

Ongek retains Lamwo seat, Acire loses out to Okumu

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GULU. Disaster Preparedness minister Hillary Obaloker Ongek has retained his Lamwo County parliamentary seat for a fourth term after he was declared winner of the just concluded elections.

Eng Ongek garnered 18,846 votes (56.54 per cent), defeating his rival, Mr George Okello Lucima of the Uganda People's Congress party, who got 11,715 votes (35.15 per cent).

Other contestants in the race included FDC's Denis Orach who garnered 2,657 votes while Mr Marino Onge, an Independent candidate, withdrew from the

race before the elections.

In 2011, Mr Ongek beat off competition from five other contenders, including Mr Lucima.

Meanwhile, Mr Christopher Acire, the incumbent Gulu Municipality MP, who switched constituencies last year in the hope to dislodge fellow party member Reagan Okumu from Aswa County, suffered defeat.

Mr Benson Obete, the Gulu returning officer, on Friday evening announced that Mr Okumu won the elections with a landslide although he didn't disclose the margin he won with.

Mr Acire has, however, refused to concede defeat, claiming that there were many irregularities and that

he was ready to challenge the outcome of the elections in court. He also accused Mr Okumu of disrespecting the court ruling that stopped him from using FDC party signs while campaigning.

In December, High Court presided by Lady Justice Margaret Mutonyi ruled that Mr Acire be given the party flag. This was after he petitioned court claiming that FDC had endorsed Mr Okumu without going through party primaries.

"I have already contacted my lawyers who will soon challenge the elections results. Mr Okumu violated the court rulings and that affected my performances in Aswa County," Mr Acire said.