



# **DEMARCATIION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ELECTORAL AREAS**

**PRESENTATION FOR NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON DEMARCATIION OF ELECTORAL AREAS  
AND RE-ORGANIZATION OF POLLING STATIONS ON 30TH JULY 2024**

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# **PRESENTATION COVERAGE**

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# INTRODUCTION

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The constitution mandates the electoral commission to demarcate electoral areas (EAs) for Local Government Councils' elections under article 181 as follows:

- **EQUAL POPULATION:** A district divided by the EC into electoral areas
- **CONSIDERATIONS FOR VARIATION:** By means of communication, geographical features and population density
- **REPRESENTATION ASSURANCE:** The demarcation of electoral areas shall ensure that each basic unit of representation (sub-county, town, division, parish/ward) is represented in the respective local government by at least one person.

# INTRODUCTION (CONT....)

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**The basic units of representation in accordance with section 109 of the local governments act are as follows: -**

- In case of a district, every sub-county or municipal division is represented at the district council and that no sub-county or division shall be subdivided for purposes of adding part of it to another sub-county or division;
- In case of a city, every division is represented at the city council and that no division shall be subdivided for purposes of adding a part of it to another division;
- In case of a sub-county, municipality, city division or town, every parish or ward shall be represented at the relevant local government council.

# OVERVIEW

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Demarcation of local government council electoral areas, also known as electoral boundary delimitation, is the process of drawing and defining the boundaries of areas of representation for directly elected councillors and women councillors forming  $\frac{1}{3}$  of local government councils. This process is crucial for ensuring fair and effective representation in local governments.



# PURPOSE OF DEMARCATION

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**FAIR REPRESENTATION:** Each representative represents roughly the same number of constituents

**REFLECT POPULATION CHANGES:** To adjust for population shifts and changes identified in national housing and population census data.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:** The number of inhabitants in each electoral area should be approximately equal to the population quota.

# GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER

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- **EQUALITY:** APPROXIMATE equal populations to ensure equal representation.
- **CONTINUITY:** Contiguosness, all electoral areas should connected.
- **COMMUNITY OF INTEREST:** Boundaries should consider natural, historical, and community interests to ensure effective representation.
- **COMPACTNESS:** EAs -geographically compact as possible to avoid oddly shaped constituencies that can dilute representation.

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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- Demarcation of Local Government Council Electoral Areas is guided by the following electoral laws:
- Article 180 and 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995;
- Sections 4, 10, 23, 108, 109 and 110 of the Local Governments Act [Cap, 243]
- Kampala Capital City Authority Act, 2010



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS

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Local Government Councils exist at the following levels as provided in Section 4 of the Local Governments Act [Cap, 243];

- District/City
- Municipality/City division
- Sub-county/Town/Municipal division

# THE NEED TO DEMARCAT

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## THE DEMARCATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ELECTORAL AREAS AROSE OUT OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Creation of new sub-counties/towns with the following effects: -
  - ☐ Councils have to be formed for the first time;
  - ☐ Representation of the sub-counties/towns in the district councils; and
  - ☐ Impact on the original local council(s) where the new unit has been carved from.
2. Creation of new parishes/wards affecting representation at municipality and sub-county/town/municipal division levels; and
3. Increase in population of sub-counties/towns/municipal divisions and parishes/wards
4. Revision of the population quotas under section 108 of the local governments act, cap [243] as highlighted in the table below:

# POPULATION QUOTAS

No.	Local Government	Basic Local Council Unit for Representation	Old Population Quota	Revised Population Quota
1.	DISTRICT	SUB-COUNTY/TOWN/MUNICIPAL DIVISION	30,000	30,000
2.	KCCA	CITY DIVISION	50,000	100,000
3.	CITY	CITY DIVISION	50,000	100,000
4.	MUNICIPALITY	WARD	6,000	15,000
5.	CITY DIVISION	WARD	6,000	15,000
6.	SUB-COUNTY	PARISH	10,000	12,000
7.	TOWN	WARD	3,000	7,000
8.	MUNICIPAL DIVISION	WARD	3,000	7,000

# PHASES IN DEMARCATION

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## DEMARCATION OF ELECTORAL AREAS IS DONE IN TWO PHASES.

- I. Phase I comprises determining the sizes of the councils and the numbers of the electoral areas for each category of representation. This is done at the Electoral Commission headquarters. This exercise has already been conducted.
- II. Phase II comprises determining the actual combination or splitting of basic administrative units for formation of electoral areas for representation where this is required. This is done in the field in meetings with the following stakeholders: -
  - Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs);
  - District Planners
  - District Elections Administrators
  - Assistant District Elections Administrators
  - Sub-county Chiefs (Senior Assistant Secretaries);
  - Sub-county Supervisors;
  - Parish Chiefs; And
  - Parish Supervisors
- This phase shall be conducted for ten (10) days.

# ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS

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Demarcation of electoral areas involves various stakeholders, each playing critical roles to ensure the process is fair, transparent, and effective. The key roles of different stakeholders are as follows:

## A. Government Authorities

- a) **Legislative bodies:** To enact laws and regulations
- b) **Government Agencies:** Implement the laws and oversee the delimitation process.
- c) **Electoral Commission:** technical work

## B. Judiciary; courts: adjudicate disputes

## C. Political parties

- **Representation:** advocate for fair and equitable boundaries that reflect their support base

# ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS (CONT....)

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- Monitoring: scrutinize the process to prevent gerrymandering or unfair advantages.

## D. Civil Society Organizations (CSO)

- Advocacy: promote transparency and public participation
- Education: inform the public
- Monitoring: observe and report

## E. Media

- Information dissemination: provide coverage and analysis of the delimitation process.
- Watchdog role: investigate and report any irregularities or issues in the process.

# ROLES OF STAKEHOLDERS (CONT....)

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## F. Public

- Participation: engage in consultations and provide input on boundary proposals.
- Oversight: hold authorities accountable through civic engagement and voting.

## G. Local Communities and Leaders

- Input: provide local knowledge and perspectives to ensure boundaries reflect community needs.

# CHALLENGES

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- **Gerrymandering:** manipulating boundaries to favor a particular political party or group.
- **Political influence:** independent and free from political interference.
- **Technical complexity:** managing the technical aspects of mapping and data analysis.
- **Public perception:** maintaining public trust in the fairness and transparency of the process.



# CONCLUSION

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In summary, the demarcation of electoral areas is a critical process for maintaining democratic representation and fairness in elections. It requires careful planning, transparency, and adherence to principles of equality and impartiality to ensure effective governance.

**THANK YOU!**