

Court orders recount of Tororo Municipality votes

Tension. Court sets today as day for the vote recount.

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TORORO. The Chief Magistrate's Court in Tororo has ordered for recount of votes in the Tororo Municipality parliamentary elections following a petition by Mr Sanjay Tanna, the incumbent area MP.

In her ruling, Ms Esther Nakadama Mubiru, said the circumstances un-

der which Mr Yeri Apollo Ofwono, was declared winner by the returning officer, Mr Fred Muwaya, were questionable.

"Therefore, after hearing from both sides, this court tasks the Electoral Commission to recount the votes cast on February 18," Ms Nakadama, said. The judicial official gazzeted today for the recount.

In his affidavit, Mr Tanna, through his lawyer, Mr Yusufu Mutembuli and Company Advocates alleged that presiding officers in alliance with polling assistants at various polling stations,

"I am going to appeal against the ruling because it reached at by court under circumstances I vehemently doubt. It is the worst court ruling I have ever heard," APOLLO YERI OFWONO, MP-ELECT TORORO MUNICIPALITY

declared most of his votes invalid, something he said handed victory to his opponent.

"Despite protest from my polling agents, the election officials did not shun from doing the same," he said.

Mr Tanna who was not in court

but was represented by his lawyer, explained that matters were made worse when NRM party electoral commission chairperson, Mr Tanga Odoi forced electoral officials to announce election results in favour of Mr Ofwono.

Mr Tanna added that his agents were beaten and chased while in most polling stations, polling officials were intimidated by Mr Odoi.

A case in point was the scenario where a presiding officer at Agururu Primary School Polling Station was beaten, including confiscating of

biometric voter verification machine which was later recovered by police in Petta Sub-county, Tororo District.

Mr Tanna has occupied the seat since 2006.

Mr Ofwono, the NRM flag bearer, who had contested twice for the seat but lost to Mr Tanna, was declared winner after he polled 7,149 against his opponent, who collected 7,045 votes.

During the ruling, police deployed heavily following unconfirmed reports that supporters of Mr Ofwono had planned to cause chaos.