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Minister Otengo sues EC for election defeat

The claim. She says the tallying and declaration of results was not transparent.

BY BILL OKETCH
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ALEBTONG. The State minister for Northern Uganda, Ms Rebecca Amuge Otengo, has sued the Electoral Commission (EC) claiming it denied her victory when it declared her the loser in the just concluded parliamentary race for Moroto County in Alebtong District.

The EC has been sued together with the Moroto County MP-elect, Mr Samuel Okwir. Ms Otengo, who is the Alebtong Woman MP, contested with six men in Moroto County. However,

she lost to Mr Okwir (Independent), who polled 14,463 votes against Ms Otengo's 11,966 votes.

According to a suit instituted at the Magistrates Court in Lira on Tuesday, February 23, the applicant [Ms Otengo] claims she obtained the highest number of votes but they were either falsified or invalidated with a view to aid the second respondent's victory.

The allegations

She argues that the exercise of counting, tallying and declaration of results was done in contravention of the principles of fairness and transparency.

The NRM candidate further alleges that the first

respondent illegally and unlawfully included the results of 22 polling stations from Aloet Sub-county, which she had earlier before the final tally cancelled on account of irregularities. But later, the results from the 22 polling stations were considered under coercion, pressure and undue influence exerted by supporters of the second respondent.

"It is in the interest of justice and the principles of fairness and transparency that a recount be ordered," she says.

However, dozens of Mr Okwir's supporters who were at the court premises in Lira Town yesterday said they will not accept to go for a recount.

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