

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Programme for Verification of Administrative Units and Preparatory Activities for Women Councils and Committees and Administrative Units (LC 1 and LC 2) Elections

1.0 Introduction

The Electoral Commission is undertaking preparatory activities for the conduct of Women Councils and Committees elections (from the village to the national level) **2022**, and Administrative Units (LC 1 and LC 2) Elections, **2023**.

The current Women Councils and Committees were elected during the period **July – August 2018**, and the Executive Committee of the National Women's Council was constituted on 23rd - 24 August 2018. According to the National Women's Council Act, the terms of office of the said Councils and Committees is **four (4) years**, implying their term **will expire in August 2022**.

The current Village/Cell (LC 1) and Parish/Ward (LC 2) Committees were elected in **July 2018**. According to the Local Government Act, the term of office of the said Executive Committees is **five (5) years**, implying their term **will expire in July 2023**.

The above elections were conducted in a total number of 60,800 villages/cells and 8,387 parishes.

During the conduct of the above elections, the Commission observed the following challenging issues:

- Dispute over the legal establishment of some of the villages/cells;
- Dispute over the names of some of the villages/cells and parishes/wards;
- Dispute over the boundaries of some of the villages/cells;
- Dispute over the placement of some villages/cells (within particular sub counties and town councils, etc.);
- Dispute over some villages/cells that were located in areas that had been declared as natural reserves and conservation areas (for example in Bukwo District).

In addition to the above, since 2018, the number of Administrative Units in Uganda has increased and the current statistics as per the Electoral Commission database (2022) are as follows:

No.	Level	Statistics
1.	Districts/Cities;	146
2.	Sub Counties/Towns/Municipal Divisions;	2,211
3.	Wards in the cities;	431
4.	Parishes/Wards in the districts;	10,259
5.	Villages/cells;	70,512

2.0 Verification and Confirmation of Administrative Units

In view of the above, the Electoral Commission will conduct a verification exercise of all the administrative units across the country from **17th – 26th March 2022**.

2.1 Purpose of Verification

The purpose of the verification exercise will be to:

- Confirm that the existing administrative units have been legally created, that is, by Statutory Instrument;
- Confirm that the above administrative units are correctly located within their respectful and rightful Sub-county/Town Council/Municipal Division and Parish/Ward;
- Confirm that all administrative units' names as listed, that is, District, Constituency, Sub-county/Town/Municipal Division, Parish/Ward and Village/Cell) are correctly spelt and written;
- Identify and harmonise any variance in the database of administrative units.
- Recommend for removal a village/cell that may illegally appear on the list of administrative units, that is, existing without a Statutory Instrument;

The Commission will conduct the verification/confirmation of administrative Units in a participatory manner, and particularly in consultation with the respective **District/City administrative leadership**, namely:

- Chief Administrative Officer (CAO);
- Assistant Chief Administrative Officer;
- Principal Assistant Secretary/Senior Assistant Secretary/Sub County Chief;
- Town Clerk;
- District/City Planner

2.2 Procedure for Verification

The procedure for the verification and confirmation of Administrative Units exercise will be as follows:

Stage 1: Desk Verification Exercise (EC Headquarters and District/City Offices)

- Request for list of administrative units from the Ministry of Local Government and the respective Districts/City Local Governments for harmonisation with the Electoral Commission database;
- Comparison of the submitted lists with the Electoral Commission database to confirm the legality of the administrative units, that is, creation by Statutory Instrument;
- Confirmation of placement of the administrative unit (village/cell) in the respective higher administrative level (parish/ward);
- Compiling of lists of units of variance for verification and confirmation during the field exercise;

Stage 2: Field Verification Exercise

- Stakeholder mobilisation and engagement to create awareness on the purpose of the verification exercise;
- Recruitment and training of verification officials
- Preparation and production of materials for the verification exercise;
- Delivery of materials to districts/cities;
- Conduct of verification meetings at the sub county level;
- Retrieval of verification returns to the district and finally the Electoral Commission headquarters;

Stage 3: Verification of Returns to produce a harmonised list of Administrative Units

- Compilation of verified returns
- Display of the verified and harmonised list at the sub county level;
- Receiving and hearing any objections against inclusion/omission of administrative unit(s), and determining the complaints arising out of the verification exercise;
- Publication of final harmonised list of administrative areas;
- Dissemination of the final harmonised list to stakeholders;

3.0 Conclusion

The verification and confirmation of Administrative Units countrywide is, therefore, a very important exercise in preparation for the smooth organisation and conduct of the Women Councils and Committees and the Administrative Units (LC 1 and LC 2) Elections.

The Commission, therefore, urges all stakeholders to take note of the period for the exercise, and to participate in the confirmation of the Units in accordance with the above guidelines.

Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission



Summary Programme for the Conduct of Verification of Administrative Units, March – May 2022

No.	Activity	Period
	National Workshop for Electoral Commission Staff	2nd – 3rd March 2022
	Regional workshops for stakeholders	10th March, 2022
	Recruitment of Sub county and Parish Supervisors	11th – 12th March 2022
	Training of Sub County Supervisors & Parish Supervisors	14th March 2022
	Delivery of verification forms, to the districts	14th – 15th March 2022
	Internal distribution of verification materials	16th March 2022
	Briefing of Chief Administrative Officers, Town Clerks and District/City Planners	16th March 2022
	Field verification of Administrative Units	17th – 26th March 2022
	Processing of verification returns	30th March - 8th April
	Display of verified Admin Units at District and Sub County Headquarters	11th – 20th April
	Processing of verification returns after display and production of final lists of Administrative Units	22nd April – 4th May 2022
	Transmission of soft copy of the verified administrative units to Political Parties	13th May 2022