

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Release

Guidance to Aspirants Seeking to Conduct Consultative Meetings and Campaigns

The Electoral Commission has noted with concern that a number of persons aspiring for various elective positions in the General Election, 2021 have started conducting public meetings supposedly to consult the electorate in preparation for their candidature in the 2021 Elections.

At the same time, some aspirants are organising campaign meetings and addressing rallies, putting up posters, distributing campaign materials and soliciting for votes contrary to the campaign period set out in the Electoral Roadmap issued by the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission wishes to clarify on this matter as follows:

1. At this moment in the electoral calendar, there are no persons nominated as candidates for Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Councils elections. All aspirants are therefore, urged to refrain from engaging in active campaigns for these elective positions.
2. According to the Electoral Commission's Electoral Roadmap, campaigns for the various elective positions, as guided by law, commence after the Commission has duly nominated candidates for the respective elective offices.
3. Section 3 of the Presidential Elections Act, 2005, provides for aspirants to consult in preparation for nominations. Consultations, however, should be distinguished from campaigns which take the form of distributing materials, campaigns, holding rallies and meetings and canvassing/soliciting for votes envisaged under Sections 21 and 24 of the Presidential Elections Act, 2005.
4. Ordinarily, consultation is defined to mean exchange of views in an attempt to reach a decision. Accordingly the identified venue, mode and manner of the consultative meeting ought to facilitate the exchange of views between the aspirant and those being consulted.
5. Aspirants are further urged to desist from holding rallies under the guise of conducting consultative meetings.
6. Given the disruptive nature of processions to the public, aspirants are barred from conducting processions on public roads.

7. Consultative meetings and campaigns can, however, take place internally within political parties and organisations, where their internal constitutions provide for such a process to choose the party flag bearers for various elective positions (Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Councils);
8. Political parties and organisations are hereby advised to guide their members concerning such internal party electoral calendar, including issuing clear preparation (Roadmap) for Party Primary Elections.
9. The Electoral Commission advises all aspiring candidates for different political offices to respect the enabling electoral laws and abide by the Guidelines issued by the Electoral Commission.



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission