

elections

UGANDA DECIDES 2016



EC to give update on results every 2 hours

Results update. The Electoral Commission will give an update of the presidential results after every two hours.

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KAMPALA. After polling closes at 4:00pm today, the Electoral Commission (EC) will give an update of presidential results every after two hours before declaring the winner by Saturday evening.

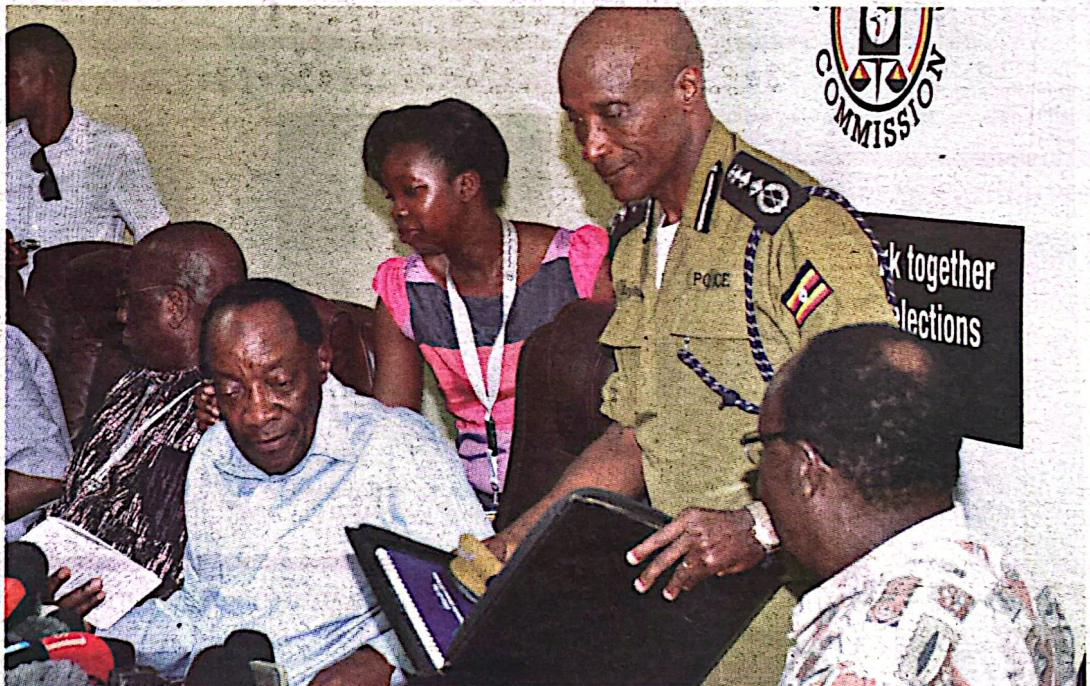
The electoral body announced yesterday district returning officers will only "read out" results of presidential candidates from each polling station in the district but can only declare winners of parliamentary races.

Though the results from all the polling stations will be received at all the sub-county headquarters, the Electoral Commission insisted there will be no announcements at this level, saying this is only for "accountability purposes".

The presidential results will then be transmitted to the National Tally Centre at Mandela National Stadium, Namboole in Bweyogerere in Wakiso District, where the EC chairperson will be exclusively in-charge of giving an update of how the eight candidates will be faring every after two hours.

Giving a roundup of preparations for today's voting during a press briefing yesterday, EC chairman Badru Kiggundu said although the commission may not be able to give an update in the presidential race by 6:00pm today, two-hourly updates will be given as results trickle in.

"In [the] 2011[elections], we did every two hours. I cannot say we will have the first update at 6pm because we have to first mobilise the results from all over the country but we will



Electoral Commission chairperson Badru Kiggundu (3rdL) and Inspector General of Police Gen Kale Kayihura during a press conference at the commission offices in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY DOMINIC BUKENYA

give updates as soon as they come in," Mr Kiggundu said.

The EC also cleared the air over use of electronic gadgets such as phones and cameras at polling stations, saying use of such gadgets will be prohibited from the cordoned-off area where voting will take place, apparently to protect the secrecy of the ballot.

Filming and use of such gadget will be allowed outside the cordoned-off area.

On the dispute triggered by a rallying call by the FDC flag bearer Kizza Besigye for voters to camp at their polling stations until results are an-

nounced, the electoral body acknowledged that although the law agrees to such vote protection methods, space constraints at some polling stations may make it difficult for every voter to keep vigil.

The law allows voters to remain 20 metres from polling stations and Dr Besigye has been rallying voters to keep vigil after voting to ensure that the counting and tallying is accurately recorded.

At yesterday's briefing, Inspector General of Police Gen Kale Kayihura, warned that pre-polling day night will be dominated by voter bribery and intimidation as candidates put in

last ditch attempts to win over new voters. "Voter bribery and intimidation are a challenge at the devil's night. This lumpen culture of beating. Why should you beat somebody particularly for political reason. Some of these incidents are by organised criminal gangs," Gen Kayihura said.

Gen Kayuhura, who policed the 2006 and 2011 polls, said the pre-election period has been tension-free, save for the clashes between President Museveni's supporters and Independent candidate Amama Mbabazi's supporters in Ntungamo and Monday's clashes between police and FDC supporters.

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