

Presidential, MP vote results discourage Buikwe voters

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BUIKWE. Unlike the previous elections when voter materials arrived late at polling stations in Buikwe District, this time everything was in place as early as 6:30am, but the first person to cast a vote showed up at 9am.

This was the situation at most polling stations in the district as people voted the district local council chairperson and the councillors.

In most areas visited by this newspaper, there was very poor turn out as people stayed home and shunned the exercise.

Some voters were encouraged and picked from their respective homes

by the candidates to vote.

People in Nkokonjeru Town Council told this reporter that they were disappointed with what happened during last week's presidential and parliamentary elections and saw no reason to vote again when their decision would not count in the final result.

They claimed they voted particular candidates in the presidential and parliamentary elections but the Electoral Commission announced different results.

"It is of no use to line up in that sunshine to vote a candidate of your choice when the Electoral Commission has its own results," said Mr Joseph Semanda, a resident of Nkokonjeru. In Nyenga Sub-county, another

resident, Mr Majidu Musoke, said government should stop wasting taxpayers' money on organising election whose results it cannot be credible.

Frustrated

"Here, we elected our MP and he went through, but to our surprise, the returning officer at the tally centre in Buikwe declared another one as the winner after jailing his opponent. I cannot take part again in such elections," said Mr Francis Oundo, a resident of Kidusu village in Nyenga Sub-county.

Other people said they did not know whom to vote and for which office as was the case in urban centres such as Lugazi Division.

"Someone told me that the presi-

dential elections were cancelled and that today we are repeating them, but when I got here, they are telling me that it is the district chairman and the councillors we are supposed to elect. Unfortunately, I don't know any of these people," said Mr Musa Wahabu, a sugar cane harvester working with the Lugazi sugar factory.

The Lugazi Municipality electoral supervisor, Mr Muhamadi Sekajigo, admitted the low voter turnout.

"The picture is totally different from what was at these polling stations during the previous elections," he said.

Meanwhile, police from Lugazi station had to fire tear gas as voters of different candidates traded blows at Community Polling Station in Lugazi

Town. Mr Samuel Madira, the district police commander, told *Daily Monitor* that they fired teargas because supporters had become rowdy.

"Voting at this polling station had to stop for time as we cleared the mess," Mr Madira said.

The race for Buikwe District chairman's seat attracted three contestants Mathius Kigongo (NRM), Immaculate Kabale (Ind) and Democratic Party's Aloysius Kijjambu

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