

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](mailto:secretary@ec.or.ug)  
Ref: **Adm72/01** .....



Plot 55 Jinja Road  
P. O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda  
Website: [www.ec.or.ug](http://www.ec.or.ug)  
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**Press Release**

**Programme for By-election of District Chairperson and other Lower Local Government Councils in Nebbi District, 2019**

**A. Introduction**

Dear esteemed members of the press, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to this press briefing.

Today the Commission will brief you on the electoral programme for by-election of District Chairperson and other Lower Local Government Councils in Nebbi District, as follows:

**B. Programme for Local Government By-elections in Nebbi District**

The Electoral Commission has approved the programme for the by-election of District Chairperson and filling of vacancies in other Lower Local Government Councils in Nebbi District.

The vacancy of the District Chairperson for Nebbi District occurred on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018, following the death of the former Chairperson, the Late Esrom William Alenyo. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the electoral programme for this by-election as follows:

**1) Banning of Fundraising Activities in Nebbi District**

During this electoral programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in Nebbi District. The purpose of this ban is to allow a leveled-ground for candidates in the race.

For avoidance of doubt, this ban takes effect from Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Nebbi District, and will continue until polling day.

Those found to be contravening the law shall be dealt with accordingly.

**2) Stakeholders Meetings: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

The Electoral Commission will hold a consultative meeting with all elected Village (LC1) Chairpersons in Nebbi District on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in Nekosi Hall, Nebbi Municipality.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss any issues of concern that should be discussed by the Commission to ensure a free and fair by-election.

The Electoral Commission will further hold a consultative meeting with Nebbi District leadership, representatives of political parties and organisations, representatives of civil society organisations, security officials, religious leaders, opinion leaders, sub county supervisors and members of the press on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019, in Nekosi Hall, Nebbi Municipality with the same objective to discuss any issues of concern in this by-election.

The above meetings will help to foster collaboration between the Commission and stakeholders in the district, in order to achieve high participation in the various activities, in accordance with the laws.

### **3) Update of the National Voters' Register: 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

The Electoral Commission will conduct an update of the National Voters' Register from 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019, at update stations within each parish/ward in Nebbi District.

The update exercise will start at 8:00am till 6:00pm, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

This exercise will enable Ugandan citizens of 18 years and above, who either reside or originate in parishes/wards within Nebbi District, and who have not had their photographs and bio-data taken before by the Electoral Commission for purposes of registration for elections, to do so.

All registered voters who wish to transfer to new voting locations shall be able to do so during this update exercise.

The Electoral Commission has appointed Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 as the cut-off date for registration and/or transfer of voting location in Nebbi District.

### **4) Display of Voters' Registers and Issuance of Voting Location Slips: 12<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019**

The Electoral Commission has appointed 12<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2019, as the period for display of the National Voters' Register in Nebbi District.

The display of the Voters' Register shall begin at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm at all polling stations in Nebbi District, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends. During the display, voters are urged to turn up in large numbers and check for the correctness of their particulars, and confirm that photographs appear against correct particulars.

**Voters are further urged to report to the display officer: the dead, the non-citizens, the under-aged, and those who belong to another Parish/Ward, so that they are removed from the Register.**

During this display period, the Commission will also issue temporary Voter Location Slips (VLS) to voters, to enable them conveniently locate their respective polling station on polling day.

Furthermore, during the above period, the Parish Supervisor for the Electoral Commission will organise and conduct a meeting in each village, to verify the respective Village Voters' Register.

Any objections raised during the village meeting will be compiled and considered by the Parish Tribunal.

There will be a display of lists of persons recommended for deletion from the Voters' Register for a period of eight (8) days, from 24<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, at the respective Parish/Ward headquarters.

The purpose of this supplementary display is to enable any person who may have been wrongly recommended for deletion to raise an objection to the Parish/Ward Tribunal.

The Parish Tribunal may reinstate the person if convinced of the genuineness of the objection.

## **5) Nomination of Candidates, Inspection of Nomination Papers, Campaigns & Polling Day.**

The nomination of candidates shall be conducted for a period of two days, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019, at Nebbi District Headquarters.

The nomination will be followed by a period of six (6) days, that is, from 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 during which members of the general public will have access to the candidates' nomination papers, and will be able to lodge complaints, if any, on suitability of the candidates to contest in the by-elections.

Campaign meetings for candidates for District Chairperson and other Local Government positions shall be held for a period of twenty six (26) days that is, from 14<sup>th</sup> June to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The campaign meetings or public rallies shall be conducted only within the stipulated time, that is, from 7:00am until 6:00pm on each of the campaign days.

All candidates are urged to observe law and order during this exercise and to conduct their campaign meetings in accordance with the harmonized programme. Hate language will not be tolerated at all.

Polling for elections of District Chairperson and other Lower Local Government Councils shall take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at all polling stations in Nebbi District, and (polling) shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

## **6) Accreditation of Election Observers**

Section 16 (1) (a) of the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act, provides for accreditation of representatives of political parties, civil society organizations and any other duly registered institution to observe electoral activities.

For purposes of transparency, the Electoral Commission shall accredit observers to the various activities which will be undertaken during this electoral process.

Accordingly the Commission invites written expressions of interest from political parties, individuals and duly registered organizations and institutions who wish to observe the said processes.

Interested political parties, individuals, organizations and institutions should submit their applications with two (2) recent passport photos to the Office of the Chairperson, Electoral Commission, Plot 55, Jinja Road, Kampala, P.O. Box 22678 Kampala, or to the Office of the District Returning Officer for Nebbi District, not later than 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Please note that political parties and independent candidates shall be permitted to deploy not more than five (5) observers per sub-county/municipal division, and two (2) persons at the Results Tally Center.

The Commission shall accredit election observers from 17<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019, and shall provide all those accredited with identification tags for the purpose of observing the various activities of the electoral process.

Please note that media personnel will be required to present valid identification cards from their media houses in order to access polling stations and the Results Tally Center.

Any individuals purporting to perform duties of or act as an observer or agent without due accreditation, will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

## **7) Compliance with the Law**

The Electoral Commission urges all aspiring candidates and stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the relevant laws, in order to appreciate and comply with their respective roles and responsibilities before, during and after the by-election.

## **B. Implementation of Activities under the Roadmap for 2021 General Elections**

The Electoral Commission launched the Roadmap for 2021 General Elections on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018, and has commenced on the implementation of the following activities under the Plan and Roadmap:

- 1) The demarcation of electoral areas for representation at Local Governments in districts where new Sub counties/Towns and Parishes/Wards were created after the 2016 General Elections;
- 2) The re-organisation of polling stations countrywide to enable voters to conveniently cast their votes, by ensuring adequate space at polling stations as well as manageable number of voters per polling station.

## **C. Guidance to Aspirants Seeking to Conduct Consultative Meetings and Campaigns**

As earlier noted, a number of persons aspiring for various elective positions in the General Election, 2021 have started conducting public meetings supposedly to consult the electorate in preparation for their candidature in the 2021 Elections.

At the same time, some aspirants are organising campaign meetings and addressing rallies, putting up posters, distributing campaign materials and soliciting for votes contrary to the campaign period set out in the Electoral Roadmap issued by the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission urges all aspiring persons and other stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the relevant laws, in order to appreciate and comply with the electoral laws and guidelines issued by the Electoral Commission.

## **D. Conclusion**

The Commission urges all stakeholders in Nebbi District to turn up in large numbers and participate in the above electoral programme, and to do so in accordance with the guidelines for each activity. This will ensure a smooth electoral exercise.

I thank you,



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon  
**Chairperson, Electoral Commission**