THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

 Telephone: +256-41-337500/337508-11

 Fax:
 +256-31-262207/41-337595/6

 E-mail:
 secretary@ec.or.ug

Ref: Adm72/01



Plot 1-3/5 Seventh St. Industrial Area P. O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda Website: www.ec.or.ug

Date: 2nd August 2024

Press Release

Countrywide Re-organisation of Polling Stations in Preparation for the 2025/2026 General <u>Elections</u>

The Electoral Commission, under Section 12(1) (d) of the Electoral Commission Act, 1997 (Cap 140) is mandated to establish and operate polling stations for elections.

In preparation for the 2025/2026 General Elections, the Commission will re-organise polling stations countrywide to enable voters to conveniently cast their votes, by ensuring adequate space at polling stations as well as a manageable number of voters per polling station.

The re-organization exercise will be conducted from 6th August 2024 to 16th August 2024.

During the exercise, the following activities will be undertaken:

1. Merging:

Polling Stations with a significantly low number of voters within the same parish/ward, without justification, will be merged, taking into consideration the proximity of the villages and distances traveled by voters to the polling station.

2. <u>Splitting:</u>

Polling Stations with more than 1,200 voters (for Kampala Capital City) and more than 900 voters for the rest of Uganda, will be split into one or more polling stations.

3. <u>Rationalising polling stations:</u>

Polling Stations that were large and had earlier been split based on the alphabet, e.g. ABC Primary School A-M and ABC Primary School N-Z will be split based on villages and/or cells where practical.

4. <u>Re-location:</u>

The following categories of polling stations will be re-located:

- a. Stations that are congested or located in contestable areas, e.g. near bars and private premises like people's compounds, will be relocated and renamed, where possible;
- b. Stations clustered in polling centers where there is inadequate space for polling activities;
- c. Stations where proximity to voters is not well-observed resulting in voters traveling long distances to vote; and,
- d. Stations where new infrastructure developments have taken place, e.g. new buildings, housing estates, roads, factories, etc.

5. <u>Re-naming:</u>

The following polling stations shall be re-named during the exercise:

- a. Polling stations whose names have changed due to re-location; and,
- b. Polling stations that do not portray the area name where they are situated.

The exercise shall also involve harmonisation of the parish and village names with the corresponding polling stations.

6. <u>Creation of new polling stations:</u>

The Commission shall create a polling station for any electoral area or new Parish with no polling station, or where a new polling station is legitimately required.

The Commission appeals to all members of the public to co-operate with the respective election officials in this matter and participate effectively for a better electoral process.

Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon Chairperson, Electoral Commission