

# THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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## **Press Statement on Progress of Activities under the Roadmap for 2020/2021 General Elections and Commencement of the Exercise for the General Update of the National Voters' Register, 2019**

### **1. Introduction**

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

Today, the Commission will present to you the progress of implementation of the Roadmap for 2020/2021 General Elections and commencement of the exercise for the General Update of the National Voters' Register.

### **2. Update on Implementation of the Roadmap for 2020/2021 General Elections**

As you are aware, the Electoral Commission launched the Roadmap in December 2018 and has since conducted several activities, including the following:

- a. Stakeholder engagement meetings at national, regional and district level, and to develop and maintain close interaction with key partners at every stage of the electoral process;
- b. Voter education outreaches and publicity campaigns which aim at providing and empowering stakeholders with relevant information to facilitate their participation in electoral activities;
- c. Recruitment of temporary staff at the Sub County and Parish Level during the period July-August 2019, to supervise electoral activities at these respective levels;
- d. The demarcation of electoral areas from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019, to define the areas of representation for Directly Elected Councilors and Women Councilors to each Local Government;
- e. The re-organisation of Polling Stations from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019, which I will expound in (g) below; and,
- f. The verification of the National Voters' Register at the Village level from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019. In this exercise, the Commission worked with the electorate at

village level to identify persons who have died and those who left the area. The information collected during the verification exercise has been compiled and will be processed in accordance with guidelines for removal of persons from the Voters' Register.

During the verification exercise, the Commission also compiled the lists of Persons with Disability (PWDs) identified by the Village Councils. The identification of PWDs right from the village level is important for compiling registers needed for elections involving members of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) which begin at the village level.

- g. As you are aware, 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 purpose of elections. Accordingly, in preparation for the 2020/2021 General Elections, the Electoral Commission conducted an exercise to reorganise polling stations countrywide, from 2<sup>nd</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

The purpose of the reorganisation exercise was to place voters at polling stations where they can conveniently cast their votes during elections. The highly consultative exercise enabled the Commission to engage with the electorate which resulted in the consideration of proposals and adoption of recommendations for, among others, the following actions:

- i) Rationalising polling stations;
- ii) Creation of new polling stations;
- iii) Re-naming polling stations;
- iv) Splitting polling stations;
- v) Merging polling stations;
- vi) Re-location of polling stations; and,
- vii) Harmonisation of parish/ward and village/cell names with the corresponding polling stations.

After the processing of returns from the reorganisation exercise, the Electoral Commission has updated its list to the current figure of **thirty four thousand two hundred and thirty six (34,236) polling stations.**

The Electoral Commission will publish the list of these polling stations in print media and on the website: [www.ec.or.ug](http://www.ec.or.ug) to enable the public know their polling stations.

Please note that the final list of polling stations for the 2020/2021 General Elections will be gazetted after the upcoming exercise of General Update of the National Voters' Register. This is because the update exercise may result in an increase in the number of

voters, which may require splitting of an existing polling station, or creation of a new one.

**As at 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019, the electoral statistics stand as follows:**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status of 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019</b>
1.	Number of Districts	135
2.	Number of Counties	253
3.	Number of Constituencies	296
4.	Number of Sub Counties/Towns/Municipal Divisions	2057
5.	Number of Parishes	10,011
6.	Number of Villages	68,649
7.	Number of Polling Stations	34,236
8.	Number of Registered Voters	16,435,315

### **3. Commencement of the Exercise for the General Update of the National Voters' Register, 21<sup>st</sup> November–11<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

In accordance with Article 61 (1)(e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (as amended), and Sections 18 and 19 of the Electoral Commission Act (Cap 140), the Electoral Commission will conduct a General Update of the National Voters' Register, in preparation for the 2020-2021 General Elections.

The General Update of the National Voters' Register will be conducted at update stations as shall be publicised for each parish throughout Uganda, from today, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019, starting from 8:00am to 6:00pm, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

**The public is urged to carefully note the following activities which will be undertaken during this General Update exercise:**

#### **a) Registration of Citizens who are eligible to vote**

- i) During the General Update exercise, the Electoral Commission will register eligible Ugandan citizens of 18 years and above, who are not yet registered as voters.
- ii) The update exercise will be a self-reporting exercise in which a person intending to register as a voter will turn up in person at an update centre in order to provide his/her personal details, photograph, signature and finger prints.
- iii) An eligible person who wishes to register as a voter will be able to do so at any of the update centres countrywide where a registration kit will be stationed.

- iv) A person who is already registered as a voter anywhere in Uganda **must not** register again.

**b) Application for Transfer of Voting Location**

- i) During the update exercise, registered voters who wish to transfer to new voting locations will be able to apply for such transfer.
- ii) A voter who wishes to transfer to a new voting location must present confirmation that he/she originates from or is, at the time of application for transfer, a resident of the Parish of that (new) voting location. Such applicants should ensure they have details of their previous voting location.
- iii) A person who wishes to apply for transfer of his or her voting location is free to present himself/herself at any of the update centres where a registration kit will be stationed.

**c) Confirmation of Registration Particulars**

- i) The update exercise will also enable registered voters to check and confirm that their particulars are on the Register at voting locations which they indicated during registration.
- ii) The exercise will further enable registered voters to confirm accuracy of their particulars on the Voters Register, and correct any error(s) that may be identified in their particulars on the Register.
- iii) To facilitate this confirmation, the Commission will display at each update station, the Register of each polling station within the respective Parish/Ward.
- iv) For purpose of clarity, voters may only make necessary correction in regard to spelling mistakes, gender and a mismatch of photograph, as the case may be.
- v) Registered voters will not be able to make changes to their age/date of birth, or include (new) additional names.

**d) Update of Learners' Information for Purposes of Voting**

- i) During this exercise, the details of learners who were registered under the Learners Project in 2017 and have since attained the age of 18 years will be updated and assigned a polling station within their parish of residence or origin.
- ii) Accordingly, such eligible learners must not register afresh but are advised to present themselves at the registration/update centre with their National Identification Number (NIN) in order to specify their preferred polling stations

for purposes of voting.

**e) Update of Registers of Special Interest Groups**

During this exercise, the Electoral Commission will also compile and update the following Voters' Registers:

- i) The National Youths Voters' Register for election of Youth Councils and Committees;
- ii) The Workers' Voters' Register for election of Representatives to Parliament;
- iii) The National PWDs Voters' Register for election of PWD Councils and Committees;
- iv) The National Older Persons Voters' Register for election of Older Persons Councils and Committees.

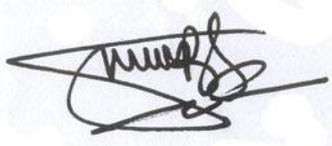
**f) Cut-off Date for Registration of Voters and Application for Transfer of Voting Location**

- i) The Electoral Commission has appointed Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019, as the cut-off date for registration of voters in Uganda.
- ii) Registration and transfer of voters from one polling station to another within Uganda will not be conducted after this date.

**4. Conclusion**

The Electoral Commission appeals to all stakeholders in the electoral process to support the General Update exercise and other Roadmap activities through enthusiastic participation, and in accordance with the guidelines, which will be issued for each activity.

For God and My Country,



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