

University administrators say E-voting, which allows students to vote through an online portal, will improve efficiency and deliver an orderly and credible electoral process.

BY MARIA JACINTA KANNYANGE

NTV recently hosted the 23rd Guild Presidential Debate, organised by the Kyambogo University's electoral commission, bringing together six candidates.

The candidates revealed that they want change particularly in the university tuition policies, academic affairs, and improve student welfare, as the key issues once voted into power.

More than 40,000 students are expected to choose the 23rd guild president and guild representative council (GRC) members on May 8, 2026.

Since last month, emotions have been running high among the six contestants seeking the university students' top seat, as each candidate, flanked by their supporters, sought votes in the race that seeks to replace Emmanuel Andama, whose tenure ended last month.

Although the race has attracted six candidates, the tight contest is between three candidates: Edward Agaba, running with a slogan of "Sanitising the System," Gregory Micheal Edigu, guided by the slogan of "Power back to the Students," and Adrian Ssenabulya, a National Unity Platform-leaning candidate with the slogan "Revolution of Solutions."

The other three contenders include Sharon Nuwahereza, the only woman in the race, who seeks to unite voices and create change in the institution, James Okello, is seeking to break the silence, and Faikah Ibanda, who built his candidature on "Nothing About Kyambogo Without us."

How will the race be won?

Both Agaba and Edigu are running a campaign focused on taking the university back into the hands of the students, whom they believe have been sidelined and are facing numerous challenges, such as a lack of funding for their activities.

They say this platform will enable stu-

Six battle for Kyambogo varsity guild presidency



Adrian Ssenabulya: Bachelor of Arts with Education.



Sharon Nuwahereza: Bachelor of Geographical and Earth Observation Systems.



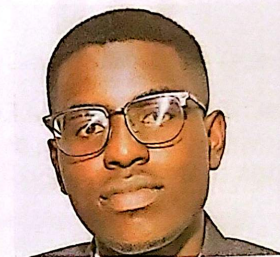
James Okello: Bachelor of Arts with Education



Gregory Michael Edigu: Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition and Dietetics.



Faikah Ibanda: Bachelor of Science with Education (Biological Science). PHOTOS/IBRAHIM KAVUMA



Edward Agaba: Bachelor of Engineering in Civil and Building Engineering.

E-voting
Kyambogo University is moving from ballot voting to E-voting because there were numerous complaints. The voter turnout was low and out of the several reports by the university council, they considered E-voting," **Ms Bridget Mugume, Dean of Students.**

dents to build their potential to air out their views on lack of freedom of expression and unfair fee policies.

In this particular poll, the Faculty of School and the Directorate of Arts and

Humanities have produced three candidates, including Adrian Ssenabulya, Sharon Nuwahereza and James Okello. In this faculty, the stiff competition is between NUP-leaning Ssenabulya and Okello, but observers say the latter is more popular with students at the grassroots.

However, Mr Adama, reigning Kyambogo guild president, told this publication that despite the many candidates fronting for this position, many students have not yet understood the role of a guild president in the lives of the students.

"Many students, including the aspirants, have not understood the role of a guild president. Their main role is ad-

visory towards the students' body and the school management, but many are only looking at the position in another way," he said.

Electronic voting

As has been the case since 2017, Kyambogo University will conduct its 22nd Guild Elections on May 8, using an electronic voting system connected to the student portal, marking a major shift away from previous incidents of violence and disruptions, left behind by the old manual system.

University administrators say the system, which allows students to vote through the online portal, is intended to improve efficiency and deliver a

more orderly and credible electoral process, as the institution prepares to usher in the 22nd Guild House.

Ms Bridget Mugume, the dean of students at the institution, said that the electronic voting is aimed at improving credibility and participation for all credible students to vote securely.

"Kyambogo University is moving from ballot voting to e-voting because there were numerous complaints. It brought a lot of congestion, the voter turnout was low, and out of the several reports by the university council, they considered E-voting due to its advantages," she said. In embarking on the online system of voting, the university administration cited earlier failures but noted that the Information and Technology department of the university had urged students to use strong passwords to avoid being hacked in the system.

Is the system secure?

"The system is very secure. We've been using it to collect fees; now we've incorporated another module of e-voting. On the day of voting, the students just have to update their bio data so that a code is sent to them on their phones," explained Nasser Mugwanya, the Information Technology officer at the university.

"We have thought about our students who do not have smartphones, we have designated voting areas, we have three well-varnished computer labs, where they will vote all live," Ms Mugume said.

Mr Brian Atime, the university electoral commission chairperson, urged the students to turn up in large numbers and assured them of delivering a free and fair election.

"I want to encourage students to turn up in big numbers, they should indicate their correct phone numbers and emails, so that the codes are rightly sent to them, so they vote in their places of convenience," Mr Atime said.

Just like Makerere University last month, students at Kyambogo University will, on May 8, 2026, vote electronically. While previous efforts at e-voting in the institution faced technical glitches, university officials say they have prepared for the 2026 polls.