

Youth MP polls set for today

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KAMPALA. The five youth Members of Parliament from the four regions of Uganda and the female youth MP will be elected today, the Electoral Commission (EC) has confirmed.

The regions include central, western, northern and eastern. The current ones who include Mr Patrick Nakabaale (Central), Mr Gerald Karuhanga (Western), Ms Evelyn Anite (Northern), Mr Patrick Ogwang (Eastern) and Monica Amoding (National Youth MP) are not eligible for re-election. Mr Karuhanga has already been re-elected MP for Ntungamo Municipality.

"The elections will take place between February 28 and 29 in Masaka for the central, Gulu for northern, Fort Portal for the west and Jinja for those in the east," said EC deputy spokesperson Paul Bukenya in a telephone interview with the *Daily Monitor*.

The central youth MP slot had two contestants by press time - Mr Arthur Katongole (Independent) and Ms Sarah Babirye Kityo (NRM), while Ms Ann Ruyondo Lumumba (NRM) and former Makerere University guild president Anne Adeke Ebaju (FDC) and Nakacwa Victoria (indep) were vying for the National (female) Youth MP seat.

The contestants

For the northern Uganda seat, Mr Oscar Omony and Mr Abdul George were in contention, while Mr Muyime Mpaka, son of Agriculture state minister Bright Rwamirama, and Mr Amanywa Tumukunde, son of Lt Gen Henry Tumukunde, were in a tight race for the western slot.

The elections of the Eastern Youth MP were halted by a court injunction after one of the contestants, Mr Isma Mafabi, was found missing on the voters register. Mr Mafabi was competing against Ms Dorothy Okware for the slot.

Youth representatives are provided for under Article 78(2)2 of the Constitution, which also provides for special interest representation for women, workers, the army and persons with disabilities.

Each youth MP is elected by an electoral college, which constitutes all the members of the district youth councils within each region.

MOVING ON

Current Youth MPs Evelyn Anite (Northern) won the Koboko Municipality seat in the recently concluded elections while Peter Ogwang (Eastern) is now the Usuk County MP. Mr Gerald Karuhanga, who was the western Youth MP, won the Ntungamo Municipality MP seat, while Ms Monica Amoding won the Kumi Municipality MP seat. Only Patrick Nakabaale (Central Youth) did not bounce back to Parliament in the just concluded February 18 elections.