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Celebrating victory. The incumbent MP for nicipality, Mr Andrew Baryayanga (FDC- seate celebrates with supporters after retaining his seat. Mr Andrew Baryayanga garnered 6,464 ing his close rival Dr Francis Runumi (NRM) w votes. [Robert Muhereza, Monitor]



Ms Catherine Ndamira (R) as she waits for her declaration as winner at Rukiiko Hall, Kabale District headquarters. PHOTO BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

Mwesigye, Ninsiima dispute Kabale results

BY ROBERT MUHEREZA
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KABALE. Former Agriculture minister Hope Mwesigye has described the February 18 elections as a "shame" to the Electoral Commission and the NRM party.

She said she was considering court action to challenge the outcome. Ms Mwesigye contested as an independent candidate on the Go Forward ticket for Kabale District Woman MP seat but lost to Ms Catherine Ndamira of NRM.

Other contenders in the race were the incumbent MP Ms Rona Ritah Ninsiima (independent), Ms Victoria Abigail (independent) and Viola Nahabwe of the Uganda Peoples Congress. Ms Ninsiima also disputed the results saying the election was not free and fair because of massive bribery and intimidation of her polling agents.

"This is a stolen victory that I must challenge in court of law once enough evidence is gathered," Ms Ninsiima said.

Ms Mwesigye questioned why the tally centre in Kabale Town was closed by the Electoral Commission officials before declaring the winner of the District Woman MP seat last Saturday morning. She also condemned the heavy deployment of police at the tally centre.

However, Ms Ndamira insisted her victory was legitimate. "My victory is genuine and it's the people's victory," Ms Ndamira said.

Kabale District police commander Mr Dickens Bindeeba said the police deployment in the town and at the tally centre was to ensure order during the electoral process.

The district Electoral Commission returning officer, Mr Adams Shesha, said the tally centre was closed because their computer server broke down and was taken to Kampala for repair.

He said by 5pm, it had been returned and the results for District Woman Member of Parliament were released at around 11pm.

Ms Ndamira won with 114,011 votes. Ms Victoria Abigail got 40,324 votes, Ms Hope Mwesigye 11,053, while Ms Viola Nahabwe garnered 3387 votes, Rona Ritah Ninsima 30,003 votes.

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