



## **PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT – HOIMA DISTRICT WOMAN MP BY-ELECTION**

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**25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

*For immediate release*

### **119 candidates competing for the sixty-eight (68) positions in Hoima by-election**

On Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019, Electoral Commission approved the programme for the by-election of District Woman Representatives to Parliament for Hoima and Kaabong districts and elections in Lower Local Government Councils in the respective districts.

This is in accordance with Section 8(5) (a), (b) and (c) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, 2005 (as amended), which provides as follows: “...where a new district is created, the following provisions shall apply to the elections of the District Woman Representative to Parliament, the District Woman Representative of the original district affected shall continue to represent the district of her choice; elections shall be held to elect a District Woman Representative for the district not represented. In line with above laws, the Electoral Commission sent official communication to the District Woman Member of Parliament for Hoima district requesting her to indicate whether she would remain a District Woman Representative to Parliament of the mother district (Hoima), or if she would opt to represent the new district of Kikuube.

When the by-election was announced, the Citizens’ Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) commenced preparations to observe the election with the purpose of detecting and deterring potential electoral malpractices as well as compiling positive electoral practices that could inform future electoral exercises.

CCEDU was accredited by the Electoral Commission to observe elections at all the 266 polling stations of Hoima district. On Election Day, CCEDU observers will monitor the pre-polling, polling; and tallying of votes at Kijungu Hoima Municipality. NRM flag-bearer Harriet Businge Mugenyi is facing FDC’s Asinansi Nyakato, the joint opposition candidate for the Hoima Woman MP seat.

**Pre-Election Context:**

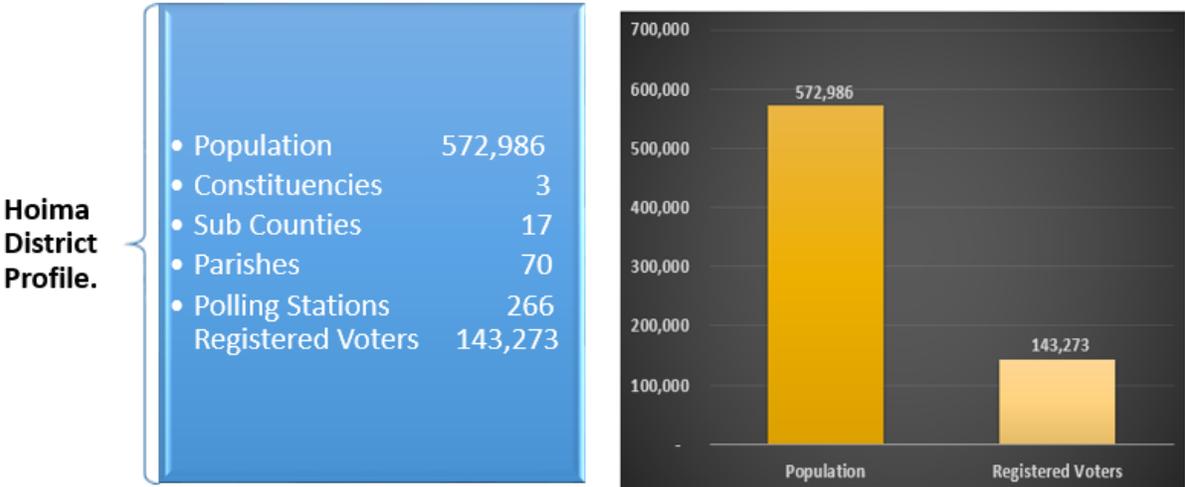
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**Update of the National Voters' Register:** According to the National Population and Housing Census 2014, Hoima District has a population of 572,986 of which 287,906 are males and 285,080 are females. Unlike the national figure, the male population in Hoima is slightly more than that of female population.

Hoima district has three (3) constituencies, 17<sup>1</sup> sub-counties, 70 parishes that make up the district. At the announcement of the by election, Hoima had a total of 148,671 registered voters.

Following the voters' register update exercise held from 12 to 16, August 2019, Hoima registered 143,273<sup>2</sup> voters. There was a reduction of 5,398 voters removed from the register for several reasons including transfers and deletions.

## Population and Registered Voters



As was the case during the Nebbi by-election held in July 2019, the EC worked closely with the Local Council leadership of Hoima district in the process of cleaning up the registers. The cleaning process was preceded by a meeting between the EC and the elected Local Council One (LC1) officials held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to specifically inform them of their critical role during the update and display exercise to ensure a clean National Voters' Register.

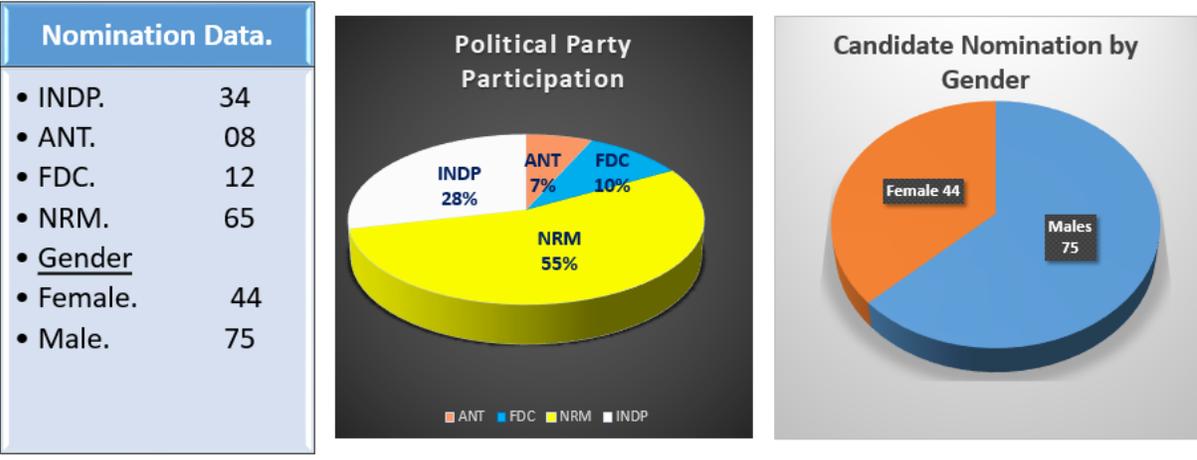
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<sup>1</sup>: Kahoora Division, Kitoba, Bujumbura Division, Kyabigambire, Mparo, Busiisi Division, Buseruka ,Buraru, Buhanika, Bombo, Kapaapi, Kabaale, Kisukuma, Kiganja, Kigorobya TC,Kijongo, Kigorobya

<sup>2</sup> Source: EC National Voter register Packaging List.pg 19

**Candidate Nominations:** According to Electoral Commission, nomination of candidates was conducted for a period of two days, Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th August 2019, at the Hoima district headquarters. The position of the Hoima District Woman MP attracted two (2) nominees; while the 67 lower local government positions enlisted 117 candidates.

### Candidate Nomination.



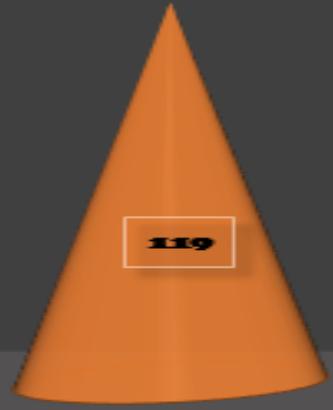
Thirty-four (34) out of the total 68 positions registered unopposed candidates. This means, voters in areas with unopposed candidates will only vote for the District Woman Member of Parliament. There are three electoral areas with no nominations for sub county directly elected councilors and they are Mbegu, Kibiro and Hanga (Kijongo sub county).

Names	Age Group	Religion	Party	Gender
Businge Harriet			NRM	F
Nakatto Asinansi			FDC	F

# OPPOSED AND NON OPPOSED POSITIONS



Unopposed



Opposed

### Political party participation:

Despite the dominance of opposition in the District Woman MP race, the NRM, which is the ruling party has presented the highest number of candidates in the Hoima elections with a total of sixty five (65) out of 119 candidates competing for the sixty eight (68) positions. FDC has registered twelve candidates (12) out of the 119, ANT the newly formed party has presented its first set of candidates – eight (8) in total out of 119, and there are thirty-four Independent candidates out of 119. DP, UPC, JEEMA, PPP and the rest did not field candidates in Hoima district for this particular by election, but instead rallied behind the FDC candidate – at the district level. NRM has registered the highest number of unopposed candidates - 32 out of the 34 positions followed by independents with two (2) candidates. The 34 unopposed candidates will be announced as elected leaders despite the fact that there will be no elections for those specific positions since they are unopposed, except for the district woman representative.

The People Power pressure group was at the center of campaigning for the opposition District Woman MP candidate. Rallies convened by the opposition candidate attracted both local crowds and media publicity. Interlocutors from the opposition side indicated that they have created an administrative system for vote management and protection.

Political Party	NO.Candidates
ANT	8
FDC	12
NRM	65
INDP	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>Unopposed</b>	
unopposed ind	2
un Opposed NRM	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>

### The role of media in elections.

In a democracy, the media plays an important role in building an informed society. Citizens need credible information from media that can moderate debate and provoke meaningful conversations that can lead to societal transformation. The media has a more critical role: through its traditional function – to inform, educate and entertain. It plays a catalytic role of deepening and institutionalizing democracy. Article 29 (1) (a) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (as amended) states that every person shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, which shall include freedom of the press and other media.

CCEDU received reports of some radio stations refusing to host the opposition candidates even when they had the resources to be hosted. NRM, the ruling party, booked most of the airtime on three major radio stations, including: Radio Hoima, Spice FM, Liberty FM and left no space for the opposition. The Resident District Commissioner, Alali Kisembo had earlier on in the campaign

period issued an order to all Hoima-based media stations not to host opposition candidates. In protest, the opposition moved to his office demanding for an explanation with regard to his directives. It was later resolved that the RDC withdraws his guidance from the local radios immediately. CCEDU cautions public officers to refrain from negatively interfering in election matters since some of their actions may orchestrate disenfranchisement of voters' rights in electoral processes.

**Youth Involvement:** Both the NRM and opposition District Woman MP candidates targeted the youth and reached out to them through social media. Platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter were leveraged by mainly the opposition candidate.

**Security matters and deployment:** Several arrests were executed throughout the campaign period. About 10 people were in and out of police cells on account of electoral related crimes.

Security agencies played a key role in maintaining peace in a bid to prevent pre-election violence in Hoima. During the last days of the campaigns, a group known as *Sipapa* entertainment was evicted by security while trying to disrupt the campaign rally of the opposition candidate.

**Hot Spots:** A trends analysis coupled with pre-election observations indicate that Hoima Municipality, Kigoroby and Buseruka are likely to be tense on polling day and security is likely to be tight in these three sub counties.

The table below shows the electoral areas in Hoima District:

Constitutency	SubCounty	Voters	Ps	Parishes
Hoima Municipality	Kahooro Division	21,421	40	4
Bughaya	Kitoba	17,420	33	7
Hoima Municipality	Bujumbura Division	13,626	21	4
Bughaya	Kyabigambire	13,330	23	3
Hoima Municipality	Mparo	13,141	22	4
Hoima Municipality	Busiisi Division	11,608	21	4
Bughaya	Buseruka	7,215	18	5
Bughaya	Buraru	6,761	12	4
Bughaya	Buhanika	6,572	13	6
Kigoroby County	Bombo	5,639	11	5
Kigoroby County	Kapaapi	5,513	11	3
Bughaya	Kabaale	4,973	10	3
Kigoroby County	Kisukuma	4,681	9	5
Kigoroby County	Kiganja	4,121	9	4
Kigoroby County	Kigoroby TC	3,504	5	4
Kigoroby County	Kijongo	1,953	4	3
Kigoroby County	Kigoroby	1,795	4	2
<b>Totals</b>		<b>143,273</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>70</b>

**Gender participation:** There has been positive participation of women in the by-election. Women and youth have been active participants as candidates and as voters, during the pre-election period. The Electoral Commission confirmed having recruited women as presiding officers, polling assistants, agents and campaign managers.

## Conclusion:

CCEDU calls upon all voters to turn up in big numbers and vote the District Woman Member of Parliament as well as the local leadership – in Thursday's election. CCEDU also implores voters to shun acts of violence and ensure an active and peaceful election