BEST PRACTICES IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS OF UGANDA

Update of the National Voters' register

- Posting of the voters register on line to enable voters verify their registration status (www.ec.or.ug/register)

Display of the National Voters' register

- The Voters' register is fully bio-metric and verifiable through the use of Biometric Voter Verification System (BVVS).

- Extraction of data for the voters register from the National Registry of citizens, hence the role of identifying citizens is no longer with the Electoral Commission. It lies with Ministry of Internal Affairs.

- The Natural Justice period during the display exercise, done by a Parish Tribunal to attend to voters with queries on the register. Composition of the tribunal is Parish Supervisor, Older Persons a male and female and Members of participating Political Parties.

Nomination of Candidates

- Submission of a certified copy of Advanced level Certificate for Members of Parliament, District Chairpersons and Sub county Chairpersons from the Issuing Institution, as one of the requirements for nomination. In Uganda the A- level certificate is issued by Uganda National Examination Board (UNEB). This has lifted the burden on verification of academic qualification from the Electoral Commission.

- All aspiring Candidates have to be registered voters, as well as the proposer, seconder and supporters required by law. All supporters are verified by the Electoral Commission that they are registered voters before the nomination date.

- After the nomination exercise, the documents for all the nominees are availed to the public for scrutiny, for a specific period.

Campaigns

- Harmonization of campaign programmes for Candidates which ensures peaceful campaigns. No conduct of joint campaigns at all levels.

Polling Activities

- Availing hard copies of Results for every polling station to all participating Candidates.
- Availing a copy of the voters' register to every participating political party by law. This helps to avert suspicion and ensures credibility of the voters register.
- Observing secrecy of the ballot and transparency by using the basin for voting, as opposed to the booth. This is a balance between secrecy and transparency.
- Issuing Voter Location Slips (VLS) to help voters know and locate their polling stations prior to polling. The slips are produced after processing of the final voters' register.
- Declaration of Election Results within 48 hours by law, which averts anxiety and suspicion from the public.
- Counting of votes and announcement of results at the polling station. This promotes transparency, accountability and a good measure of the voter's knowledge of valid and invalid votes.
- Assistance to the vulnerable and disabled voters to vote on polling day.

Voter Education

- Training of Electoral Commission Officials and Candidates Agents together. This practice promotes transparency and builds capacity of Candidates Agents and facilitates a smooth polling process.
- Translation of voter education messages into local languages commonly spoken.
- Accreditation of Individuals, Groups and Organizations to Conduct Voter Education on behalf of the Electoral Commission.

Political Parties

- Formation of the National Consultative Forum (NCF) to resolve disputes of Political Parties which promotes harmony between them.

- Establishment of electoral crime desks at all districts Police Quarters for purposes of investigating election related crimes.
- Establishment of District Liaison Committees for resolving electoral disputes at district level with a representation at the National level.