

The vehicle inspection exercise is carried

sanctioned the contract because it did not follow any law.

calibration exercise conducted by SGS.

candidates," Lwanga said.

NRM procures gadgets to verify authenticity of academic documents

By Martin Kitubi

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) party's electoral commission has procured scanners that show features and security marks on genuine academic papers in the process of verification of the candidates during the party's primary elections.

According to Dr Tanga Odoi, the party's electoral commission chairperson, the move is intended to curb the circumstances that lead the party into byelections after election petitions.

"We have been relying on the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEb) to verify academic papers for our candidates, but we will also check for security marks at the party," Odoi said yesterday at the NRM secretariat in Kampala during nominations for

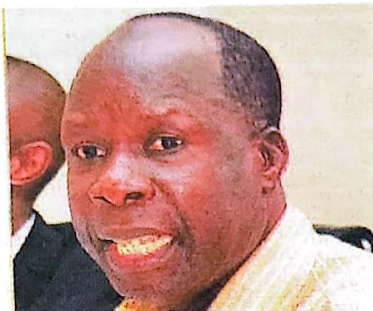
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WHY BUY SCANNERS?

flag-bearers for the new districts.

However, Odoi declined to establish how much money was used to procure scanners, adding: "The machine has started working with those contesting for new positions at new districts."

Once UNEb has verified the



Tanga Odoi

documents of each candidate, they will undergo a second check using scanners at the NRM secretariat and those without security marks, will be sent back to UNEb for background checks.

Odoi blamed the recent election

petitions against party members, on candidates without genuine academic papers.

"NRM does not promote academic corruption. Being a mass party, we have individuals without the required academic documents for certain positions. However, with time, such people will be no more," Odoi said.

Nominations

By press time, the Odoi said about 20 candidates vying for both Woman MP and LC5 chairperson seats in the new districts had been nominated at the NRM secretariat for party primaries, although they were not named.

The new districts include Rukiga carved out of Kabale, Bunyangabu from Kabarole, Kyotera from Rakai, Pakwach and Namisindwa carved out of Nebbi and Manafwa districts respectively.

One of the people nominated is Peace Mutuuzo, the Minister of State for Gender and Culture, who is vying for Bunyangabu district Woman MP flag-bearer position.

Odoi warned government officials against using government vehicles during campaigns, adding that they would be disqualified from the race.

The party primaries are slated to take place on Tuesday next week.

Rachael Nakitende, who is vying for Kyotera Woman MP seat, raised concern over inadequate time given to them for campaigns.

"We have been given only two days to campaign before the party primaries," she said.

In his response, Odoi backed the two-day timeframe, noting that, candidates have been campaigning illegally and, therefore, the period is enough.

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