

NRM in Gulu jubilates. There was jubilation among NRM supporters in Gulu Municipality on Saturday evening after President Museveni was announced winner of last Thursday's presidential elections. Mr Museveni polled 5,617,503 votes (60.75 per cent) while FDC's Kizza Besigye got 3,270,290 votes representing a 35.3 per cent. Many NRM supporters, who could be seen dancing, urged Dr Besigye to concede defeat and join the ruling party. [By Monitor reporter]



Opposition demands release of Gulu results

Background. Since election day, no tallied results for the presidential and parliamentary elections in the district have been released.

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GULU. Opposition politicians in Gulu District have asked the returning officer, Mr Benson Obete, to release both the presidential and parliamentary results.

Since election day, no tallied results for the presidential and parliamentary elections in the district have been released despite Mr Obete declaring some contestants winners.

On Friday night, Mr Obete controversially declared Deputy Speaker of Parliament Jacob Oulanyah winner of the Omoro County parliamentary seat he contested with FDC's Simon Toolit.

Following the declaration of President Museveni as the winner of the presidential race on Saturday, Opposition politicians in Gulu are now tasking Mr Obete to unveil the figures the President scored in the district. The Electoral Commission (EC) announced that Mr Museveni won by 60.7 per cent while his closest rival Dr Kizza Besigye got 35.37 per cent.

However, the Gulu District chairperson, Mr Martin Ojara Mapenduzi, claimed that the results of the elections in the district have been pur-



Police look on as residents protest the declaration of Mr Jacob Oulanyah as winner of the Omoro County MP seat in Gulu Town on Friday. PHOTO BY JULIUS OCUNGI

posely withheld to favour NRM candidates.

"We cannot accept that the elections were free and fair in the district when the results of the elections have not been released. We want the returning officer to unveil to us the tallied results so as we are convinced," Mr Mapenduzi said.

Mr Odonga Otto, the Aruu County Member of Parliament in Pader District, said the elections in Gulu was a sham and proved that the NRM government thrives on vote rigging.

"We shall not accept the results and declaration of Museveni as president yet we don't know how he performed in Gulu. I have never seen anything of

this kind in any elections in the district," Mr Otto said.

Mr Toolit, who lost to Mr Oulanyah in the Omoro County MP race, said he will not accept the results until authentic figures as contained on declaration forms are availed to him.

However, Mr Obete explained that the tallying machine malfunctioned

and could not give statistics to the tallying clerks. The Opposition alleged that the election in Omoro County was rigged when 23 boxes, which they claimed had pre-ticked ballots in favour of NRM candidates and President Museveni, were intercepted as they were being ferried from Lakwana Sub-county on Friday.

On Saturday morning, FDC supporters in Binya Parish, Odek Sub-county, recovered 10 transparent ballot boxes with three of them containing ticked ballot papers.

Mr Deo Wilobo, a member of the FDC election monitoring team, said they were tipped off by a concerned resident that some ballot boxes were being hidden at a barber shop in Acet Trading Centre, Odek Sub-county.

Our concern is how did the ballot papers that were supposed to be at the tallying centre remain behind? All the ballot papers should be sealed in black boxes and taken to the Electoral Commission offices and they are only opened in case where complaints have been raised," Mr Mapenduzi said.

Mr Edward Ochom, the police director of Research and Planning who is also monitoring elections in northern Uganda, said police will work with the EC to settle the anomalies.

"We have received the complaints but we can't pre-empt the outcome of the investigations," Mr Ochom told journalists.