratic rights to the citizens. Such democratic rights include the right to vote as enshrined in Article 59 of the Constitution.

From the above, it is clear that civic education is broader. In Uganda, this is the mandate of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), while the Electoral Commission particularly undertakes 'voter education'.

Voter Education can be defined as the sensitization of all people about their rights and responsibilities in elections.

Objective No. 1 of the Electoral Commission Strategic Plan 2007-2011 reads as follows: 'Educate and sensitize Ugandans of 6 years and above on elections and referenda for effective participation in the electoral process'.

The EC plans to achieve the above objective through integration of voter education into the school curriculum, especially at the primary level, as well as in functional adult literacy programmes.

The EC has already made significant progress, working with the Ministry of Education, through the National Curriculum Development Center, and the Center for Continuing Education, to integrate Voter Education in the Uganda School



Curriculum by the year 2009

The Commission also plans to integrate the voter education syllabus in the functional adult literacy programme.

The purpose of this integration is to ensure that democratic values and principles are imparted to the young generation at the earliest opportunity that is, primary level. The EC believes that this will prepare them to participate meaningfully in civic life and to contribute to the development of their communities.

Schools are important stakeholders in the development of an enlightened future citizenry and electorate. It is therefore important to expose pupils to different aspects of democratisation and good governance during the formative years.

Pupils learn lots of things at this stage, which they are expected to apply later in life. Voter education should be welcome in the same way as reproductive health awareness and tax education have been. Pupils should be given an opportunity to know their rights and appreciate their responsibilities to register and participate in elections to determine their leaders.

It is now common practice in most schools, from the lowest stages to higher institutions of learning, to democratically elect their leaders. Gone are the days when leaders (also known as school prefects) were appointed by the school administration. The introduction of formal voter education curriculum is meant to strengthen what the schools have already started.

Pupils should know why elections are important; develop a critical mind, so they can weigh the qualities and choose the best candidate. They get to know that in any race, there will always be one winner, hence learning to concede defeat.

Teaching pupils against malpractices at tender ages will promote fraud-and-violence-free elections in the future. Pupils (read children) can easily be victims of

*(Continued on page 20)*



A poster of a pupil of Kampala Junior Academy soliciting for votes during campaigns for election of Prefects. The EC initiative is more than timely. (Courtesy photo)



## YOUNG PEOPLE, IT IS COOL TO VOTE

Lydia Lakwonyero

It is common to hear young people referred to as 'future leaders'; the aspirations of entire nations often seem to count on the vision and vitality of its youth.

During the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2007, I read an article, where the author stated that young people are considered '*...the greatest resource for the future of Commonwealth countries...*'

I agree that the success of a nation is largely determined by how much it invests in its future generation. I am therefore an ardent advocate of empowering young people to make wise decisions, including active participation in elections as voters and candidates.

I am, however, saddened by the apparent unease shown by the older generation whenever younger people join the race for political offices. I once heard a senior politician advising young people to 'focus on development issues, and leave politics alone'. He argued this would insulate them from the arena of dirty politics.

But I submit that he wanted to ward off potential opponents, and I believe this is the mentality of many a senior politician.

As a result of such a mentality, many young people think empowerment means gainful employment and access to information in areas like reproductive health, leaving out politics. The negative consequence of such an attitude is that young people will most likely be ill-equipped to assume responsibility when the older leaders are gone. This unfortunate trend can have grave consequences.

However, there are enough



**Young people have a lot of issues to attend to, and elections seem to have less appeal** (*Internet Photo*).

arguments to support why we young people should not be alienated from active politics. For example,

Many laws and government policies directly affect young people and their welfare, for example, education, taxation, employment policies;

Young people are a vulnerable group; government should protect their future by enacting good laws regulating social behavior, public health and reproductive health.

Young people are dynamic and more likely to adapt to change; hence they are an indispensable force in political development of a nation;

**Why young people are staying away**

First, young people tend to lose enthusiasm in active politics because the older generation is often hesitant to entrust them (young people) with responsibility. I am saddened during elections when a dynamic young person loses in an election, reason being the people favor an 'old-and-experienced-politician'.

A society surely needs the wisdom and guidance of the elderly, to move on; but nothing much can be achieved without the support of

the young. They are more open to change, and life, including culture around which it is built, is about change. There is no better vehicle for change than the youth.

Secondly, young people are unfairly perceived as less loyal to established traditions. On the contrary, they offer an opportunity to revitalize systems, which in turn guarantees political continuity. Their tendency to yearn for change is not necessarily negative, and should not be taken as a sign of weakness; rather it is a strength - a call to pursue progressive socio-economic and political agenda.

Thirdly, the monetisation of the electoral process has left many young potential candidates frustrated. Standing for elections requires lot of organisation and mobilisation which involves substantial sums of money. It is mainly those with heavy financial support base who can make it through.

**What political parties can do to involve more young people in politics**

Young people have been led to think that political parties belong to the older people, and that they (young people) have no leadership roles to play, but can only be involved in mobilization. This is wrong. If they are to achieve political relevance and continuity, political parties should realise that young people are important players in the political arena.

It is encouraging to note that most of the 36 registered parties in Uganda have a Youth Desk, established for the purpose of mobilizing the young generation to actively play their role. Hence one often hears of the Uganda Young

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## Special Report

## EC PAYS FIELD OFFICIALS

Following the release of funds by the government of Uganda, the EC commenced on the exercise of payment of domestic arrears to officials who were recruited (by the EC) to handle various activities during the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections Programme in 2001 and 2002.

The EC initially started with 54 districts out of the 56 districts which existed in Uganda at that time.

Funds for the districts of Iganga (Iganga and Namutumba), Mubende (Mubende and Mityana) were scheduled for clearance in due course.



According to a circular issued by the Secretary /EC, Mr. Sam Rwakoojo (*above*) payment commenced on Tuesday 9th September 2008, at the respective sub counties, with officials in districts which were created after 2002 paid by the Returning Officers of the

‘mother’ districts.

Beneficiaries included officials who handled the following electoral activities;

- ♦ Extension of PVRIS;
- ♦ Extension of Civic Education;
- ♦ LC 1 Elections;
- ♦ Presiding over LC V Candidates’ Meetings;
- ♦ Presiding over LC IV Candidates’ Meetings;
- ♦ Presiding over LC III Candidates’ Meetings;
- ♦ Polling officials for District Council Elections;
- ♦ Supervision Allowances;
- ♦ Youth Councils Elections; and,
- ♦ LC III Repeat Elections.

## KAMPALA JUNIOR ACADEMY CONCLUDES PREFECTORY ELECTION

*Dear Editor,*

On behalf of the school and on my own behalf, allow me to extend my gratitude to the Management of the Electoral Commission for the tremendous support they rendered to us during the organization of the elections of our Prefects Body (2008-2009).

### *Organisation*

During the election, pupils from P.3 – P.7 were encouraged to contest for any of the seventeen (17) posts, including Head boy and Head girl.

Other posts were prefects for Language, Sanitation, Sports, Entertainment, Information, Religious Affairs, Time Keeper and Wildlife, among others.

The nominated candidates were given freedom to move from

class to class during break and lunch time, to solicit for support. Pupils were also permitted to campaign outside classes, and were free to distribute fliers.

The Management of KJA does not permit candidates to give out items like sweets and beverages to voters and I am glad to report that this ruling was observed.

The General School Assembly held two days before polling, served as a joint rally, where every contestant was given a chance to speak to the electorate.

### *Polling Day*

According to KJA Regulations, all pupils from P.1-P.7 are voters.

Polling took place on 11th July 2008. To ease the voting process, each class had its own polling station with two Polling Assistants (members of staff)

who did a very commendable job. The Electoral Commission provided the ballot boxes and aprons for the polling officials.

Since polling day was a Friday, the ballot boxes were sealed until Monday. The counting was done using the conveyor system. Each post had one representative so one ballot paper could move from one person to another till it's done. The winning candidates were announced after 24 hours, that is, on Wednesday.

I appreciate the Management, teaching and no-teaching staff, and the pupils of Kampala Junior Academy for the great support rendered to my Committee during the elections.

Simon Ogwang  
**Chairman Prefectory Elections Committee, KJA**

## Field Report

# WORKING AMONG THE IIK PEOPLE

Mudong Simon Peter



Kaabong is one of the five districts which form the Karamoja Sub-region. The other districts are Kotido, Moroto, Abim and Nakapiripirit.

Kaabong has a population of 96,581, and 41,681 registered voters. It has eight (8) sub counties, a town council and fifty-one (51) parishes.

A unique feature of this district is the language diversity. The major languages spoken are the Dodoth Karimojong, the Teuso (Iik), the Nyangia and the Lotuko (Ngatukio).

Other languages used in the district are Turkana, which is used towards the Kenyan border; the Toposa, the Didinga and Nyangia languages are spoken at the border with the Sudan, while Luo is spoken along the Kitgum and Pader district borders. This linguistic diversity means communication can be an even harder hurdle than the uneven and hostile terrain.

The Electoral Commission, which is mandated to administer elections in Uganda, has an office in Kaabong District, just like in all other districts. Today I share about my encounter with the Iik people, also known as the Dodoth Teuso. The Iik are found in Kamion sub county and are one of the smallest tribes in Uganda with a population of five thousand, six hundred, thirty-six (5,636), as per 2002 Population Census.

In this land, human settlements on the mountainsides are often separated by deep valleys. When our team approached one particular homestead, we heard a 'click-like' sound from a distance.

"Is that a sound of a bush bird or an animal, or is it an alarm?"



we muttered to ourselves as we climbed on.

Moments later, we saw groups of shy-looking half-naked children running out from different sides of the Manyatta (*enclosed kraal-like homestead*) to meet us. They advanced within a stone's-throw and then stopped. They were aged anywhere between four and six.

Some stared directly at us while the majority half covered their faces with the palm of their hands. I knew that 'clothed' strangers are often seen and treated with suspicion, and sometimes disdain, as they could be government operatives, or other agencies, whose programmes sometimes seem an inconvenience to such a traditional community.

One thing caught my attention:

the little ones spoke a French-like language, punctuated with the Xhosa-like click sounds and giggles.

We stood motionless, trying to come up with the best way of introducing ourselves. One may never realise the power of communication until caught up against a language barrier.

My eyes wandered along the far end of the manyatta; I saw a group of adults motioning each other into strategic defensive (or attacking?) positions. Although we carried no arms, they were not taking anything for granted. I contemplated retreat; but when my eyes continued to wander, all I could see around us was a thick thorny fence.

After a silent stand off of about five-ten minutes, we heard sounds again, which I later learnt confirmed they were satisfied we meant no harm. The dozen-or-so half-naked children dashed off into the Manyatta, shouting a uniform message. In a few seconds, dozens of adults boldly emerged from the huts and from beyond the fence.

I could tell by their confident strides that their suspicion was gone.

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Photo: Charles Willy Ochola

Young children stand guard at the entrance of a manyatta. In the unique set up of the Iik people, each member of the community plays a role.



## EC STAFF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY MAKES GAINS

By Kiyangi Samuel, General Secretary, EC SACCO

The Electoral Commission Staff Savings and Credit Co-operative Society Limited, (SACCO) has its humble beginning, dating back to August 2004, with 57 members.

The SACCO has now grown into a strong group with 237 members, including junior, middle level and senior managers.

The SACCO has also financially grown and is capable of handling members' financial/development needs.

The ever increasing membership and savings are good indicators that we have offered good services, as well as created favourable opportunities for the staff.

The EC SACCO has lived to its vision of *fostering prosperity, personal development and financial certainty to members leading to a motivated and stable work force.*

At our 2nd Annual General Meeting held on 3rd May 2008, where final accounts were presented, the Guest of Honour, the Commissioner for Co-operative Development, was impressed by the small portion on fixed assets compared to the Total assets base of the SACCO. Further the net surplus has been steadily increasing since 2005.

The EC SACCO charges the lowest interest rate in the country i.e. 1% interest per month or 12% interest per annum, thus enabling members to improve their welfare at a low cost. Loans are easily accessible since there are no bureaucracies involved.

Other achievements so far registered include;

Acquiring legal status as the society is duly registered with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism,

Reg. No. 7417/RCS.

The EC SACCO has recruited a full time manager to help in the day to day running of the society.

Mobilisation of savings which have increased from 67,173,000/= in 2005 to 286,204,000/= as at 31st December 2007. This is an aggregation of individual members' savings since 2004. Though the minimum savings is 50,000/=, some have opted to save as much as 300,000/= and such members have been rewarded with dividends.

Increase in turnover from 114,169,000/= in 2005 to 337,419,000/= in 2006 and finally to 630,000,000/= in 2007.

The interest earned by the society has also increased ten fold from 4,600,000/= since 2005.

To ensure safety of members' deposits, the society has contracted M/S United Assurance (UAP) Ltd to insure against all loans extended to members in case of death.

This is supported by the Loan Protection Fund, which is administered internally to guard against any other eventuality that can befall members other than death.

Members will further benefit from the payment of 6% interest on one's savings per year. Incentive and patronage bonus will always be rewarded to the highest savers.

Though a lot has been achieved in this short period, the Society has had its own limitations and challenges. These include limited funds to cope with the increasing demand for loans, competition from other financial institutions arising, mainly from the short recovery

period for EC SACCO loans.

It is in light of the above that the Special General Meeting called on 5th July 2008, decided to initiate better services to members through a number of strategies. The Meeting mandated the Executive Committee to: borrow funds not exceeding 150,000,000/= (maximum liability) from the Micro Finance Support Services for on lending to members for a longer period of 2 years.

To increase share capital from 60,000/= to 100,000/= next year with a view of raising more loan-able funds.

The Committee was further allowed to pursue the issue of laptops with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, and solar systems with the relevant supplier.

EC SACCO assures members of the security and safety of their deposits. We shall continue to serve you with dedication, honesty, loyalty, fairness and above all remain visionary.

To those EC Staff who have not yet joined, it is never too late. For any development to take place at individual, family/household and national level, 20% of one's income should be saved an opportunity that is being offered to you now.

Staff in other organisations should learn from our experience at the EC and take the same initiative.

*Do not remain isolated; join the majority for personal enhancement.*

For more information, write to:  
The General Secretary,  
EC SACCO  
P.O. Box 22678 Kampala

## PICTORIAL: THE 3RD EC-PARTY CONSULTATIVE MEETING (WORKSHOP) WITH POLITICAL PARTIES/ORGANISATIONS HELD ON 10TH & 11TH SEPTEMBER 2008

Section 19 of the Political Parties and Organisations Act (2005) provides that there shall be a Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Organisations.

In order to involve the stakeholders in drafting the Code, the Electoral Commission (EC) organised a Consultative Meeting on 4th March 2005 at Speke Resort Hotel, Munyonyo, where party representatives contributed to the first draft.

A follow-up Dialogue was held on 7th November 2005 at Fairway Hotel, Kampala, after which the inputs were formalised into a bill.



The bill was presented to the 7th Parliament in December 2005, and debated.

However, Parliament recommended further consultations with the stakeholders before enactment of

the law.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission organised a 3rd Consultative Workshop with political parties and other stakeholders on 10th and 11th September 2008, to discuss the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct for Political Parties/ Organisations.

The Workshop, held at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala also featured discussions on the formation of the National Consultative Forum.

Below are some of the thoughts and moments.



*The role of political parties as legitimate stakeholders in democratic governance cannot be underestimated. As you know that our multiparty democracy is young and just developing, we need to harness it for the future of our nation depends on our actions today.*

*It is indeed essential to consolidate the peace and democracy achieved establishing order in the way parties operate and operationalise the Political Parties and Organisations Act 2005.*

*The Code of Conduct and the National Consultative Forum will provide equal opportunities and treatment to all political party players hence the levelled ground...*

**Hon. Dr. Khiddu Makubuya**  
Minister of Justice & Constitutional Affairs/Attorney General

*I have had the benefit of perusing the September 2007 draft of the Political Parties and Organisations (Code of Conduct) Regulations.*

*There is no doubt that there are areas in the Regulations, which must be debated and legislated upon the basis of a consensus of all stakeholders. This Workshop will go a long way in achieving this.*

*I therefore applaud the Commission in its efforts to build consensus on a Code of Conduct, which will regulate the day-to-day activities of Political Parties and Organisations.*

*Once it is enacted, the Political Parties and Organisations (Code of Conduct) Regulations will facilitate the Commission to perform its supervisory duties efficiently.*

*Similarly, it will also enable the stakeholders to enjoy their rights under the multi-party system in harmony. This will no doubt promote the development of democracy in Uganda.*

**Leticia E.M Mukasa Kikonyogo**  
Hon. Deputy Chief Justice

*The purpose of this Workshop is to engage you as stakeholders in discussing a number of issues in the draft Code of Conduct and Regulations.*

*We will critically look at the existing version of the Draft Code of Conduct, update it and propose amendments.*

*We will propose best practices for implementing the National Consultative Forum; make proposals regarding the selection of a Chairperson, terms of service, funding of the Forum's operations.*

*We shall identify any other relevant concerns of all stakeholders and ensure that they are addressed...*

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





# POLITICAL PARTIES AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON THE DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT

NOVEMBER 2008, AT IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL, KAMPALA - Compiled By Bukenya Paul



*The thinking that there are 'big' parties and 'small' parties is wrong, and should stop; all parties are equal before the Law.*

**Emmanuel Tumusiime**  
Forum for Integrity in Leadership



*The General Elections (2011) are just a few years away; as political parties, we are very concerned by the delay in putting in place the National Consultative Forum.*

**Appolo Nyabongo**  
Movement Volunteer  
Mobilisers' Organisation



*I am here to assure members that the legal process is on course; I undertake to expeditiously handle the Code of Conduct (Regulations) when they are presented to us.*

**Hon. Stephen N. Tashobya**  
Chairperson, Parliamentary  
Legal Affairs Committee

*The presence of the Attorney General in this Workshop is evidence of our commitment and goodwill towards implementation of provisions of the Political Parties and Organisations Act (2005).*



**Fred Ruhindi Hon. Minister of  
State for Justice and Constitutional  
Affairs/Deputy Attorney General**

*The Resolutions which will be made are to be forwarded to the Attorney General/ Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for transmission to Parliament for further debate and possible enactment into law.* ☞

**Alfred Okello Oryem**  
Head, Legal Department EC



*Registers used during the display exercise are different from polling registers simply because some deletions and/or inclusions have been effected. Your requests (for copies of the Register) should be specific, considerate and in time.*

**Leonard Mulekwah,**  
Director, Operations/EC



*Ms. Stella Nambuya (Republican Youth and Women Party) shares a point with fellow party representatives at the Workshop. Party representatives raised concerns which will be included in the Revised draft Code of Conduct to be debated and passed by Parliament. All photos by Bukenya Paul.*

The Electoral Commission appreciates the support of Democracy Development Group (DDG) for the facilitation of this Workshop.



## Opinion

# THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION SHOULD RECRUIT ONLY REGISTERED VOTERS!



I once heard a senior official of the Electoral Commission warning polling day officials against partial and other unethical conduct during elections. He went ahead to explain that the EC would blacklist such errant officials and present them in court to answer for their actions in case of a petition.

I believe this is a good step towards developing a good cadre of field election officials.

I would like to contribute to this effort by proposing that the Commission should go a step further by considering recruiting only registered voters to work as election officials.

## Why?

By registering as a voter, one has already shown a sense of patriotism; a registered voter is a responsible citizen, who attaches great value to the electoral process, and is most likely to execute his/her tasks with commitment.

Furthermore, this also means that only persons of 18 years and above will be recruited to work as polling officials. Such persons are mature and responsible. I, however, propose they should be within the bracket 18-35 years, as election

work is physically demanding. I also think such a policy would motivate more Ugandans to register as voters. I know recruitment as polling day official may be the shortest contract in our 'public service' but it is a fairly well paying job. The service these persons provide is critical as their conduct can determine the credibility of the outcome and consequently, the stability of the country.

Furthermore, recruiting registered persons makes identification and tracking of the official easy. Unregistered persons can disappear

without a trace, while registered officials can be tracked down using their details on the EC databank. In my opinion, except maybe for the money, I consider un-registered persons as detached from the exercise; one may be tempted to describe them as opportunists who probably want only the money. Either way, this is not leadership by example, and does not help in the effort to strengthen democracy in Uganda.

*Ed: The author has been a polling day official since 1994*



**A Presiding Officer and his assistant check the National Voters' Registers for a voter's details during a by-election in Bugweri County South. The author believes registered voters make excellent polling officials.**

## Perspectives

# FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION VITAL IN A DEMOCRACY

Rwamwiri Abiaz

The EC perimeter wall has interesting colourful voter education murals; my favourite is the one on democracy and ignorance, with the following caption: "for democracy reject ignorance, listen, analyse and choose".

Back in our secondary school days, we were taught that Africa's biggest problems were; poverty, ignorance and disease. The campaign still goes

on (read Millennium Development Goals) to rid Africa of these deadly obstacles to progress.

The Commission is right on the spot: with an ignorant electorate, democracy and good governance cannot flourish. My 8-week internship in the Department of Public Relations/EC has helped me appreciate more the effort the institution is making towards

creating and sustaining awareness about participatory democracy and good governance.

I consider information and freedom of expression to be inseparable in the democratization process. Without access to timely and accurate information, citizens cannot take a meaningful part in the affairs of their society and participatory democracy cannot flourish.

*(Continued on page 15)*



## REFLECTIONS ON THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR

Bukunya Paul



I recently visited one of the new commercial complexes in Kampala to do some business. It was lengthy work, and the dedicated professional team occasionally called for brief health breaks. During one of the breaks, I excused myself to visit the 'restroom'.

I noticed a lady, seated next to the door leading to the restrooms, greeted her and continued towards the rooms marked Gents; I turned the knob, but found the door locked.

I went back to the corridor and looked around, wondering who could be with the key. The receptionist at the business firm had told me I would find an attendant, a lady.

'Can I help you sir?' she gently asked.

'Excuse me, madam, but do you know who keeps the key to the restrooms?' I asked, trying to be respectful.

'Well, I do keep the keys,' she replied, looking me straight in the eyes. She was a smart, beautiful young lady, probably in her mid-twenties.

She reached to a corner and picked some keys: 'The charges are, 100/- to use the urinals and 200/- if you need tissue'.

She spoke with the politeness of a trained front desk manager, and conducted herself with the gentility of a lady. With such corporate aura, she blended very well with the professionals who worked in the complex. Perhaps that is why it seemed improbable (to me) that she was the attendant.

She probably understood my surprise, gently asked to be

excused, and continued reading through the day's paper. I imagined it was something she was now used to - surprised clients.

I listened in disbelief as she went through the same procedure with another 'client', another equally surprised gentleman.

As she resumed her seat, the phone rang; I watched as she extracted a state-of-the-art cell-phone, and started speaking in flawless English to whoever the caller was.

She finished the call and was surprised to see me still there: 'Excuse me sir, but you really have to understand. This service is paid for and I don't think you find that strange in Kampala'.

'No I don't,' I replied. 'In fact my problem is that I have a big note and don't know if that will be a problem. I am visiting this complex for the first time and I thought this was a free service.'

At this point, I reached into one of my pockets and drew a fifty thousand note. 'I need to get some smaller notes', I said, as I slowly walked away.

'Excuse me sir,' she called after me. You really do not have to ... I think it is okay, you did not know how things work here. Please allow me to help you'.

'Oh no, it is fine,' I replied, trying to hide my humiliation or whatever it was. 'I respect you and what you are doing; I am a businessman, and I know what it means. I will get the small notes, I mean the coins'.

It is good business judgment to have such responsible (read respectable) persons in charge; it ensures the facilities will be well-maintained. Besides, this was one of the busiest complexes in the competitive

central business district.

I knew there was nothing extraordinary or dishonourable about her work; her trade was noble, more socially acceptable than, say, flesh peddling and shoplifting. This was utterly embarrassing - I never knew I had sunk so low in snobbery.

Only a few days earlier, Ken, one of the best brains in our final year at university, had confided in me that he was working as a janitor in a hospital complex in Chicago. He also drove a taxi in the late evenings to make ends meet. But he was very positive, committed to his jobs, and saving money to start a business back in Uganda. And I had encouraged him to work hard. What hypocrisy: what made such casual work 'acceptable' in the West and 'detestable' in Uganda?

What happened to my strong beliefs in the God-ordained dignity of labour? It is true that such persons deserve our total respect, not disdain; they deserve our admiration, not contempt! They are bold, courageous individuals, who are determined to make it in life, making use of the available opportunities. And there can never be a better and rewarding attitude towards work. I surely needed to say sorry to someone!

As I pulled out a handkerchief to clean my embarrassed face, a 500/- coin dropped. I watched in disbelief as it rolled through the huge corridor, stopping a few inches from the rest-rooms.

The author is Election Officer/ PRO

In a public toilet, there are all sorts of writings on the wall, one such dialogue went thus:

Please do not take the toilet paper! warned one.

"Where is it?" asked the next.

"It has been taken," answered the third!!



## Experiences

# AN INTERN'S LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE AT THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Esther Ketty Adera

*'Early to bed early to rise makes a person wiser, healthier and wealthier,'*

Now that proverb has been pounded into my head since my childhood, but I almost lost it when I joined the university. Being an evening (*job-less*) student changed this to *'late to bed late to rise makes...'* But my 8-week internship at the Electoral Commission has helped me return to the good old basics.

Now, I have heard stories about reporting habits of public servants, and thought I could report at 10 am and leave shortly after lunch or at 4 pm. You can understand my shock when the supervisor clearly stated that my reporting and departure time would be 8 am and 5 pm, respectively. I was surprised when he insisted I also had to sign in and out in the attendance register at the designated times!

I had to make sure 8 am found me in office, which sometimes seemed not good enough as some senior officers report as early as 7:30am! The rooster at home became my friend because he helped me wake up before dawn, something I last did in secondary school.

My first day at the Electoral Commission included a number of surprises. First I was stopped by uniformed-and-armed police officers at the gate. Although they were very professional in their work, I felt uncomfortable with this security detail. My initial fear was not because I had criminal intentions; growing up in conflict-torn northern Uganda means guns are a common thing; but not all common things are pleasant sight.

They directed me to the Reception. A quick scan of the facilities

confirmed something I had heard before – the Electoral Commission lacks suitable headquarters, and this remains one of its greatest challenges. This important player in Uganda's democratization process is housed in a converted warehouse. As an ex-scout I just said to myself 'be prepared.'

I was impressed by the warm and friendly reception by the officers in the Public Relations Section. It is easy to cope in an environment where you are accepted. I was given a desk, with computer connected to the internet, served tea twice a day – stuff I found too much for an undergraduate student! I felt at home with professionals so many years my senior; I knew this is what is expected of PR professionals, but they took it a notch higher.

Even officials from other departments were very cordial.

I knew a lot was expected of me given the size and sensitivity of the EC; I had psychologically prepared myself to deliver to the best of my ability. But the first task caught me unawares – my immediate supervisor asked me

to write a document detailing my expectations from the training!

I wrote and tore several pieces of paper before coming up with a precise document. Thereafter I was given a training outline for interns developed by the PR Office. Both documents were used extensively during the training. I am glad that a bigger percentage of my expectations have been met – in a space of 8 weeks.

And now that it has come to an end, I am proud to have learnt on a hands-on basis, how to develop, budget, present/market and execute an effective publicity programme. I think I have also improved on my writing skills (*you are reading one of my pieces*).

I thank the EC management and staff for their cordiality, and for allowing students to train in the organisation. Thank you for exposing me not only to the realities of the working world, but also to the challenges of the election management function.

*The author is a Mass Communication Student at Makerere University, Kampala*

## Humour

## NOTED!!!

In a TV logbook, this was the daily reporting of the officers.

'Reported on duty at 7:10pm, no camera crew, no librarian', commented one officer.

The Administrator, the next day, commented: 'Noted'.

The second officer reported on duty at 7:00pm: 'No clock working'.

'Noted', answered the Administrator.

The third officer reported at 7:50pm: 'No clock, no tea, no transport'.

'Noted', said the Administrator

The fourth officer came on duty at 6:30pm, and reported: 'No clock, no tea, no camera crew, and no librarian'.

The Administrator wrote 'Noted'.

The fifth officer wrote asking the Administrator: 'What is this noted without action?'

The Administrator again wrote: 'Noted'.



## Work ethics

## FROM THE ELECTION OFFICER'S BOOKSHELF

Compiled by Charity N. Mbabazi

**D**o you want to widen your knowledge on elections and democratisation in Africa?

If the answer is yes, *The EC Bulletin* recommends the following books for your library.

**Title:** *Understanding the institutional processes and outcomes of the 2006 Multiparty Elections*

**Editors:** Sabiti Makara, et al

**Synopsis:** Published after the 2006 multiparty elections in Uganda, this book is premised on the reality that when investigating the credibility of an election, it is very naïve and pedestrian to focus on what happened on elections day. Hence, the contributors document the 2006 General Elections before and beyond polling day, to analyse what transpired in the pre and post election phases and the finer dynamics that shaped the outcome.

**Title:** *The Self Restraining State (Power and accountability in New Democracies)*

**Authors:** Andreas Shedler, Larry Jay Diamond, Marc F. Plattner,

**Publishers:** Lynne Rienner Publishers (1999).



**Synopsis:** The book states that democratic governments must be accountable to the electorate, but they must also be subject to restraint and oversight by other public agencies.

The state must control itself, and the book explores how new democracies can achieve this goal.

**Title:** *Democratisation in Africa*

**Authors:** Larry Jay, et al

**Publisher:** John Hopkins University Press, 1999

**Synopsis:** The book examines the state progress of democracy in Africa at the end 1990's. The past decades "third wave" of democratisation, the contributors argue, has been characterised by

retreats as well as advances.

In some cases, newly established democratic orders have devolved into pseudo-democracies while, in other cases superficial changes have been used as a cosmetic screen for continuation of often brutal regimes.

The volume makes clear, however, that political liberalisation is making significant headway.

**Title:** *Journal of Democracy*

**Publishers:** The Johns Hopkins University Press

**Synopsis:** Since its inception in 1990, the Journal of Democracy has become an influential international forum for scholarly analysis and competing democratic viewpoints. Its articles have been cited in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal* and widely reprinted in many languages.

Focusing exclusively on democracy, the Journal monitors and analyzes democratic regimes and movements in scores of countries around the world.

Each issue features a unique blend of scholarly analysis, reports from democratic activists, updates on news and elections, and reviews of important recent books.

### Freedom of expression vital in a democracy (Continued from page 12)

In recognition of this fundamental truth, Article (41) was included in the Constitution of Uganda 1995 to guarantee access to information.

The Access to Information Act (ATIA), passed by Parliament in 2005, has as one of its objectives, the promotion of participatory governance.

By creating opportunities for the public to listen, analyse, inquire,

and choose their political leaders, the EC is implementing its rightful role as a key player in the pursuit of good governance in Uganda.

Let us support the Commission's effort by accepting to listen to each other; people should be given a chance to hear from both/all sides, ask questions, analyse the answers, and make informed choices.

My personal experience is that not

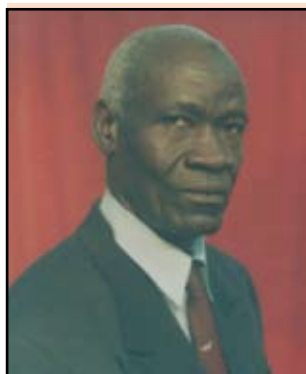
all people who go to a particular political rally/meeting actually vote for that particular candidate/party.

I am glad that the EC is targeting electronic, print and other alternative media, including the murals on the perimeter wall, as channels for educating Ugandans on their role in good governance.

*The author is a Mass Comm student at Makerere University*

## Profiles

## EC STAFF RETIRE



Mr. Mulumba Nathan was born on 14th July 1951, and is a qualified accountant.

He joined public service in 1973, as an Accounts Assistant in the Ministry of Culture and Community Development

In 1984, he joined the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development as an Executive Officer, Accounts.

In 1992, Mr. Mulumba moved to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, attached to the Constitutional Commission, and was Head of the Accounts Unit between 1992-1994.

In 1995, he retired from Public Service. His exemplary service had been noted and he was recalled on a contract by the Commission for the Constituent Assembly (1995-96).

Mr. Mulumba was retained by the Interim Electoral Commission and later the Electoral Commission as In-charge, Book Keeping Section.

### *In his own words...*

We have played our part in building Uganda; I challenge the younger generation to have their nation at heart; be hardworking and honest.



Hajji Edhiluma Yusuf was born on 24th December 1949.

He started work as a driver, in 1967 with Tomboshi Ltd, a leather and tanning factory, then based in Kampala.

Thereafter, he joined Berkely High School, Iganga, as driver for 16 years. Edhiluma made the Hijja in 1972.

He joined the Commission for Constituent Assembly (CCA) in 1995, and retires this December 2008.

Edhiluma is widely respected in EC as a father-figure.

### *In his own words...*

I always yearned for the return of peace, stability and democratic governance in our country.

It has been a great honour to work with the EC towards achieving a strong democracy through regular elections.

I call upon the young people to be committed to their work in sustaining these gains.

I appreciate in a special way my sons and daughters at EC and all the members of the Support Staff fraternity for their dedicated support throughout the years.



Hussein Gabiri was born on 15th September 1948 in present-day Budaka district.

He was a young man of 16 years when he got his first job as a truck driver with Kakira Sugar Works, a job he held for 12 years.

Hussein later joined the then Eastern Province Bus Company (based in Jinja) as a bus driver. Four years later, he joined the then Peoples' Bus Service where he worked for four years.

In 1993, Hussein left Peoples' Bus Company and joined the Ministry of Agriculture, based in Entebbe.

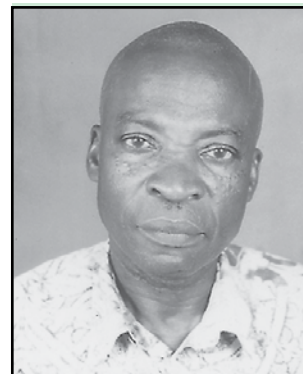
In 1995, he joined the Interim Electoral Commission, and will retire on 1st December 2008.

### *In his own words...*

It is a great honour to crown my service with such an important organisation as the Electoral Commission.

The EC has people from across Uganda, but I have found this organisation to be a welcoming and supporting family.

To the young generation, I advise you to work with dedication, and continue on the foundation laid by the senior citizens.



Hajji Idi Sebuliba was born on 23rd October 1945. A devout Muslim and dutiful father, he made the Hijja in 1978.

In 1975, Idi joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a driver, a job he held till 1995 (20 years) when he joined the Interim Electoral Commission.

Hajji Sebuliba retires on October 1st 2008, after 33 years in public service.

### *In his own words...*

I am grateful to God for the opportunity to retire with honour, having served my country for 33 years. I also thank all people who have been part of my working life, since my youth. The staff of Electoral Commission have particularly been cordial, and very understanding.

As a senior citizen, I am grateful for the positive changes we have now in Uganda; election management has improved, and I am proud to have been part of the process, in a humble way. I challenge the younger generation to take their responsibilities seriously and keep up the glory of our country.

I challenge my fellow support staff to carry out their duties with excellence; use your finances well, learn to invest, and plan for your retirement.

## Staff News

# EC STAFF PROMOTIONS, TRANSFERS AND RESIGNATIONS

## PROMOTED



*Charles Mashate:  
Principal Election Officer,  
Voter Education and  
Training Department*

## PROMOTED



*Mugenyi Silver:  
Principal Election  
Officer, Field Operations  
Department*

## PROMOTED



*Godfrey Acer Okot:  
Principal Election  
Officer, Administration  
Department*

## PROMOTED



*Rebecca Ogwang:  
Senior Election Officer,  
Human Resource  
Management*

## TRANSFERS



*Twinamatsiko W. formerly  
with Planning & Research  
Dep't was promoted to  
Election Officer and  
transferred to Voter  
Education & Training Dep't.*



*Madina Nassozzi, formerly  
with Administration Dep't  
was promoted to Election  
Officer and transferred  
to Voter Education &  
Training Department.*



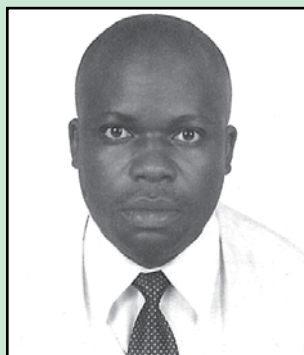
*Nabirye Esther, formerly  
with Admin Dept (Wakiso  
District) was promoted  
to Election Officer and  
transferred to Voter  
Education & Training Dept.*



*The Annual General  
Meeting of the EC SACCO  
appreciated Mr. Francis  
Nkurunziza's exceptional  
performance and gave him  
a 2nd term as Chairman.*

## REWARDED

## EC Staff Move on...



*Mr. Peter Okello Jabweli  
former PRO and Vice  
Chairperson of 'The EC  
Bulletin' Editorial Board,  
has moved on to serve the  
country in another capacity.  
He served with EC from  
Nov. 2004 – June 2008.*



*Mr. Kabayiza Brian,  
formerly with the EC Legal  
Dep't and a member of  
the EC Bulletin Editorial  
Board, left the Electoral  
Commission to join private  
practice. Brian served  
with EC from 2003-2008.*



*Ms. Joy Nansamba,  
formerly with Voter Data  
Management Department  
has moved on to serve  
the country in another  
capacity. Joy served with  
EC from 2003 - 2008.*



*Ms. Neema Tindyebwa,  
formerly Senior Election  
Officer/Administration,  
retired after 8 years of service  
with EC. Ms. Tindyebwa  
earlier served in different  
capacities with the  
Ministry of Education.*



## Health...

# HOW TO CHEER UP A PERSON SUFFERING FROM DEJECTION



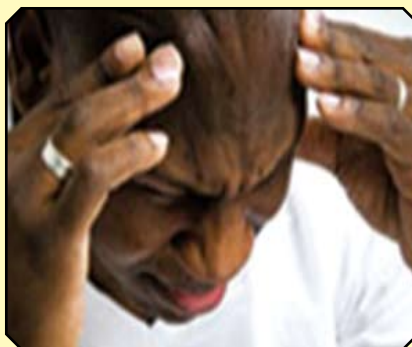
As our world and lives get more complex, it is hard to be cheerful or happy all the time considering what is happening out there. It is only natural that things get on top of us and we feel dejected or depressed about not getting a much wanted job or promotion, meeting set targets, or being rejected.

When that happens to a colleague, or someone close to you, you would be wise to pep him/her up.

But, not everyone knows how to cheer up a dejected person.

Almost an art form, the following tips on picking up the sagging spirits of a person, lightening his/her mood will show you that for those with the knack, it can be quite easy to spread cheer and happiness around.

- ❖ Engage the concerned person in some light-hearted, scintillating conversation.
- ❖ Don't ask what is wrong, but wait for him/her to bring it up. If,



it is someone close i.e. a friend or family member, he/she will come up voluntarily with what is bothering (him/her) and ask for your help if need be.

- ❖ If, the person concerned confides his/her problem, then empathise with him/her, ask more and get to the root of what is causing the problem. Check it from all angles and try to come up with a solution to the problem.
- ❖ Everyone likes a little sympathy, however, too much of it and it may overwhelm the person. The person may feel more dejected and a solution to the problem will only be delayed.

- ❖ Try and convince the person that these problems are universal and the only way to avert them is to face them bravely and find a solution to them.
- ❖ Tempt the person into coming out for an outing, for shopping, a walk, dinner, movie or for a cup of coffee at a cafe.
- ❖ Surprise him / her with a small gift.
- ❖ Don't let the person brood over small issues, instead tease him/her, pull his/her leg until he/she forgets to feel dejected or depressed.
- ❖ Ease the tension by making jokes about yourself, be humorous and tell them how you deal with dejection and depression when faced with it.
- ❖ But, you need to go beyond empathy and humour; pray together about the situation. (Internet Source)

## Book Review

Title: **Approval Addiction: Overcoming your need to please everyone**

Author: Joyce Meyer

Reviewed by: Esther Ketty Adera

Oh, what will people say, am not good enough, what does he/she think of me?

That lack of confidence and desire to seek approval from everyone is Approval Addiction.

If you are in battle with the desire to please everyone and gain approval from everyone, then there is good news for you, you no longer need to worry. Joyce Meyer has helped many overcome such battles, and in her new book Approval

Addiction, she gives guidelines on how to overcome such addictions.

Joyce shares her own life experience with you; the trials, insecurities she has gone through in her family, marriage, ministry, employer-employee relations and how she was able to come out victorious.

Born to an abusive father, Joyce's background was a major obstacle in her relations with others and this affected how she looked at herself.

She also shares stories of some people she encountered who had this problem and how they were able to overcome this addiction, thanks to her counsel.

Joyce Meyer uses simple English

and her down to earth examples make it easy for all to read and associate with the given situations.

The fact that she uses real life examples makes the book a realistic manual to help you come out of your trap.

After reading this book, I am sure you will be in position to control your own life not others doing it for you.

### Quote:

*Ask yourself what you have been expecting out of life and you may discover the reason behind some of your disappointments!*

*The author is a Mass Comm. Student at Makerere University Kampala.*

## Voter education...

## THE HISTORY OF THE BALLOT PAPER

The word ballot comes from ballotta, which means a small ball used to register a vote, (not voting).

The ballotta was a ball drawn from an urn (*vase*) to select at random, by lottery, a person for a role. (See J.J. Norwich, *'History of Venice'* Penguin, 1983)

In ancient Greece, citizens used pieces of broken pottery to scratch in the name of the candidate in the procedures of ostracism. This was done because while parchment was expensive and had to be imported from Egypt, broken pottery was abundant and virtually free.

The first use of paper ballots to conduct an election appears to have been in Rome in 139 BC.

The first use of paper ballots in North America was in 1629 within the Massachusetts Bay Colony to select a pastor for the Salem Church (See Jones Douglas W: *A Brief Illustrated History of Voting*, University of Iowa, Department of Computer Science).

A ballot may be a simple scrap of paper on which each voter writes in the name of a candidate, but governmental elections use pre-printed ballots to protect the secrecy of the votes.

The voters cast their ballots in a 'ballot box' at a polling station. Each voter uses one ballot, and ballots are not shared.

Paper ballots are now used widely during elections and referenda, and are designed and printed by the body responsible for conducting and supervising elections.

Ballot design can aid or inhibit clarity in an election. Poor designs lead to confusion and potential chaos if large numbers of voters spoil or mismark a ballot.



**Pastor Isaac K. Kiwewesi of Kansanga Miracle Center in Kampala, casts his ballot during the 2006 General Elections. The first use of paper ballots was in an election to pastoral office in Massachusetts, USA, 1629 (Photo by Natty Dread).**

## Working among the lik people (continued on page 8)

They boldly approached us, but with what I thought were forced smiles; I was uncomfortable with their laughter as we shook hands. This is a scaring experience, especially when there is a wide communication barrier.

We were guided into the center of the homestead to meet the elders, who appeared unenthusiastic about our visit. They were indifferent as a member of our team made introductions, and eventually retreated into their grass thatched huts, while another group walked off towards the valley hideouts. We were left only with a group of young men (warriors).

I learnt that the apparent indifference was in fact an act of approval for us to carry out voter education in the community. Our guide informed me the elders are very influential and make all the decisions in the community; but they are suspicious and sensitive, and always try to avoid strangers. This left me wondering how we were to reach them and convince them to register, an exercise that includes taking photographs.

I also learnt that some groups, for example, young women, can not just be seen by any stranger. The little children work as scouts to alert the youthful guards about any intrusion.

Reaching such electorates is no easy task; it calls for patience, perseverance, sacrifice and creativity. Sometimes the voter registration team may have to spend days and nights in the wild bushes, surrounded by a hostile environment. The word 'occupational hazard' is inadequate to describe one's experience in such a region.

But it was rewarding working with the lik people. I went in to teach the community about elections, only to take free lessons in culture and etiquette.

*The author is Returning Officer/  
District Registrar–Kaabong District*

## **Integrate voter education in primary school curriculum**

*(continued from page 5)*

manipulation by adults, who may encourage them to register as voters when they are still under-age. Sensitising them on this and other offences will empower them to make right decisions, to say 'no' to malpractices and to resist manipulation by adults. A similar campaign on reproductive health issues has been successful.

This initiative is timely, especially for a young democracy like Uganda, which is striving to build an informed, responsible and politically alert citizenry.

Children are good ambassadors, and can influence *(read pester)* unenthusiastic parents to become active participants in electoral process, by encouraging them to register and vote.

Therefore, I challenge fellow Ugandans, especially parents and teachers to support this initiative. Voter education is considered vital in strengthening patriotic attachment; creating awareness at this stage will develop a critical mass of mature and discerning voters, which translates into a stronger electoral democracy in the future.

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The EC Bulletin are  
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## **Young people, it is cool to vote** *(Continued on page 6)*

Democrats (*Democratic Party*), Uganda Young Conservatives (*Conservative Party*), Uganda Young Movementists (*National Resistance Movement*), and so on.

### **What the EC can do to involve more young people in the electoral process**

The Electoral Commission can also do something to woo the youth;

The first step is to fight the apparent ignorance about the electoral process. Young people do not just want to be told about elections, they want to be challenged about the roles they can play and the change they can bring into the political arena.

The Commission can visit schools and institutions, participate in their elections and most importantly engage them in debates on democracy and governance issues. This will enlighten students and increase the level of voting and political participation.

Furthermore, the EC can develop appropriate communication tools, and use contemporary language appealing to young people to demystify the electoral process.

Finally, the Commission should work closely with the National Youth Council (NYC) to reach the urban youth, as they always tend to neglect election activities. These youth are educated and have the ability to influence and cause positive change in our country.

### **My appeal to young people**

I take this opportunity to rally young people to register and vote in general elections; it is 'cool to vote' although the process may be boring, that doesn't mean you

should stay at home and play, or watch video.

Staying away from electoral activities to watch a premierships game is irresponsible. Let us join the queue and if need be, play the youth card – massively vote for the young and dynamic candidates.

I know we belong to a busy dynamic and progressive generation (and apparently have no time for seemingly-over-demanding-politics). Most of us have ever participated in college elections, but now think we have no place in the political world, opting for the business world. But surely we can set aside some time to register, and vote.

In any case it is better to vote your candidate than stay away and protest when the senior citizens fail to deliver. You can determine the direction of the country where you are the majority of the population. Participation now reduces the possibility of frustration later.

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