

# FDC rejects election results

**Democracy.** Maj Gen Muntu has condemned intimidation of supporters.

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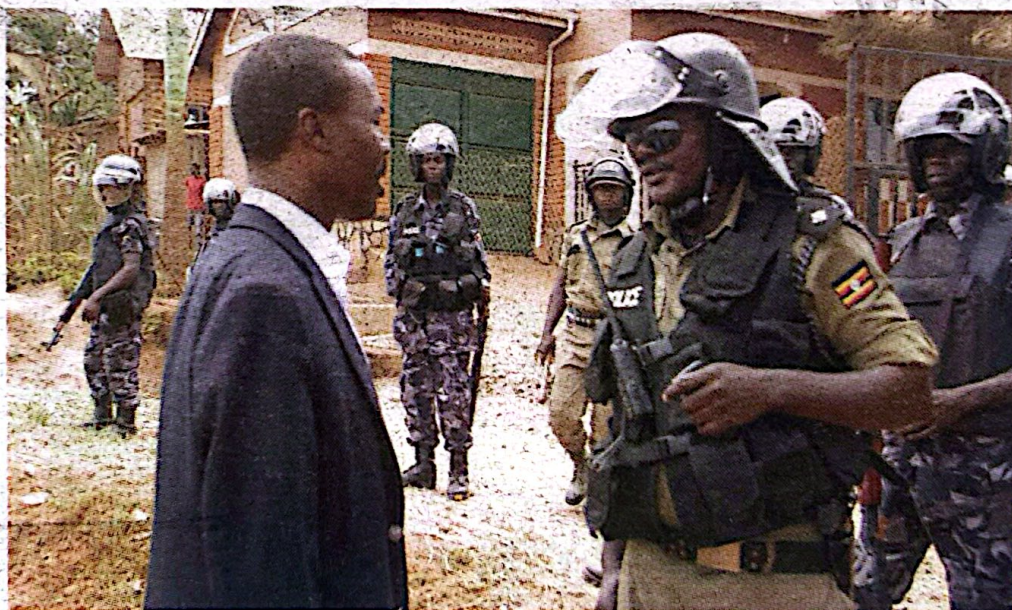
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**KAMPALA.** Forum for Democratic Change party has rejected the outcome of the just concluded presidential elections saying the exercise was a fraud.

In a statement issued hours before the Electoral Commission declared President Museveni winner, the FDC president, Maj Gen Mugisha Muntu, asked all Ugandans and the international community to "reject and condemn the fraud that has been committed and to expose it to the fullest extent possible."

The FDC's stand on the election results came just minutes after the European Union and Commonwealth observers described the election process as "anything but free and fair."

Maj Gen Muntu condemned the military presence on the streets and the intimidation of people but said the situation can be turned around to favour the pro-change voices. "At a strategic level, the situation is highly in our favour. At a tactical level, where Museveni still has some temporary advantages, we must fo-



FDC president Mugisha Muntu (L) stopped in his attempt to meet FDC presidential candidate Kizza Besigye, who was placed under house arrest at his home in Kasangati, near Kampala yesterday.

cus on shifting that imbalance in our favour," Maj Gen Muntu said.

However, he cautioned that people should be physiologically prepared for the arbitrary arrest that will follow. "Clearly what we are witnessing in the choreographed announcements of the fraudulent results is part of a creeping political coup d'état. However, we have no doubt at all that the Ugandan people will ultimately

prevail," the leader said.

The Electoral Commission chairman Mr Badru Kiggundu on Saturday afternoon declared President Museveni, the NRM flagbearer, as winner of the 2016 presidential election with 5,617,503 votes, a percentage of 60.75. His closest rival, Dr Kizza Besigye, the EC said, garnered 3,270,290 votes, representing 35.37 per cent of the total votes cast. Independent can-

didate Amama Mbabazi at a distant third with 1.43 per cent.

There were 15, 277, 198 registered voters although according to the EC, a total of 5,575,461 voters either chose to stay home or were disenfranchised. The February 18 election was smudged by unprecedented delays, pockets of violence and reports of ballot stuffing in some parts of the country. For the biggest part of the

tallying process, candidate Yoweri Museveni led the pack with slightly over 60 per cent with FDC's Kizza Besigye trailing in thirties. Gen Muntu asked those who voted Dr Besigye not to lose to hope.

"I thank you for the sacrifices you have made. I urge you not to lose hope or to be discouraged by this temporary upset. We must all remain focused on our objectives," he said.

He also explained what the meeting the party officials were holding before the police raid on the party headquarters at Najjanankumbi on Friday, in which he, Dr Besigye and Ms Ingrid Turinawe were arrested, was intended to achieve.

"We intended to show the gross discrepancy between the presidential election results that the Electoral Commission was releasing and those that we had in our possession and knew to be correct. If our arrest was intended to intimidate the leaders of FDC, the effect was to strengthen our resolve and our single-minded focus on fighting for our rights, our freedoms and democratic governance in Uganda," he said.

He added that the intimidation and police brutality will not compromise their resolve to fight for their political rights, freedoms and democratic governance. "These are the objectives on which we have focused our efforts and we shall continue to do so. Our energies, efforts and attention must remain on the achievement of those objectives," he said.