



CCEDU PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT ON KYADONDO EAST.

The Kyadondo East by-election is promising to be one of the most heated up election in recent times. For a start the opposition has two candidates and there are three independent candidates, one leaning to NRM and two opposition leaning. The NRM has one candidate William Sitenda Sebalu whom the President is set to campaign for next week. This has caused enormous tension in Kyadondo East. The Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) has observed scattered incidents of violence during campaigns which is an indicator the Electoral management body and the Police should brace themselves for tougher times ahead. Some of the members of the constituency have expressed sentiments that the opposition is greedy, dishonest and disorganized and this is what might cost them this by-election. Despite the sentiments, CCEDU has observed that the electorate is eagerly waiting for 29th June to cast their vote, as observed in the voter update and nomination process. Within NRM it's clear that there is tension between the Flag bearer Sitenda Sebalu and Hajji Sowedi Kayongo who is NRM leaning. CCEDU has observed that in FDC while the top management of the party is seen to support Katinti Apollo the FDC flag bearer, there are some party members who are privately supporting Muwada Nkunyinji.

CCEDU is prepared to observe Kyadondo East by-election scheduled for Thursday the 29th June 2017 and would like to congratulate all those who took part in the voter update exercise and encourage all voters in Kyadondo East to participate in all activities to be able to enjoy their right to vote without any hindrances.

In preparation to observe the election, CCEDU trained and deployed 10 Long Term Observers (LTOs) in each of the Parishes of Kyadondo East to observe the pre-election period. The training took place at Comfort Cottages in Kasangati on May 24 2017. During the training observers signed code of conduct, pledge of neutrality and were immediately deployed. They have been reporting for the last two weeks right from the voter registration update. CCEDU recruited seven females, three males and all are residents of the parishes they are observing. During the pre-election period, observers are reporting about the election administration, voter education, campaigns, Campaign financing, election violence and security as well as media coverage of the by-election.

For E-day election observation, CCEDU will deploy stationary observers at 45 polling stations across Kyadondo. The stationary observers will observe all Election Day processes right from set-up, opening, polling and counting. For one to be recruited as an observer, she or he has to be a resident of the parish hosting the polling station to be observed, senior six graduates, non-partisan and must have a functioning phone.

CCEDU is set to observe the entire electoral process focusing on;

- Whether the environment allowed peaceful election campaigns.
- Whether voters had freedom to attend campaign functions free of intimidation, coercion and violence
- Whether the election management body was autonomous, impartial and administered the election completely efficiency and without fear or favor
- Whether the registration of voters was carried out in order to allow all eligible persons to participate in the election, establish there was fairness in the exercise or whether the register was reliable and accurate
- Whether the media enjoyed the freedom accorded to internationally and how they exercised their professionalism
- The presence and role of the security officers during the election.
- The levels of voter turnout for this election
- The Participation of women and the disabled persons in the election.

The Election road map for the Kyadondo East by election was issued by the electoral commission and commenced with the stakeholders meeting that was held at saza grounds.

Update of the voters register; The exercise kicked off on Monday 22nd May 2017 in all the parishes of Kyadondo East. The Electoral Commission Act, 2005 mandates the Commission to compile, maintain and update the national voter's register on a continuous basis. The Electoral Commission data for the 2016 general elections indicates that Kyadondo had a total of 68,731 registered voters and 93 polling stations in 9 parishes. At the close of the update process, 1,750 had been registered, 155 transferred to vote, 157 were confirmed non-residents hence ineligible to vote in Kyadondo for the by-election. We are yet to capture the figures from NIRA following the new registrations.

By Election	Regn (2016)	New Regn/	Transfers	Total Regn (2017)	Non Residents
Kyadondo	68,731	1,750	155		157

CCEDU observed that some young people below 18 years also wanted to register, but were turned away by the returning officer who took them through the implications of lying about their age. The process of identifying the 18 year olds can sometimes be complicated because the commission does not ask for birth certificates. The law only mandates the tribunal to verify the age of voters.

During the update CCEDU observers noted that Police rounded off two people at Wampewo, the two were arrested on grounds of threatening violence and intimidating officials; they wanted to forcefully register without the required documents which is the LC letter from place of residence as well as the national ID.

Voter Lists Display: The lists were displayed from 31st May until 12th June at different polling stations in the constituency and the turn up for the display was average. CCEDU noted with concern that there was an extension of days due to the technical problem, which resulted in the delay to finalize printing of the National voters register for Display. This exercise helps voters to ensure they are on the voters roll and also help in cleaning up of the National voters register by identifying the dead and the under age.

Recruitment of Update and Display Officials: The EC advertised for the recruitment of update and display officers at Kasangati Town Council on Monday 15th May. It also published radio adverts on CBS FM where 70 people applied and sat for written exams, 36 of the 70 succeeded and went for training immediately at Wampewo, on Saturday 20th May 2017.

Eighteen(18) kits were used for training; Bulamu had two(2) Gayaza three(3), Katadde one(1) Kabubbu two(2), Kiteezi two(2), Masooli two(2), Nangabo one(1) Wampeewo three(3) and Watuba three(3).

Nominations: The nomination process for the Kyadondo East Seat was held in Kasangati from May 30 to 31 2017, it was largely successful except for a few cases where one of the independents Muwada Nkunyinji attacked Nandala Mafabi, the FDC secretary General on grounds that he was sectarian. At the close of the process, six candidates were successfully nominated.

PARTY	NAMES	GENDER
NRM	William Sitenda Sebalu	Male
FDC	Apollo Katinti	Male
IND	Robert Kyagulanyi Sentamu	Male
IND	Muwada Nkunyinji	Male
IND	Sowedi Kayongo	Male

Campaigns: Campaigns by the nominated candidates commenced immediately after the nomination process. CCEDU observed that NRM flag bearer Mr. Sebalu Sitenda's first meeting was held in Wampewo, Independent Candidate Mr. Robert Kyagulanyi Sentamu aka Bobi Wine convened at Gayaza. NRM supporters and their candidate left their venue and went to Bobi Wine's Venue. This would have caused confrontation and violence if it were not for presence of the police.

*Voter Education;*The EC is currently carrying out voter education; mobilizing voters to go out and participate in different activities as far as the EC road map. The EC is using six media platforms; CBS, Akaboozi, radio one, NTV, Bukedde TV, newspapers; New Vision, Daily Monitor and Bukedde newspaper.

*Stakeholders meeting:*On May 22, 2017, the Electoral Commission consulted different stakeholders and provided a platform for them to iron out key issues regarding Kyadondo East.

Key Issues Included: The voters were able to exercise their rights when they tasked the commission to remove the returning officer one Sarah Bukirwa as the Returning officer of Wakiso. The voters claimed that she was partisan and unable to deliver a free and fair election. The Electoral commission has since replaced Sarah Bukirwa with the Regional Elections Officer South Western region as the acting Returning officer. Ms Bukirwa maintains the portfolio of district registrar.

The meeting was notified of the relocation of three polling stations due to new developments that displaced. These three polling stations namely Nangabo Ward, Nautakka and Kazinga which will be gazette immediately after identifying new places.

EC will not recruit presiding officers as required by the law but instead they rely on their staff to act as the presiding officers to ensure that the exercise is handled well. Some presiding officers are compromised because of the poor remuneration. Some officers misplace the declaration form, so to deliver the best services, the EC decided to use their own staff from within and outside Wakiso.

Posters: Defacing of posters was registered in Kyadondo, supporters are busy destroying posters for candidates and yet this is totally illegal.

Sitenda Sebalu, the NRM flag bearer in the Kyadondo East by election, printed posters with a photograph of the Bulange building, the seat of Buganda kingdom. According to Mr. Sebalu, this drive was meant to counter Mr. Robert Kyagulanyi Sentamu who refers to himself as a "mubanda wa Kabaka". This issue was also sited during the Kagoma by elections when the photograph of the Kyabazinga was cited on one of the campaign materials. It is illegal to mix cultural institutions with

partisan politics as of The Traditional or Cultural Leaders Act part V section 13. Sebalu had already printed 30,000 posters, he was asked by the NRM secretary general to withdraw all the said posters.

Recommendations:

CCEDU recommends an amendment in the law to provide for the Electoral Commission to Clarify on all academic documentation presented for nominations. CCEDU observed that EC only acknowledges receipt of the papers as the mandate for verification of academic papers lies with the National Council of Higher Education. This process has cost, tax-payers money, as many by elections are due to lack of required academic qualifications.

Candidates followed the law and paid all nomination fees, but according to the Regional Electoral Officer for South Western region now acting as the Returning officer for Wakiso district Mr. Francis Nkurunziza, all documentation presented by the candidates were sufficient.