



## Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda

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### CCEDU Statement on the Butebo Constituency MP By-election of 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

#### Introduction

The Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) take this opportunity to congratulate NRM's Dr. Mutono Lodoi Patrick upon emerging victorious in the hotly contested Butebo MP Polls.

The team also wishes to commend the candidates and voters in Butebo for generally conducting themselves in a responsible manner during the entire election period.

Below is the summary statement filed by the observer team.

#### Observer Deployment

CCEDU prepared a joint team of 29 election observers to monitor the Butebo Constituency MP by-election. Butebo consists of 7 sub counties, 33 parishes, 90 polling stations and 52,835 registered voters. This observer team visited over 70 polling stations.

#### Cause of the by-election

The Butebo MP seat fell vacant after the untimely death of Hon. Steven Malinga in April, 2013.

#### Candidates

The by-election attracted seven (7) candidates in total. However, the sudden disqualification of independent candidate Lt. Oseku Oriobo Richard Anthony by the Electoral Commission (EC) on the eve of the election raised tensions resulting in an unprecedented voter boycott in eighteen (18) out of ninety (90) polling stations especially in Kibale and Opwateta sub counties.

Besides, another notable feature of the election was the uncharacteristically high number of independent candidates (four) with only three (3) political party sponsored candidates.

Below is the summary of the results:

No.	Candidate	Political Party	Votes
1.	Aisu Elizabeth	Independent	1,349
2.	Keshodo Eria	Independent	94
3.	Khaiwa Samuel	FDC	546
4.	Mutono Lodoi Patrick	NRM	22,915
5.	Oseku Oriobo Richard Anthony	Independent	Disqualified
6.	Ssajjabi Yotha	Independent	772
7.	Ziwa Zaidi	DP	127

*Total valid votes: 25,803*

## **Electoral Management**

- **Electoral Commission**

From an e-day logistical perspective, the Electoral Commission recorded a mixed performance. In many instances, though electoral materials and officials were at the polling stations, the process began after 8:00AM because the number of voters required to witness the opening of the polling stations were unavailable.

This was the situation at Kanginima polling station in Kanginima sub-county, Tekekwana polling station and Kakoro health centre. However, in other polling stations such as Matakokore Polling station in Butebo sub-county, Okaracha polling station in Opwateta sub-county, Opwateta primary school polling station, Akisimi 1 primary school in Butebo Sub-county, voting materials were delivered late – after 7:00AM.

- **Political Parties**

Political Parties appeared strained in regard to logistics and human resource. None of the political parties with the exception of NRM had enough polling agents to cover the entire constituency.

### **Security deployment**

There was heavy deployment of both uniformed police as well as plain clothed security agents across the district at trading centres and along the road. At all the polling stations visited by CCEDU observers, a minimum of three (3) polling detectives and one police constable were noted. Unlike in previous by-elections, most of the plain clothed detectives cooperated with the observers. Members of the army were also deployed along the road but away from polling stations.

### **Voter turn-out**

In an unprecedented move, an almost total voter boycott marred voting in mainly two sub-counties: Opwateta and Kibale. The two areas are considered strongholds of the disqualified candidate, Lt. Oseku Oriebo Richard Anthony. In these sub counties, voting failed to commence due to a lack of the requisite five (5) voters necessary to witness opening of the boxes carrying voting materials.

A sample of eight (8) polling stations in Kibale namely: Kibale Odem polling station, Aiboibon rock polling station, Opogono polling station, Ododo polling station, Kibale primary School, Omatakojo primary school polling station and Kakusi polling station, confirmed the effect of a peaceful voter boycott. Similarly, no agents representing any political parties or independent candidates' were present at these polling stations.

According to the CCEDU observer at Nasuleta polling station in Petete sub-county, Mr. Steven Ocham, voting improved as the day went by. By closure of polling, more than 50% of the 708 voters at this polling station had cast their ballots.

### **Violence**

- **Pre- Election Day violence**

There were reports of gunfire in Kakoro Sub County after three unidentified vehicles allegedly raided the homes of the key supporters of Lt.Oseku in Oguramai village. Tension however remained high.

- **Election day violence**

At Kakoro ginnery polling station CCEDU observers witnessed over ten (10) young men clad in NRM branded T-Shirts armed with sticks caning and dispersing their opponents' supporters.

### **Electoral Malpractices**

- **Vote buying**

Several incidences of vote buying were reported. At Okaracha polling station a young man by the names of Matayo, allegedly a supporter of Dr. Mutono Lodoi Patrick was physically assaulted by members of the public after apparently being caught distributing money.

- **Multiple voting**

A CCEDU election observer Asimwe Allen at Katekwana polling station witnessed several instances of multiple voting. Notably, the EC polling officials at this station appeared so frightened to open up about the malpractice.

However at Kanginima primary school polling station, a voter by the name of Dongo Erick Samuel was arrested for attempting to vote for his wife.

### **Campaigning at polling stations**

At Kakoro Sub county, in Kakoro ginnery polling station CCEDU observers witnessed *Boda boda* cyclists clad in newly branded NRM T-shirts within 20 metres of the polling station.

### **Conclusion**

The Observer team wishes to recognize the cooperation and attention paid to the general electoral process by all stakeholders. Despite the relatively low voter turn-out, the election was calm with minimal traces of violence on the actual polling day – which signifies an improvement in electoral management.

**BY:**

**CCEDU Observer Mission – Butebo By-Election**