

Five arrested in Bukedea as voters shun the exercise

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BUKEDEA. Five supporters of the incumbent Bukedea District chairperson, Mr William Wilberforce Tukei, have been arrested over mobilisation of voters on polling day.

Mr Tukei is standing as an Independent after he lost the NRM flag to Mr Moses Olemukan, the current Bukedea Sub-county chairperson.

Bukedea District police commander, Mr Tom Eyaku, identified some of the arrested as Mr Isaac Epilo, the NRM vice chairperson for Bukedea District and a resident of Koir Sub-county and Mr David Emuge, the NRM flag bearer for Bukedea LC 3 seat. Others were identified by only one name as Kasule and Opolot, all residents of Malera Sub-county.

Mr Tukei was by press time still camped at Bukedea Central Police Station demanding the release of his supporters. He claimed the NRM flag bearer could have masterminded the arrests, an allegation Mr Olemukan has dismissed as lies.

Other candidates in the race are Mr James Akodai (Independent) and Emmanuel Osekeny (Go - Forward).

Voters beaten to vote

Meanwhile, in Serere District, like in many parts of the country, there was a poor voter turnout. Residents claimed they were beaten by unidentified people travelling in vehicles without registration numbers to go and vote.

Residents in Kagwara and Bugondo sub-counties told *Daily Monitor* that their tormentors wanted them to forcefully go and vote for the NRM candidate, allegations that this paper couldn't independently verify. The intimidation was said to be more pronounced in Kateta and Kyere sub-counties.

However, Mr George Edward Akonopeesa, the Serere Resident District Commissioner (RDC), rubbished the claims, saying despite the poor turnout, the election was going on smoothly. He defended the presence of heavy deployment of the army and police, saying it was to prevent violence.

"There is no more problem in Serere, the NRM and FDC clashes have diminished. People should go and vote. There are people who have nothing to do and specialised in telling lies," Mr Akonopeesa said.

Forum for Democratic Change's Moses Edonu is contesting against Joseph Opit Okojo (NRM) for the district chair.

In neighbouring Soroti, voters shunned the exercise as majority of the polling stations in the municipality remained empty and residents continued with their businesses.

At Municipal SS polling station, out of the 767 registered voters, only 30 people had cast their votes by 11am, while at Independence Gardens, out of the 2,000 registered voters, only 150 had cast their votes by midday.

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