upon the winner and secures stability for the country.

time presidential candidate Kizza Besigye and former premier Amama

Ugandans will today elect the next president and 403 members of parlia-

ing on a simple candidate but the arrangement later suffered a stillbirth.

No law stops use of phones at poll stations - lawyers

The law. The Uganda Law Society has assured Ugandans that there is no law that stops them from carrying their phones to polling stations.

BY ANTHONY WESAKA
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KAMPALA. As Ugandans go to the polls today, the Uganda Law Society (ULS) has assured all voters that there is no law that stops them from carrying their mobile phones and using them at polling centres.

The law society, an umbrella body that brings together lawyers in the country, through it's president Ruth Sebatindira, also urged Ugandans to go out in big numbers to vote and peacefully remain at the polling stations after casting their ballots.

The lawyers' body also urged the EC to discharge its mandate without fear or favour for the purpose of having a credible election.

The assurance by the law society, on the use of mobile phones comes days after EC chairperson Dr Badru Kiggundu announced the ban.

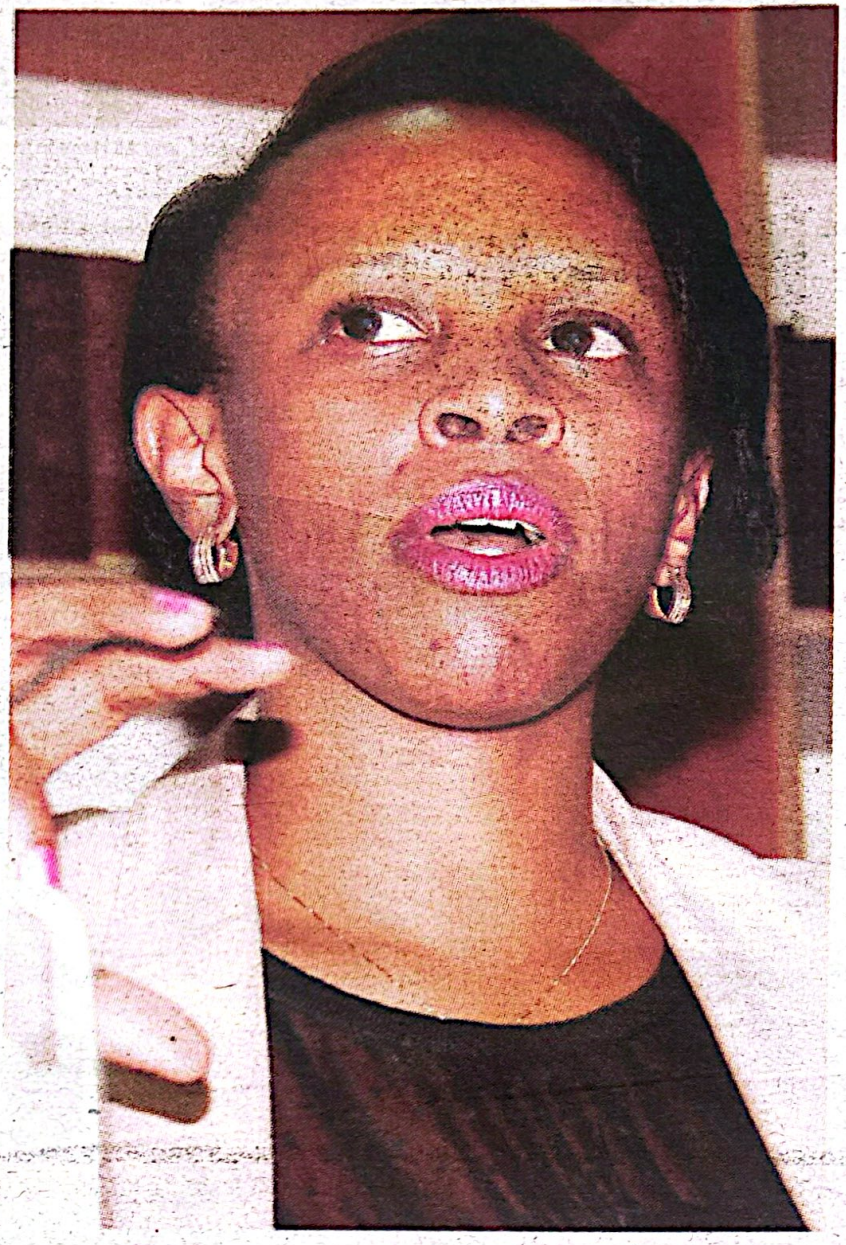
Dr Kiggundu did not give reasons for the ban and neither did he back it up with the law, simply claiming it's an international practice.

"We have become aware of the statements attributed to the Electoral Commission banning the use of mobile phones at polling stations. Whereas the EC must ensure the secrecy of the ballot and the integrity of the election are not compromised, as ULS, we would like to guide the public that there is no law that prohibits the use of mobile phones at a polling station..." said Ms Sebatindira while addressing the press in Kampala yesterday.

"Ugandans are also free and are entitled to remain at the polling station after casting their ballots provided that they remain peaceful and within the prescribed radius. We also call upon the EC to remain and be seen to be neutral in this process," Ms Sebatindira added.

The media briefing by the lawyers came just hours after a local human rights body, Legal Brains Trust, filed a suit against the EC at the High Court in Kampala over the ban.

By press time last evening, court had not yet summoned the EC to file in it's defence.



Ms Ruth Sebatindira addresses a press conference recently. PHOTO BY ABUBAKER LUBOWA

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