

Presidential poll results affect LC turnout

Low turnout. The outcome of the recently concluded presidential polls has led to the low turnout in LC polls.

BY STEPHEN KAFEERO
sdkafeero@ug.nationmedia.com

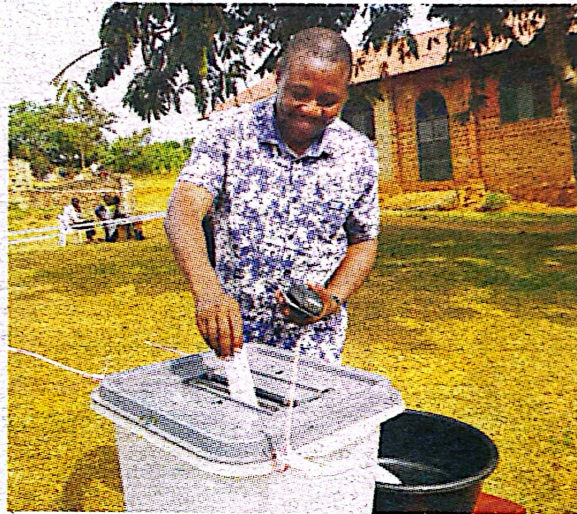
ENTEBBE. The results of the February 18 presidential and parliamentary polls kept voters away from yesterday's local government elections in Entebbe Municipality and its environs, with many voters citing "lack of reasons to vote again when their decision is not reflected by the results."

By 8.30 am, at all the polling centres *Daily Monitor* visited, voting had kicked off, although in most cases, the polling officials were ready with the voting materials but with no voters.

The three contestants

Entebbe is part of Wakiso District and the contest in yesterday's exercise was between the ruling NRM's Jonah Nsubuga and the incumbent Wakiso District LC5 chairman, DP's Matia Lwanga Bwanika and FDC's Umar Kyeyune.

At polling stations such as at Kiwafu Primary School, Kiwafu Muslim Primary School and Entebbe Comprehensive Secondary School all in Division B, Entebbe Municipality which had unprecedented



Incumbent Wakiso LC5 Chairman Matia Lwanga Bwanika (DP) casts his vote at Namulanda B at St Jude Catholic Church Polling Station on Entebbe Road yesterday.
PHOTO BY JOSEPH KIGGUNDU

long queues in last week's exercise, a sole eligible voter could just walk in, clear with the polling officials and proceed to vote without delay.

Entebbe, an opposition DP stronghold according to the 2011 results, saw a resurgence of NRM fortunes, when Ms Rose Tumusiime was declared MP-elect after last week's polls.

But Mr Samson Kikulwe, a bodaboda rider, wondered how Ms Tumusiime was declared despite losing with a wide margin at the polling stations he followed. "The process is fraudulent, let them just name the people they want to win

instead of wasting our time, I will not vote again," Mr Kikulwe said.

Similar sentiments were echoed by residents of neighbouring Busiro South Constituency. "We have lost hope, we voted for another candidate but our ballots were rigged. As DP, our candidate Stephen Sekigozi won but he was rigged out in favour of Mr Peter Ssematimba. Pre-ticked ballots were recovered in Kajjansi," Mr Vincent Nsubuga, a resident of Bukolwa village in Nkumba, alleged.

An NRM supporter who spoke to *Daily Monitor* at Kiwafu Primary School but declined to be named,

said they had defeated the Democratic Party because of a better strategy and "divisions within their [DP] party."

Business as usual

Also, business in the area operated normally despite government announcing the day as a public holiday, with some parents even seen taking their children to school. At Nkumba Primary School and Nkumba Secondary School playground where voting started after midday in last week's polls, a scuffle ensued when the presiding officer attempted to kick out the candidates' agents who didn't possess original appointment letters from candidates. The matter was, however, resolved and voting went on smoothly.

Unlike many of the residents who shunned the exercise, in places where officers of the Special Forces Command vote from such as at St Johns Parish Church (Kakeeka) and Banga, Nakiwogo playground, the officers and men turned out in large numbers to vote. They were, however, intolerant to media cameras, threatening to harm journalists who tried to take photos at the centres. By 2pm, two hours to the close of voting time, voting was almost done except for a few individuals who would occasionally walk in to vote.

Few
Ka
ele

KA
chair
regic
trict:
in M
were
Sc
clair
of m
in th
Hi
ruli
the
of t
tion
com
soi
Up
8tl
de
be
bi
ci
p
n
N
s
s
r