

KICK-U



**Kick Corruption
Out Of Uganda**

KIGEZI SUB REGION
GENERAL ELECTION 2020/21

REPORT

Foreword

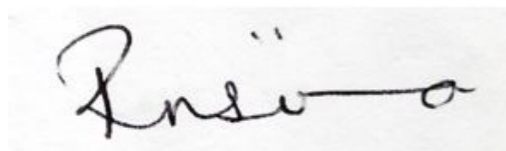
Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) since her inception has reached out to millions of Ugandan citizens in her bid to promote good governance, accountability and protection of fundamental human rights to realise her clear vision of “A corruption free society”. KICK-U cannot boast of achieving this alone and attributes its success towards achieving this vision to the relentless efforts and unique innovative models and approaches of KICK-U and her partners.

Elections are a key component of the governing system and impact a wide range of social, political, and economic developments that determine the direction of any society, and if not properly handled leads to negative impacts. This is why the 2021 Uganda general election observation mission is very important to KICK-U as an organization, and to the citizens given the shrinking civic space across the country. Through the engagements KICK-U has increased her collaboration with security agencies, Local government officials, Election stakeholders, Opinion leaders and members of the general public alike have benefitted from Human rights knowledge and can now ably claim their rights and seek redress using the right mechanisms.

However, as no achievements happen in a vacuum devoid of challenges, KICK-U recognizes that complex challenges and threats relating to the narrowing of Civic space as well as the threats to individual security that characterized the 2021 general election observation mission. For instance, there was a delay in the accreditation of the local observers which itself delayed the processes of training and deployment plans. KICK-U will continue to use this collaboration with relevant stakeholders as well as civic mentors to champion reforms meant to deliver long-term solutions to governance challenges in Uganda and look forward to sustainable initiatives that will further enable Ugandans to live better and successful lives.

Lastly, on behalf of Kick Corruption out of Uganda Board, the project staff, the observers and every key stakeholder that participated faithfully in this project, I would like to thank National Democratic Institute (NDI) for the financial and technical assistance to KICK-U without which, the successes that we now proudly speak of would not have been attained. I believe that together, we can consolidate our past gains and usher in the future that is more impactful, resilient and inclusive of all.

NINSIIMA RONAH RITAH
BOARD CHAIR- KICK-U



Acknowledgment

The Management of Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) would like to acknowledge the contribution of her staff, the Master Trainers and the Observers towards achieving the Election observation mission of 2021. Your tireless efforts in the observation of elections, Post-election reporting and the compilation of this report are without a doubt highly appreciated.



Robert Byamugisha Kakuru
Executive Director, Kick Corruption out of Uganda

List of Acronyms

KICK-U	Kick Corruption out of Uganda
DENIVA	Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations
NDI	National Democratic Institute
ACFIM	Alliance Campaign and Finance Monitoring
DGF	Democratic Governance Facility
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
DPC	District Police Commander
STO	Short Term observer
LTO	Long Term Observer
EC	Electoral Commission
BVVK	Biometric Voter Verification Kit
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
PEAM	Post-Election Advocacy Meetings
Tos	To section

Executive Summary

Uganda like other countries witnessed and is still experiencing cases of violence in the electoral processes. In Uganda, Elections have been marred by vote-buying and selling, the dominance of the ruling party (NRM) to retain power, lack of civic awareness and unlevelled ground for other political players that has had a bearing in accelerating violence in the communities of Uganda. This project on Engaging citizens in peaceful Elections was thus necessary and timely to this effect.

This project enabled the deployment of observers in the six districts (Kabale, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Kisoro, Rukiga and Rubanda) of Kigezi Sub Region in South western Uganda. The project aimed at monitoring the Election Day, post-election period, including violence at women in elections, and contributing to the prevention of the election process from exacerbating existing tensions. The project targeted a cross-section of beneficiaries ranging from political actors, the citizenry and government agencies like the Electoral Commission and security agencies.

A team of 8 trainers were recruited and trained to conduct training of observers that conducted Election Days and post-election monitoring. Out of the several citizens who applied to be observers, 93 observers were selected, recruited, trained and accredited across the 6 districts of Kigezi Sub region to observe the 14th January 2021 and the post-election environment for the next 3 days after the general election. Out of 93 observers, 30 observers were selected for hot spot

areas throughout the Kigezi Sub region. These underwent training and were deployed to observe the 20th, 25th January and 3rd February 2021 local elections. Furthermore, post-elections advocacy campaigns were conducted through round table discussions in the six districts of the Kigezi Sub-region to discuss among others; Election security and citizen participation, Voter education, election administration and logistics management, Money politics and electoral fraud; and draft a communiqué on the electoral process status and opportunities for advancing electoral reforms.

This report presents suggestions on several strategies recommended by KICK-U for engaging citizens in promoting fair and nonviolent elections. Government should intensify efforts to address insecurity in many parts of the country by apprehending the security organs that violate the rights of her citizens; enforce the law with regards to illegal activities such as vote-buying on election; ensure the independence of the Electoral Commission including financial independence to enable the EC to budget and execute on time; establishing the Electoral Offenses and Political Parties Registration Commission to enhance the accountability.

The Independent National Electoral Commission should increase efforts to encourage voters to register before the close of continuous voter registration period, undertaken extensive campaign to raise voter awareness on the need to collect PVCs before ahead of the next elections, pursue user friendly electoral technological for issuance of Voter Verification Slips (VVSs) interlinked with the Biometric Voter Verification kits (BVVK), fully implement its PWD framework to ensure

the voting process is more accessible to PWDs, track and publicize political party compliance with commitments on gender representation in leadership positions and on candidate lists within the party, enhance communication strategies to better match how Ugandans consume information such as through community radio and social media and short videos, release early sample ballots to facilitate voter education efforts since most of the voters especially the newly registered voters had never seen a ballot paper which may have to some extent led to several invalid votes cast. Political parties should conduct transparent and democratic candidate selection processes that adhere to their by-laws and policies to set pace for the general elections; make concerted efforts to encourage and support women, youth, and PWD candidates beyond providing free nomination forms; initiate issue-based campaigns that address national priorities, such as security, the economy, and governance, conduct voter education campaigns and disseminate messages of peace and tolerance among their supporters, respect the rule of law including the Electoral Commission guidelines for political parties especially provisions against the use of violence and hate speech that could incite violence. Civil society should begin voter and civic education efforts early in the election process and work very closely with government agencies; including the Uganda Electoral Commission to inform voters about the election process, including the collection of VVSs, how to vote, and keeping the peace, educate voters on their civic responsibilities and the value of their vote, emphasizing the negative effects of vote buying, continue to pursue inclusion and equal

opportunity advocacy efforts with the EC and political parties to increase the participation of women, youth, and PWDs, work closely with the media and explore avenues for monitoring, exposing, and countering disinformation, use of derogatory words and hate speech and continue monitoring and observing the election process, disseminating impartial findings, and advocating for improvements to election integrity through early initiatives to mitigate tensions between contestants that run in primary elections for the different political parties.

The Media should report accurately, responsibly and professionally in line with the media code of conduct and on guidelines of the Uganda Communications Commission to foster civil discourse, do fact-check and verify the information before publishing and avoid outlets that spread disinformation; and organize candidate debates in coordination with civil society to further expose the candidates to the electorates and enable information sharing with voters and policy discussions.

The international community/donors should provide timely support to Ugandan civil society to enable groups to begin voter education and undertake comprehensive election observation (citizen engagement, citizen election observers, and violence mitigation campaigns) early in the election process, and provide diplomatic mediation and pressure on the political actors regularly to prevent escalation of tension or total breakdown of law and order.

Juliet Tushemereirwe 
Programs coordinator, Kick Corruption out of Uganda

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Kick Corruption out of Uganda (KICK-U) formally Kick corruption out of Kigezi (KICK) is a registered Anti-corruption Coalition of indigenous Civil Society Organisations, special interest groups and individuals in Uganda working in partnership with Public and private institutions to fight against corruption and abuse of fundamental Human Rights to access vital development Services countrywide.

KICK –U was officially registered in 2006 with Kabale District Local Government as a Coalition of Civil Society Organizations to empower communities in Kigezi to fight corruption. It obtained its formal registration certificate as a local Non- Governmental Organization in 2014 under Reg. No.10775 with the Uganda National NGO Board (now National NGO Bureau). And it is also registered with the Financial Intelligence Authority Reg. No. FIA-14-000583 and URSB No. 80020002499232 (Certificate of Incorporation). KICK-U was assessed by the National Council for Quality Assurance Mechanism and fulfilled the requirements for the award of the advanced QuAM certificate.

KICK-U Vision is “A Corruption Free Society” and the mission is facilitating Communities to demand for Accountability and Good governance for improved Service delivery. To achieve her Vision and mission, KICK-U work is hinged on the following objectives;
 To fight Corruption and promote Good

Governance and Accountability.
 To Sensitize and Empower Communities to demand for Accountability.
 To Promote and Protect Human Rights
 To Promote Partnership and Networking with other Development Partners and
 To build a vibrant Anti-corruption Coalition.

KICK-U’s core mandate is to mobilize citizens and empower them to demand accountability from their leaders for effective, quality, and adequate service delivery. KICK-U empowers citizens to participate in the national development agenda through being part of the planning, budgeting and service delivery monitoring structures and systems that strive to fight corruption in all its forms. KICK-U currently operates in the six districts of Kigezi Sub-region but has the mandate to work all over the country. The districts are; Kabale, Rukungiri, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukiga and Rubanda. Policy formulation and oversight roles are undertaken by an 8 (Eight) member Board of Directors elected every three years at an Annual General Meeting.

1.1 KICK-U Previous engagements in the election process

KICK-U in partnership with DENIVA with support from DGF implemented an 11 months' (July 2015 –May 2016) voter education project within Kabale District and for the July-October quarter, KICK reached the community members of Muyumbu neighbourhood assembly in Kyanamira Sub County and Nyakasiru Neighbourhood assembly in Bukinda sub-county and A-level students in Kabale district. KICK-U also in 2016 conducted a 'NO VOTE BUYING AND SELLING' campaign in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). In 2016, KICK-U participated in Election observation under the Citizens Observation Network – Uganda (Towards 2016: Conducting a Unified, Comprehensive, and Effective Election Observation Mission in Uganda). KICK-U in partnership with ACFIM in 2020 monitored Electoral Financing in the region where the Districts of Kabale and Rukungiri were under monitoring.

1.2 2021 Election Observation Process.

1.3 Methodology/Structure/Accreditation

Based on a standard and acceptable criteria for election observation, KICK-U recruited 93 observers who were trained, accredited by the EC and deployed across the various districts during elections. For the 14th January 2021 Presidential and Parliamentary elections, KICK-U deployed 93 accredited observers across the six districts of Kigezi including the six district tally centres. These observers also were deployed for the next three days post January 14 elections to monitor any incidents of violence. Using the cascade

training model, and in line with the COVID-19 SOPs for the prevention of the spread of the pandemic, these observers were trained by 8 Master Trainers in the step down training. The Master trainers were initially trained during the training of trainers (ToT) by the technical partner.

The training of the short-term election observers focused on several aspects of election observation including the electoral calendar, the deployment plan, training plan and logistics, reporting, election day procedures, tabulation at sub-county and tally centres, violence monitoring, violence against women in elections and election-related laws and regulations. The training also covered how to complete the election day checklist and critical incident forms, basic hygiene and COVID-19 SOPs and reporting to the KICK-U information centre.

From the 93 short term observers, there was a scale down to 30 observers who were set up in places that were considered hot spot areas throughout the Kigezi Sub-region. The 30 selected observers were again equipped with the relevant checklists and critical incidents forms and were deployed to observe the 20th, 25th January and 3rd February 2021 local elections. The same 30 observers were again trained as long term observers (LTOs) and deployed with the post-election violence monitoring checklist and critical incident forms. These observers monitored and reported on the post-election environment within their districts for the month of February 2021.

1.4 Stakeholders Outreach and Communication.

KICK-U worked closely with other stakeholders in the successful completion of the Election Observation Mission for 2021. The interactions were physical or virtual via the mobile phone. KICK-U constantly engaged the Electoral Commission through the accreditation of the Local observers in the Sub-region and also engaged candidates and political parties in consensus building for a peaceful election.

Throughout the four election days that observers were deployed, and the post-election monitoring of the environment, KICK-U provided citizens with routine updates, statements and reports on the observation findings through the media. During the post-election monitoring phase, KICK-U also held post-election advocacy roundtables with critical stakeholders for knowledge sharing on the lessons and findings from the 2021 general elections.

CHAPTER 2 2021 ELECTORAL CONTEXT

2.0 Introduction

This section looks at the Political, Legal/Administrative, Social and Security contexts the 2021 General Elections took place as well as a trends analysis for the 2016 and 2021 Elections.

2.1 Social context

The environment in which the Election Mission took place was an abnormal situation that was characterized by COVID-19 where the whole world in general and Uganda as a country was in Panic. Because of the pandemic, there were restrictions on crowded physical campaign rallies as the EC decided that campaigns be done virtually. This was rather a very expensive and technologically challenging venture for those without enough funding for the election.

2.2 Security context

For two days in November 2020, Uganda witnessed some of the most violent riots in a decade. The riots were triggered by the arrest of opposition presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi, who was challenging the incumbent Yoweri Museveni in the February 14, 2021, election. Authorities alleged that Kyagulanyi, better known as Bobi Wine, had consistently disregarded COVID-19 related election campaign guidelines limiting gatherings to no more than 200 people. In the violence that ensued, contingents of heavily armed police and the army responded with tear gas and live ammunition, resulting in the death of at least 45 people. Eleven members of the security forces were also reportedly injured during the riots. The lethal use of force to break up these riots provoked national and international condemnation and also raised questions around

the standard applied by Uganda's security forces in quelling this and similarly deadly riots in the past. The blanket and indiscriminate use of firearms and live ammunition led directly to the carnage witnessed in only two days. This violent response of police and army units trickled down to the local levels in the local communities which has reinforced the view that Uganda must overhaul its national legal framework on the use of force and firearms during law enforcement. The current framework contains highly permissive and ambiguous standards which enable law enforcement actors to use excessive force with no clear lines of accountability.

The framework doesn't address Uganda's long-standing reliance on the army for strictly law enforcement tasks. Army officers deployed in this way were obliged to obey the orders of their superiors working in collaboration with the officers in charge of the civil power. This is highly unlikely given the record of past brutally executed joint law enforcement tasks.

Ugandan presidential campaigning and election activity continued to bring about large gatherings which increased the risk of violence, civil crime, significant traffic disruptions and COVID-19 transmission. Clashes at these gatherings and outbreaks of violence occurred before, during, and after the general elections in Uganda. Police routinely used force, including tear gas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition, to disperse protests. Demonstrations throughout Uganda were likely to remain common and this escalated to violence. It was up to Ugandans to avoid demonstrations and crowds and take proper precautions against the spread of COVID-19.

Through the observation by the Local Observers, the election processes from the parliamentary and the Local Self Government elections, the presence of the military and security personnel was very rampant and observed. This was the security background to the 2021 elections which many argue is responsible for the low participation of citizens in the electoral process as was the case in Kigezi Sub-region.

2.3. Political context

Article 1 (4) of the 1995 constitution of Uganda as amended states that "The people shall express their will and consent on who shall govern them and how they should be governed through regular, free and fair elections. This was done through presidential elections, Parliamentary elections and through the Local Self Government Elections"

From 11th January to February 3rd, 2021, Uganda went to the polls. On 11th January, there were elections for Councillors for youth to sub-county/town/municipal divisions, elections for Councillors for PWDS to sub-county/town/municipal divisions and elections for older persons to sub-county/town/municipal divisions. On 12th January, there were elections for Councillors for youth to Municipality/city divisions, elections for PWDS to Municipality/city divisions and elections for older persons to Municipality/city divisions. On January 14th, 2021, Uganda went to the polls for the election of the president, Members of parliament (Directly elected MP) and the district woman representative to parliament. On 20th January 2021, there were elections of District Local Government Councils (District/city Chairpersons, Lord Mayors, Mayors and their councillors. On 25th January 2021, there

was the election of municipality chairpersons and councillors. On 27th January 2021, there was the election of councillors for youths to the district local government councils, election of councillors for PWDS to the district local government councils and election of councillors for older persons to the district local government councils. On 3rd February 2021, there was an election of sub-county/town municipal division chairpersons and councillors and that concluded the 2021 round of national elections.

The context of these elections was set in the pre-election environment which was rife with infractions; relating to gagging of the campaign space of opposition candidates, flagrant human rights abuses, violence, harassment and intimidation of opposition candidates and sometimes; their supporters. Gagging of the free space climaxed with Ugandans being handed an internet shutdown before, during and after the presidential and parliamentary elections which further heightened the tensions.

According to a press statement released by the Electoral Commission on 26th December 2020, there were key policies passed which affected the political dynamics under which the candidates and electorates had to operate. The conduct of campaigns was to be done following the measures and guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) put in place by the Ministry of Health to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the Standard Operating Procedures issued by the Electoral Commission to prevent and combat person-to-person, person-to-object and object-to-person spread of the COVID-19 during the conduct of electoral activities.

Accordingly, processions and public/mass rallies were banned. Candidates were allowed to organize/hold campaign meetings, in a regulated manner, preferably outdoors, with limited attendance of a maximum of seventy (70) persons, to enable the observance of

the 2-meters social distancing rule for the persons attending the meeting. However, the maximum number of persons attending campaign meetings was later revised to 200. Candidates and their agents were further advised to use non-contact means of communication to interact with the electorates. These included fliers, leaflets, brochures, posters, billboards and banners; radio and television programs and talk shows; short messaging services (SMS), voice messaging, and digital media platforms and websites. This was such an expensive venture which was not inclusive and made the candidates compete in an unfair environment. The electorates who are also responsible for bringing about change were in a way left out due to the many restrictions put in place by the Electoral Commission.

The operation of the organized civil society in Uganda's Electoral space was equally limited. Human rights defenders and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that play an important role in promoting an enabling environment for the respect and protection of human rights. CSOs support the electoral processes in areas such as voter education, independent election monitoring and peace building towards reducing election-related conflict. Most of these activities were not done because of the closing space. Organizations such as the Uganda National NGO Forum and Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) that were engaging in election-related activities had their bank accounts arbitrarily frozen following allegations of money laundering.

In light of the numerous and widespread violations that were observed, there was a strong justification to be concerned over the fairness and integrity of the Uganda elections. Clearly, the political context before, and during the election was highly unbalanced and have largely remained dicey in the post-election period.

2.4 Legal/ Administrative context

In what is now an occurrence every five years, the Parliament of Uganda passed amendments to electoral laws. This occurrence, at the close of each five-year cycle of government, has been ongoing since 2005, with reforms to laws regulating the elections management body (Electoral Commission), political parties and organizations, presidential, parliamentary, and local government elections. Originally gazetted as separate bills on July 24, 2019, the Parliament on July 15, 2020, passed the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act 2020; the Political Parties and Organizations (Amendment) Act 2020; the Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act 2020; and the Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act 2020. While they seemed like the routine run-of-the-mill amendments to electoral laws as the country geared for the 2021 general elections, the amendments assumed an added significance in the wake of what has transpired since the last elections in 2016—the presidential election petition (and the recommendations by the Supreme Court on electoral reforms), the removal of the age-limit to candidates in elections and, in the recent, a COVID-19 pandemic and nascent political discourse over “scientific campaigns”.

In effect, the imprints of the decision of the Supreme Court in *Amama Mbabazi v. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni & Another, Election Petition No 1/2016* and the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2018 were evident in the electoral law amendments.

This Legal Alert highlights key aspects of the amendments in the electoral laws that affected the 2021 general elections were;

- Use of Technology in Elections where the amendments to the electoral laws provided for the adoption and use of technology in the management of elections. As regards the elections management body, there were new subsections (1a)-(1d) to section 12 of the Electoral Commission Act Cap 140. The Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act 2020 provided for adoption by the Commission, in exercise of its powers, of technology in the management of elections (s. 12(1a), put in place by the Commission of electronic display system for the public at every tallying centre (s.12(1b) and regulations, by way of a statutory instrument, to prescribe the manner of use of technology in the management of elections (s. 12(1c)-(1d)). On the other hand, as regards the presidential elections law, section 56(2) of the Presidential Elections Act 2005 was substituted to provide for the electronic transmission of electoral results by returning officers to the Commission—that is, the return form, tally-sheets and declaration of results forms. The electronic transmission required copies to be made available to political parties and candidates, though it did not do away with delivery of hard copies of the listed documents to the Commission.
- The Parliamentary Elections Amendment) Act 2020 amended the provisions of section 8(5) of the Parliamentary Elections Act No 17/2005 by requiring the filling of elective positions of Members of Parliament in respect of newly created districts or constituencies to be deferred until the next general parliamentary elections. The amendment meant that the Electoral Commission will only hold elections for the

representatives of new districts or constituencies at the next general election, rather than schedule elections during the term of a Parliament whenever a new district or constituency is created.

- The amendments to the electoral laws guide the management of elections on the part of the Electoral Commission. The amendments to the Electoral Commission Act Cap 140 by the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act 2020 could be summed up as: transmission of voters’ registers to political parties and organizations in the event of by-elections (amendment to s. 18A (introduced by Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act No 15/2010)), re-designation of electoral office-bearers in terms of District registrars as district election administrators (ss. 21 and 23) and assistant registrars as assistant district election administrators (ss. 22(1), (3) and 23) in respect of a district (replacing a constituency) (s. 22(1)).

- Appointment of returning officers (and assistants) for electoral districts and special interest groups (amendment to s. 30(1)-(5)). The amendments result in new provisions in respect of qualifying requirements of moral character and integrity in the appointment as returning officers (or assistants) (s. 30(1a)).

- Polling and Polling Procedures: the amendments introduced changes to the commencement of polling in terms of the presiding officers demonstrating the first ballot box as devoid of any contents. The Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act 2020 and the Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act 2020 as

amended sections 30(8) and 31(8) of the 2005 Acts respectively, in requiring that this polling procedure be carried out in the full view of at least ten voters who were registered to vote at the polling station (rather than, as was previously required, in the full view of all present).

By and large, the legal amendments sought to align the electoral laws with the recommendations of the Supreme Court and the constitutional amendments introduced by Constitution (Amendment) Act 2018. In restricting the campaign times in presidential elections, the electoral reforms address concerns that have bedevilled previous elections where campaigns have been held late into the nights.

In providing for timely declaration of sources of campaign finance within 14 days after nomination, the electoral reforms were meant to address the concerns that have persisted in previous presidential elections since 2005 (or even as far back as 1996) and, apart from adding prohibited financial assistance from terrorist organizations.

The electoral reforms—in terms of the polling procedures (requiring ten eligible voters to witness empty ballot boxes) and the streamlined provisions on voting in restricted areas was meant to curb the widespread use of the COVID 19.

2.5 Trends analysis of 2016 and 2021 elections

The number of registered voters increased from 15,277,198 in 2016 general elections to 18,103,603 in 2021 creating an increase of 2,826,405 registered voters. In 2016, the total number of votes cast was 10,329,131 representing 76.61% of all the votes cast. However, in 2021, though the number of registered voters increased, only 10,350,819 representing a 59.35% voter turnout. In 2016 the total number of invalid votes represented 4.6% of total votes cast and reduced to 3.66% in the 2021 elections, while spoilt votes increased from 29,005 to 29,913 for presidential election alone. This analysis shows a decrease in voter turnout even in the face of an increase in voter registration. The number of spoilt votes continues to increase but with the reduction in the number of invalid votes. Voter turnout reduced considerably from 67.61% to 59.35% representing 8.26% reduction.

The reduction in voter turnout for 2021 is likely related to the gross human rights abuses and impacts of COVID-19 EC restrictions, Ministry of Health guidelines on COVID-19 and lack of a robust voter education campaign due to restrictions on voter campaigns. Whereas the 2016 elections campaigns were open, the 2021 elections campaigns were conducted scientifically using virtual platforms and limiting rallies. Toward 2021 elections, some triggers marred the pre-election environment which made people sceptical about the 2021 election outcome, with pronounced abuse of human rights on opposition campaigns that claimed lives in some regions of Kampala and surrounding districts.

CHAPTER 3 2021 GENERAL ELECTIONS FINDINGS

3.0 Introduction

This section presents the 2021 general elections findings based on KICK-U observation deployment across the various elections.

3.1 Presidential Elections

From the 93 observers that were deployed in the 93 sub-counties of the Kigezi Sub-region for the 14th January Presidential/Parliamentary elections, 92 observers reported. The findings as presented here cover the elections across the districts of Kabale, Rubanda, Rukiga, Kanungu, Kisoro and Rukungiri. A total of 264 polling stations were observed on the polling day. The findings are as follows; On arrival and polling stations set up: 250 out of 264 polling stations had opened by 6:30 am; a few polling stations were affected by morning rainfall and did not open. At all the polling stations, all the accredited observers were allowed to observe and all the venues where the 14th January 2021 elections were held were accessible by all. General Polling environment: The general polling environment for the Presidential/Parliamentary elections was peaceful at all the polling stations that the observers visited. No case of violence was reported.

Polling Administration

At the polling stations where mobile observers visited, 90 polling stations did not have functional BVVK machines. This impacted the rate at which a voter was processed for voting which in turn caused impatience leading to many voters leaving the polling stations without voting. In 250 polling stations, there was heavily armed security personnel deployment which increased the fear leading to many prospective voters not coming out to vote. In all the 264 polling stations where voting was done, there was no stamping on the back of each ballot paper, a practice that would lead to stuffing and still, the officers in charge of the polling stations would never read out names loud for the party agents to hear. SOPs for the control of COVID 19 were not observed, people never wore masks and there was no social distancing nor hand washing or sanitizing.



Bugongi Catholic Parish Polling station in Northern Division, Kabale Municipality in Total Violation of the COVID-19 Guidelines. Congested lines with No water and No Sanitizer (Photo credit: KICK-U, January 14)

Most Polling stations still had Posters of Candidates around after the close of campaign in clear violation of the Electoral Laws.



Bugongi Market Polling station in Northern Division, Kabale Municipality with Posters around the polling station (Photo credit: KICK-U, January 14, 2021)

It was also noted that out of 85 polling stations of the total number that the observers visited, the polling officials were assisting more than one person to cast their ballot. This was augmented by the high rates of vote buying that was observed in the nearby social centres in bars and market places which compromised the citizens that were voting for their candidates.

The Tally Centre and declaration of results:

At all the 264 polling stations where the counting of the votes was done for the Presidential/Parliamentary elections that were held on 14th January 2021, the results after being read by the presiding officers were accepted by all the party agents and they appended their signatures without any conflict. The results that were declared at the polling stations were the same results that were presented to the tally centres and final declarations were made. The whole process as reported by the roving observers for the 6 district tally centres was very peaceful.

3.2. 2021 Local Government elections findings

The general findings of the Local government election are classified under different sub topics of polling administration, voting process, counting and declaration of results, and the tallying process. The observers also monitored opening, closing and counting procedures at the observed polling stations. In addition, six roving observers were deployed to observe District tally centres where the final tallying and declaration of results was done. Overall KICK-U observers reported that the majority of voters who showed up to vote had the opportunity to cast their

ballot. However, KICK-U observers noted pockets of violent incidents during the tallying process as was released in the various press statements that KICK-U shared on 24th January and 5th February 2021 from the press releases. As per the press releases for these dates, the following were the findings;

On 24th of January, the general environment on polling day was relatively peaceful at 112 of 114 polling stations visited by our observers. No cases of intimidation and violence were observed at the polling stations KICK-U observed. However, the situation at the tally centres slightly varied as incidents of violence were recorded. While the general environment on polling day both on January 25 and February 3 was relatively peaceful at 70 of 72 polling stations visited by KICK-U observers. At 2 polling stations in Kisoro District, (Shaza Playground B polling station and Little Rose Pre & Primary school polling station) the environment was not peaceful during the 3rd February elections as cases of voter intimidation and violence were observed.

3.2. 1 polling administration

On 20th January 2021, all KICK-U observers were stationed at the 30 polling stations by 6:30am but only twelve had polling officials present. While at 15 polling stations, voting commenced between 8-9am, 4 polling stations before 8:00am and at 11 polling stations, voting started between 9-10am.

Out of all the 114 polling stations visited, the Biometric Voter Verification Kit (BVVK) was available but functional in 103. Other voting

materials which included the ink pad, ballot boxes, register present. Party agents and accredited observers were also present in the observed polling stations. At 12 of the 30 polling stations, standard operating procedures for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 were not strictly followed.

For the 25th January and 3rd February elections, KICK-U observers across the 9 polling stations on 25th January 2021 were at the polling stations by 6:30am but only 3 had polling officials present. Out of the 9 polling stations where observers were stationed in the morning, only one polling station started voting before 8:00 am and at 8 polling stations, voting commenced between 9-10m. While for the 3rd February elections, out of the 19 polling stations where observers visited before 6:30 am, only 5 polling stations had polling officials present. Out of the 19 polling stations visited on 3rd February, only 2 polling stations started voting before 8:00 am and at 17 polling stations, voting commenced between 9-10 am.

Out of all the 72 polling stations visited, the Biometric Voter Verification Kit (BVVK) was available and functional throughout the period observed at 69 polling stations and all the other voting materials which include the ink pad, ballot boxes and voter register were available. Party agents for the candidates were equally not denied access as they observed the election-day proceedings. There were peculiar instances observed at Bugyeyo Catholic Church and Nyarutembe Polling stations in Nyabwishenya Sub County where the candidates for the councilorship positions were unopposed and as such, there were no ballot boxes and papers

provided at the stations.

3.2.2 Voting Process

On 20th January 2021, in general, the voting process went swiftly at 114 polling stations that KICK-U observers visited during the day. At all the polling stations, the voting basins had been set up to ensure secrecy and no cases of ballot stuffing were recorded. The voter turnout was generally low compared to the presidential and parliamentary elections held on 14th of January 2021. And this may not be unconnected with the fact that the voting day for 20th of January was not declared a public holiday and being the middle of the week, most people had gone back to their respective workplaces.

On 25th January and 3rd February 2021 elections, out of the 72 polling stations visited for the voting exercise, 18 polling stations did not follow the COVID 19 regulations (SOPS) like handwashing, sanitizing, wearing face masks and physical distancing in queues. This has an implication on the health of the electorates that participated in the exercise and grossly endangers all who took part in the elections within such locations. At 48 polling stations out of 72 where observation was made, the polling stations were devoid of campaigning materials at the entrance which also compromised the electoral commission guidelines. There were 9 reported cases of vote-buying and inducement around the polling stations (This was observed at Murengyeza T/C polling station, Kabale Central stadium, Kiyaga Polling station, Makerere college Campus polling station, Kigiina Dignity Polling station, Muramba Polling station, Burondo T/C polling station, Kabura Trading centre polling station and Mburameizi T/C polling station) and at 16 polling stations, there was a

heavy presence of security personnel which sometimes left voters in fear and suspicion of their presence. At all the polling stations, the voting basins had been set up to ensure secrecy and no cases of ballot stuffing were recorded. Compared to the 14th January and 20th January 2021 elections, there was still a low voter turnout. This was likely attributed to the fact that the voting days were not observed as public holidays.

3.2.3 Counting and Declaration of

Results

On 20th January 2021, KICK-U observers did not note any issues about the counting of votes since it was done in the open at all the polling stations. At the polling stations monitored by KICK-U observers, the votes were declared at the polling stations and the declaration forms signed. KICK-U observers also reported that the situation after the declaration of the results was peaceful outside the polling stations where they had observed and the results were transferred to the District Tally Centers.

During the 25th January and 3rd February 2021 elections, KICK-U observers did not record any serious irregularity during the counting of votes on January 25 and February 3. Vote counting was done in the open at all the polling stations KICK-U observed, the votes were declared at the polling stations and declaration forms signed. KICK-U observers also reported that the situation after the declaration of the results was peaceful outside the polling stations where they had observed and the results were transferred to the District Tally Centers.

The tallying process in the tally centres of

Kanungu, Rubanda, Rukungiri and Kabale was relatively peaceful for both elections save for a few instances like in Kisoro District where there was a commotion when Annet Kansime, a candidate for female councillor, was allegedly found stuffing ballots and when her opponent was declared the winner, she rejected the results; which led to a fight between rival supporters. Relatedly, fighting erupted between rival groups at Rukiga district tally center where there was a shooting involving polling constables at the Rukiga Tally center which resulted in the death of one person; identified as Constable Abaho Felix. The tallying process and declaration of the final winners was done and followed through according to the guidelines of the Electoral Commission.

CHAPTER 4 POST-ELECTION OBSERVATION

4.0 Introduction

The section presents findings on the post-election observation set up and the post-election observation reports.

4.1 Post-election observation reports:

KICK – U deployed 30 long term/post-election observers whose role was to document any signs of violence in the hot spot areas that they were deployed in. Cases of critical incidents were reported and they were majorly;

- i) The arrests of candidates
- ii) Sexual abuse & harassment against women & girls
- iii) Hate speech and derogatory statements
- iv) Physical intimidation
- v) Candidates inciting violence
- vi) Political thugs attacking members of the community
- vii) And violence leading to death.

Due to the above challenges that were reported from the communities in which the observers were placed, KICK-U followed up with post-election advocacy meetings that were intended to sit on a round table with stakeholders that were to bring together their thoughts in getting better solutions. These meetings were organised and every roundtable discussion had its own unique and detailed dialogue. Needed reforms on what to be done to have peaceful elections in 2026 were discussed.

During the pre and post-election environment, KICK-U observed that there were many cases

reported of hate speech against candidates and members of the community based on their gender, ethnicity, age, religion and disabilities. 19 cases of these were reported across the Kigezi Sub region. 13 cases of physical intimidation, harassment and violence against candidates were registered. There was a case of political thugs attacking and intimidating supporters or other members of political parties. There were cases of Sexual abuse including, intimidation, verbal/ physical harassment against women, and PWDS. The cases were reported in the districts of Rukungiri and Kisoro in the sub counties of Nyakishenyi and Nyakinama, Nyabwishenya respectively.

4.2 Post-election Advocacy/Roundtable

The round table discussions were held in the six districts of the Kigezi Sub region. KICK –U used a roundtable discussion agenda attached in the appendices to deliberate on the following;

- i) Election security and citizen participation.
- ii) Voter education, election administration and logistics management.
- iii) Money politics and electoral fraud.
- iv) Open discussion and communiqué draft and adoption
- v) Opportunities for advancing electoral reforms. Each district had its own unique deliberations in the sub region.

4.2.1 Post Election Advocacy meetings

KICK-U organized post-election advocacy meetings across the 6 districts of Kigezi Sub

region of Kabale, Rubanda, Rukiga, Kisoro, Kanungu and Rukungiri. The meetings were held on 10th March, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th April 2021 in the respective Districts. The round table discussions were guided by an agenda that focused on key issues that affected the 2021 general. Participants highlighted some of the findings, observations were made and KICK-U together with the participating stakeholders made recommendations on how to improve future elections.

4.2.1.1 Election security and citizen's participation

The general observation around election security and Citizens participation in the 6 districts of Kigezi Sub region was assessed by the stakeholders and KICK-U. The trend of events in the pre, during and the post-election environment was that of massive deployment of Special police constables across the region on a contract of three months. The heavy deployment of the armed personnel is widely perceived to have had an effect on the voter turnout; as it created tension and fear. In the Kigezi sub region; in order to keep some level of peace and calm, members of the community were urged by the Uganda police to be each other's' keeper based on what had been happening in the country. The police worked together with the District returning officers on the mapping of the election routes which gave the region some level of peacefulness during the electoral period. The roundtable also found that the EC backed the deployment of heavily armed personnel to quell tensions resulting from the challenges they had with the failure of operation of the BVVK Machines.

The pre-election environment being tense led to a low voter turnout and since voting was done during the COVID era, members of the communities were sceptical about their health and safety and so decided to keep indoors. Still, because of this, candidates never held rallies that exceeded the number of people that had been set aside by the electoral commission. This in a way kept the numbers minimal and security was easily maintained. The pre-election environment was so tense which kept the police on their toes to practice the highest safety measures in the sub region. Because the current government came in because of an election that had gone bad in the previous regimes, the Electoral commission tried so much to put up a credible election though they are still faced with some challenges. The EC started preparing for the 2021 general elections sometime back but because of lack of awareness, citizens did not participate in some of the activities like demarcation, register checks (where they were doing data cleaning removing those that died and adding those that had become of age), the lack of participation had a bigger impact on the level of citizens participation. Election security and citizens participation still during the 2021 election leaves much to be desired.

4.2.1.2 Voter education, Election Administration and Logistics Management

Voter education is a continuous process that citizens participate in; in the pre-election period, the election period and after the elections. During the 2021 General elections, there existed a gap in the Electoral commission in regard to civic education. Most of the voters did not know

what to do. Given a background of scientific campaigning, the majority of the voters were not in the know of what was happening in the country save for the presidential election date that was widely publicized. KICK-U observed that alot needs to be done for the citizens to come to terms with the requirements of the electoral commission. KICK-U further observed that Voter education was not sufficient and people were looking at elections as a battle. KICK-U recommends that voter education should be carried out as soon as the Electoral commission starts gazetting/demarcating polling stations and the Electoral commission must strive to retain some of the presiding officers that they employ so that they can do continuous civic education at the grassroots.

For Logistics management, the EC tried hard to provide the logistics for the voting day but there were delays that were noted in some of the polling stations and the inefficiency of the BVVK machines that the operators did not know how to use for example, in 256 polling stations in Kabale, the election operators did not receive training because of the social distance that was needed during the COVID era and the training materials were insufficient because the whole district received only 1 BVVK to train officers for 256 polling stations. In Rubanda, East, the BVVK machines were not operational because the people that had been employed to use them lacked the skill. This also in a way led to a low voter turn up because the people that could not keep in the queues waiting to be verified by the BVVK could leave the stations without voting. On the logistics of handling the election, KICK-U found out that the EC had a shortfall of the police constables that were deployed at polling

stations but were not in the know of what they were supposed to do. The facilitation they were to get was not paid in time and because of this they became easily compromised by the candidates that had money and seemed to care much more yet they were taking advantage of them.

The other challenge noted was that accreditation of the local observers which was originally handled centrally by the Electoral commission and by the time it was brought back to the lower district local government; there came a delay of accreditation of the local election observers. Most of the local observers from the different organisations that had requested were not accredited which became a challenge to the electoral commission.

4.2.1.3 Election Violence, Media and Misinformation

At the core of Uganda's electoral violence was unbalanced media reporting about results of the would-be winner yet the results had not been announced, unbalanced political space, income inequality and partisan politics by the security personnel. In Kabale, it was noted that Freedom Radio and Peak FM were the culprits of biased reporting which kept citizens on tenterhooks and caused violence between rival camps especially in the event that the results prior announced changed.

Because campaigning was done virtually and the fact that most media houses were privately owned by candidates, it gave some a really good platform and others stood disadvantaged which also brought about unbalanced reporting that led to fear and anxiety among the electorates.

4.2.1.4 Money politics and electoral fraud

KICK-U observed that separating money from Uganda's politics is impossible in Uganda's elections as there are still cases of voter bribery and vote buying. Political positions in Uganda today are not occupations but business and the use of money in the system has done more harm than good. This is coupled with the challenges in addressing electoral fraud which include high levels of unemployment, high levels of income inequality, poor education levels and the lack of patriotism in the country-men.

4.2.1.5 Political parties/ candidates and gender inclusion

KICK-U noted that there was the presence of multi-party dispensation in the districts of Kigezi Sub region with the presence of the NRM, FDC, ANT, NUP and DP. For other independent candidates that would come up, they also belonged to certain parties but because of the monetization of the whole process, they came as independents. It was noted that the participation of women in politics in all the districts save for Kisoro District have greatly improved because

of the empowerment that the women have received while in Kisoro, there is still the cultural belief that women are not to most leaders and because of the fact that politics has been monetised yet the women do not have so much money to spend. In Districts like Rukungiri, it was noted that the level of participation of the women was at a very higher notch because some women had set up a pace for them to follow. Competition between men and women is very healthy and it is taken in good faith. Women need some little push up in educational and leadership seminars so that they are encouraged to keep going higher.

4.2.1.6 Key Recommendations

by Stakeholders during the post-election advocacy meetings in Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri, Rubanda and Rukiga districts.

- Impartiality of the police officers while they are working closely with the electoral commission and members of the communities in which they operate for good working relations to be able to control the extremes of insecurity.
- Step down for the BVVK

so that every district should access her own results so that it is not done centrally. The system should be structured within the Electoral Commission structure so that it's easy to monitor.

- There is a need for voter and civic education from stakeholders to educate people to know that every person must choose a leader and the need for them to cast their ballot and its importance. Citizens Election observation should be given priority since they are Key Election stakeholders.

- The Communications Commission should give guidelines to media houses to bar them from making election announcements till when results are announced by the Electoral Commission to overcome the challenge of anxiety and overzealousness among the electorates.

- Regarding money in politics, the members of parliament should be restricted on the amount of money that they spend. This would be through the EC working with other existing organs of the government so that a control measure is put in place for the amount of money to be spend

on an elective position so that anyone who goes beyond it is questionable and apprehended so that others learn from them.

4.2.1.7 Topmost reforms

as recommended by Stakeholders during the stakeholder meetings across Kigezi Sub-region.

- The electoral act should be amended to revert back to the initial term limit of two terms of five years for Office of President and members of parliament.
- Religious leaders through the Uganda Joint Christian Council should educate the religious leaders to eliminate and mitigate the extent of religion in Uganda's politics.
- The government should put up stringent measures to eliminate money in politics.
- Minimum qualifications of candidates should be elevated at least to a degree level so that the quality of the leaders that we choose improves.
- The Ministry of education should go back to the drawing board and ensure that the curriculum of primary schools should include patriotic paper-like civics so that at a young age, children know that they have a responsibility of protecting themselves and the country where they belong. Instilling patriotism in children at a young age makes a very big difference.

CHAPTER 5 RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

Compendium of Recommendations

Kick Corruption out of Uganda believes that with political will and through coordinated efforts, challenges that were encountered in the 2021 general elections can be addressed to enhance citizen confidence and increase participation in elections and also mitigate violence during and after the polls. In the spirit of national cooperation and patriotism, Kick Corruption out of Uganda offers the following recommendations which are based on the findings of KICK-U from the election observation mission 2021;

The Ugandan Government should:

1. Intensify efforts to address insecurity in many parts of the country by apprehending the security organs that violate the rights of her citizens and by making them accountable for

the citizens to feel safe and to reiterate to all security services their constitutional obligation to be professional and impartial in guaranteeing election security for all citizens and political contestants for all elective positions. There should be no discrimination whatsoever.

2. Enforce the law with regards to illegal activities such as vote-buying on Election Day wherever it occurs.
3. Ensure independence of the Electoral commission including financial independence to enable the EC to budget and execute on time and ensure other government agencies involved in the election process receive sufficient and timely funding so that civic education is conducted on time to support peaceful, inclusive and credible elections.

4. Establish the Electoral Offenses and Political Parties Registration Commission as soon as possible to enhance the accountability of political parties with regard to the funding of campaigns and other activities.

The Independent National Electoral Commission should:

1. Increase efforts to encourage voters to register before the close of the continuous voter registration period.
2. Undertake an extensive campaign to raise voter awareness on the need to collect PVCs before the next elections.
3. Pursue user-friendly electoral technological that could allow for the issuance of Voter Verification Slips (VVSs) that are interlinked with the Biometric Voter Verification kits (BVVK) to make the election process smooth and combat issues of double voting and voting queues that make the process very tedious on polling days.
4. Fully implement its PWD framework to ensure the voting process is more accessible to PWDs.
5. In coordination with security services, enforce the law in regards to illegal activities such as vote buying that occur at polling stations on Election Day.
6. Track and publicize political party compliance with commitments on gender representation in leadership positions and on candidate lists within the party.
7. Enhance communication strategies to better match how Ugandans consume information, such as through community radio and social media and short videos.
8. Release early sample ballots to facilitate voter education efforts because from the information that was obtained through the round

table discussion, most of the voters especially the newly registered voters had never seen a ballot paper which to some extent led to invalid votes cast.

Political parties should:

1. Conduct transparent and democratic candidate selection processes that adhere to their bylaws and policies to set the pace for the general elections.
2. Make concerted efforts to encourage and support women, youth, and PWD candidates beyond providing free nomination forms.
3. Initiate issue-based campaigns that address national priorities, such as security, the economy, and governance.
4. Conduct voter education campaigns and disseminate messages of peace and tolerance among their supporters.
5. Respect the rule of law, including the Electoral Commission guidelines for political parties, especially provisions against the use of violence and hate speech that could incite violence.

Civil society should:

1. Begin voter and civic education efforts early in the election process and work very closely with government agencies; including the Uganda Electoral Commission to inform voters about the election process, including the collection of VVSs, how to vote, and keeping the peace.
2. Educate voters on their civic responsibilities and the value of their vote, emphasizing the negative effects of vote buying.
3. Continue to pursue inclusion and equal opportunity advocacy efforts with the EC and political parties to increase the participation of

women, youth, and PWDs.

4. CSOS should and must work closely with the media and explore avenues for monitoring, exposing, and countering disinformation, use of derogatory words and hate speech.
5. Continue monitoring and observing the election process, disseminating impartial findings, and advocating for improvements to election integrity through early initiatives to mitigate tensions between contestants that run in primary elections for the different political parties.

Media should:

1. Report accurately, responsibly and professionally in line with the media code of conduct and on guidelines of the Uganda Communications Commission in order to foster civil discourse.
2. Fact-check and verify information before publishing and avoid or possible sanction outlets that spread disinformation.
3. Organize candidate debates in coordination with civil society to further expose the candidates to the electorates and enable information sharing with voters and policy discussions.

The international community/donors should:

1. Provide timely support to Ugandan civil society to enable groups to begin voter education and undertake comprehensive election observation (citizen engagement, citizen election observers, and violence mitigation campaigns) early in the election process.
2. Provide diplomatic mediation and pressure on the political actors regularly to prevent escalation of tension or total breakdown of law and order.

Conclusion

KICK-U would like to appreciate all her stakeholders that have been at the forefront of achieving this and coming to the completion of the Election Observation Mission for 2021. The Electoral Commission, Civil society, media personnel, opinion leaders, STOS and LTOS, the RDCs that are the heads of security in the areas where KICK-U implements her work, members of the citizenry that have worked hand in hand with KICK-U, we appreciate all. Through the Round table discussions that KICK-U has held in the region, the following are the recommendations to different role players. The change in approach will bring about better reforms and a better Uganda.

APPENDICES

Appendix I:

KICK-U Election Day Observer Deployment plan

Districts and Sub counties in which the election observation took place.

NO.	DISTRICT	SUBCOUNTY	OBSERVERS
1	Kabale	9 Sub counties	13 mobile observers (6 Females, 7 males)
		2 Town councils	13 stationary observers (6 w, 5m)
		3 Divisions	1 tally Centre observer (1 m)
2	Kisoro	13 Sub counties	21 Mobile observers (4 Females, 17 males)
		3 Divisions	21 stationary observers (4 Females, 17 males)
		5 Town councils	1 district tally observer (1m)
3	Rubanda	7 sub counties	17 mobile observers (8 Females, 9 males)
		0 divisions	17 stationary observers
		10 Town councils	1 district observer (1 m)
4.	Rukungiri	8 Sub counties	15 mobile observers (4 Females, 11males)
		3 Divisions	15 stationary observers (4 Females, 11males)
		4 Town councils	1 district tally observer (1w)
5	Rukiga	4 Sub counties	5 mobile observers (3 Females, 2 males)
		1Town council	5 stationary observers (3 Females, 2 males)
		0 Divisions	1 district tally observer (1 m)
6	Kanungu	15 Sub counties	21 mobile observers (8 Females, 13 males)
		6 Town council	21 stationary observers (8 Females, 13 males)
		0 Division	1 district tally observer (1 m)
TOTAL NUMBER OF OBSERVERS			---92--- OBSERVERS (33w, 59m)

	Had ANY polling station officials arrived by 6:30am?	Yes (1)	No (2)	I did not arrive by 6:00am (3)
	Were you permitted to Observe? If not allowed to observe, tick "No" and also call to give a critical incident report.	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Is the polling station located in a public, open and accessible venue?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	What time did voting begin? (If voting has not started by 10:00 am, fill a Critical Incident Checklist and call to report!)	BE-	Between 8:00 and 9:00 am (2)	Between 9:01 and
	Were there at least 10 registered voters before the opening of the polling station?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	Did the polling station fully comply with the COVID19 SOPs?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	How many polling officials were assigned to your polling station? Disaggregate by gender.	Total:	Female:	Male:
	Was the presiding officer in your polling station a female?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
BF	Did the polling station have ALL necessary ballot papers? (3 sets of ballot papers -LCV Chairman, District Councilors)	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	Did the polling station have ALL necessary ballot boxes? (3 ballot boxes LCV Chairman, District Councilors)	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	Did the polling station have the Register of Voters?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
BJ	Did the polling station have indelible ink?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	Did the polling station have BOTH the poll station stamp and stamp pad? (If either item is missing, select No.)	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
BL	Is the polling station in possession of the Biometric Voter Verification Kit (BVVK)	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	Is the polling station easily accessible to persons with disabilities?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	Did poll officials show the ballot boxes to be empty before the start of voting?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	Did poll officials seal the ballot boxes before the voting started?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by

	Are the voting basins set up to ensure secrecy of voting?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not open by
	How many uniformed police or security personnel were present around the polling station? Disaggregate by gender	Female:	Male:	
BS	Was NRM Party agents present at your polling station?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were NUP or FDC party agents present at your polling station?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were all other candidates' agents present at your polling station?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were voting lines formed in compliance with physical distancing?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Did the poll official scan all voters' locator slips/IDs to retrieve voter information?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Did poll officials read the registration number and the name of each voter loudly for party agents to hear?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Did the Biometric Voter Verification Kit (BVVK) function throughout the election day?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Did poll officials stamp the backs of each ballot before they were issued to the voter?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Was each voter properly inked after voting?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	How many voters with voter cards were missing from the Register of Voters?	None, 0 (1)	Few, 1 to 5 (2)	Some, 6 to 25 (3)
	How many people with a voter ID card were not allowed to vote because their names did not appear on the Register of Voters?	None, 0 (1)	Few, 1 to 5 (2)	Some, 6 to 25 (3)
CI	How many people were assisted to vote in your polling station?	None, 0 (1)	Few, 1 to 5 (2)	Some, 6 to 25 (3)
CJ	If yes "CI", which of these assisted voters to vote? (Check all that apply). polling officials, observers, candidate agents? If you tick 1, 2 or 3, also complete a critical incident form and call to report.	EC Of- ficial (1)	Ob- server (2)	Can- didate Agent (3)
	Were the elderly, pregnant women and nursing mothers allowed to go to the front of the queue?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not applica- ble (3)
	Were physically disabled persons allowed to go to the front of the queue?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not applica- ble (3)
	Were there any incidents of intimidation, harassment, or violence against the poll officials? (If YES, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	

	Were there any incidents of intimidation, harassment, or violence against voters? (If YES, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were there any incidents of intimidation, harassment, or violence against women voters? (If YES, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Was voting delayed or suspended for any reason during the day? (If suspended for more than 10 minutes, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were there campaigning or campaign materials in and around to the polling station at any point during voting?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were the polling officials professional and non-partisan?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were the security Officers professional and non-partisan?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Could anyone see how any voter marked his/her ballot paper?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	At any time, did voters crowd the polling officials?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	At any time, were there unauthorized persons in your Assigned Polling Place?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Was everyone who was in the queue by 4:00pm permitted to vote??	Yes (1)	No (2)	There was no queue (3)
	Was an election constable stationed at the end of the queue so that any voter who comes after 4:00pm does not join the queue?	Yes (1)	No (2)	There was no queue (3)
	At what time did the polling station close for voting? (If closed before 4:00pm, fill a Critical Incident Checklist and fill description!)	Before 4:00pm (1)	Be- tween 4:01 and 4:30pm (2)	Be- tween 4:31 and 5:00pm (3)
	Few	Some	Many	Use this table
0	1	2	3	4
0	1	2	3	4
0	1	2	3	4
	What time did counting begin?	BE- FORE 4:00 (1)	Be- tween 4:01 and 5:00pm (2)	5:01pm and after (3)

	Was counting held in the same polling station where voting took place? (If NO, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were ALL political party agents present and permitted to observe the counting of ballot papers? (If NO, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Were any unauthorized individuals present during counting? (If YES, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Did anyone intimidate or harass the poll officials during the counting of ballot papers? (If YES, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Did anyone attempt to disrupt the counting of the ballot papers?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Did Security agents interfere with vote counting?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	Was there sufficient light during the counting of the ballot papers?	Yes (1)	No (2)	
DJ	Did any party agents present refuse to sign the DR- forms?	Yes (1)	No (2)	If yes, name them NRM NUP FDC DP Other
	Were ALL election results declared and displayed within the polling station when counting was complete? If NO, fill a Critical Incident Checklist including description!)	Yes (1)	No (2)	
	If DJ is yes, fill a critical incident form			
	Did the presiding officer issue a copy of the DR Form to agents of each candidate?	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not applica- ble (3)
	Did the poll official record the reasons for refusal or failure to sign the Declaration of Results form	Yes (1)	No (2)	