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G E O M Global Election Observation Missions

Ambassadors of Peace

**KISORO DISTRICT WOMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
BY-ELECTION REPORT**

14TH NOVEMBER 2024

Our Vision:-

Aiming to foster global democracy, transparency, and fairness.

Global Election Observation Missions organization is dedicated to observing elections worldwide. We strive to ensure the integrity of electoral processes by promoting inclusivity, accountability, and the protection of fundamental human rights. Through collaborative efforts with diverse stakeholders, we seek to uphold the principles of free and fair elections, ultimately contributing to the advancement of democratic values on a global scale.

Our Mission:-

Empowering democracy on a global scale.

Our mission at the Global Election Observation Missions is to champion the integrity of electoral processes through vigilant observations. Committed to fostering transparency, fairness, and inclusivity, we work collaboratively with nations to ensure free and credible elections. Upholding the principles of accountability and respect for human rights, we strive to be a catalyst for positive change, promoting democratic values and strengthening the foundation of representative governance worldwide. We also strictly follow our Core Values as an organization of being impartial in our work, transparency in reporting and non-interference by trying to influence or instruct the election organizers plus election presiding officer.

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GOLEM

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Forward Message

Kisoro District Woman MP By-Election

To All Stakeholders

As the CEO of Global Election Observation Missions (GEOM), I extend our unwavering commitment to supporting a peaceful, inclusive, and credible electoral process in the Kisoro District Woman MP by-election. This election, set for **November 14, 2024**, marks a significant moment for Kisoro and Uganda's democratic framework.

Acknowledgments

I commend the **Electoral Commission** for its proactive leadership in organizing this by-election, beginning with the launch of the pre-election phase on **September 26, 2024**, at Shaza Ground. Your dedication to transparency and inclusivity sets a strong foundation for the democratic principles we uphold.

Our Observations and Expectations

- **Electoral Commission:**

We encourage you to sustain your efforts in ensuring:

- Timely distribution of electoral materials, especially in remote areas of Kisoro.
 - Continued public education on voter rights, election procedures, and the importance of peaceful participation.
 - Impartiality in managing the entire electoral process to build trust among stakeholders.
- **Candidates and Political Parties:**
 - Engage in campaigns that prioritize issue-based discourse rather than divisive rhetoric.
 - Respect the electoral guidelines and uphold peace throughout the campaigns and voting process.
 - **Security Agencies:**
 - Provide a safe environment for voters, candidates, and electoral staff while maintaining neutrality.
 - Address any arising incidents of malpractice swiftly and within the bounds of the law.

- **Voters:**
 - Exercise your democratic right responsibly by participating in the election peacefully.
 - Report any irregularities to the appropriate authorities to ensure accountability.

Call to Unity and Peace

This by-election presents an opportunity for Kisoro to set an example of democracy in action. I urge all stakeholders to embrace peace, tolerance, and respect for the rule of law. Elections are a time to strengthen, not divide, our communities.

Role of GEOM

As observers, we remain dedicated to observing and reporting on every phase of this election. Our presence ensures transparency, and our findings will contribute to recommendations for improving future electoral processes.

Let us all work together to make this by-election a true reflection of the will of the people of Kisoro District.

Signed,.....
Mboni Abel Lubega
CEO, Global Election Observation Missions.

Executive Summary: Kisoro Woman MP By-Election Observations

Following the death of Hon. Sarah Mateke, the Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament by-election was held under the observation of Global Election Observation Missions (GEOM). The election process was marked by peace and a commendable display of unity among all stakeholders, particularly the women candidates.

Pre-Election Phase

On **September 26, 2024**, the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission officially launched the pre-election phase for the Kisoro Woman MP by-election at **Shaza Ground**. During this event, critical announcements were made, including the setting of the election date for **November 14, 2024**.

The launch focused on:

- Encouraging peaceful campaigns and adherence to electoral laws.
- Informing stakeholders, including candidates and voters, about the election roadmap.
- Addressing logistical preparations and ensuring transparency in the process.

This phase aimed to set the tone for a credible, inclusive, and peaceful electoral process, fostering trust among all participants.

1. Election Preparation

- The Electoral Commission demonstrated timely organization, ensuring voter registers were updated and polling materials distributed efficiently.
- Public awareness campaigns were carried out, focusing on voter education.

2. Key Observations:

1. Campaign Period:

- The campaigns were peaceful, with candidates adhering to electoral guidelines and promoting respectful engagement with voters.
- No significant incidents of violence or hostility were recorded, setting an example of civil political discourse.

2. Polling Day:

- Election day operations were orderly, with polling stations opening and closing as scheduled.
- The presence of security forces was professional, ensuring a calm environment for voters.

3. Participation of Women Candidates:

- All women contesting exhibited a spirit of peaceful competition, emphasizing their commitment to democratic values.
 - Their campaigns focused on policy issues rather than personal attacks, reflecting maturity and inclusivity in the electoral process.
4. **Voter Behaviour:**
- Voters participated peacefully, exercising their rights without fear or intimidation.
 - The turnout reflected a sense of civic responsibility among the electorate.

Recommendations:

- **Sustain the Spirit of Peaceful Elections:** GEOM encourages continuous promotion of peaceful campaigns and election processes across Uganda.
- **Enhance Women's Participation:** Support initiatives that empower women to actively participate in electoral processes and address challenges they may face in other regions.
- **Maintain Best Practices:** The peaceful environment observed in Kisoro should be replicated as a benchmark for future elections.

This by-election serves as a positive example of democracy in action, underscoring the potential for peaceful and inclusive electoral processes when all stakeholders cooperate. GEOM commends the efforts of the Electoral Commission, security agencies, candidates, and voters in making this possible.

Letter of Appreciation

**To: The Chairperson,
Electoral Commission of Uganda
Kampala, Uganda**

**Subject: Appreciation for Exceptional Collaboration during the Kisoro District
Woman MP By-Election**

Dear Chairperson,

On behalf of **Global Election Observation Missions (GEOM)**, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Electoral Commission for your exemplary leadership and collaboration during the recently concluded Kisoro District Woman MP by-election.

Acknowledgment of Excellence

The seamless execution of this election, held on **November 14, 2024**, is a testament to your commitment to upholding democratic values in Uganda. GEOM appreciates the Commission's unwavering dedication to ensuring that every phase of the electoral process adhered to the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and professionalism.

Key Highlights

1. Pre-Election Preparations:

- The timely rollout of the election roadmap, starting with the September 26, 2026, pre-election launch at Shaza Ground, set the foundation for an orderly process.
- Public awareness campaigns reached diverse voter groups, contributing to informed and active participation.

2. Election Day Operations:

- Polling materials were distributed effectively across Kisoro District, ensuring that even remote areas were not left behind.
- The professionalism displayed by polling officials was commendable and reflected thorough training and preparation.

3. Peaceful Environment:

- The collaboration between the Electoral Commission, security agencies, and other stakeholders created a peaceful environment throughout the election cycle.
- This cooperation ensured voter confidence and minimized disruptions, further strengthening public trust in the electoral process.

Recognition of Stakeholder Collaboration

The success of this by-election was also due to the joint efforts of political candidates, civil society organizations, and the Kisoro community, all of whom worked harmoniously under the Commission's guidance. GEOM is proud to have been part of this collaborative effort, providing independent oversight to enhance credibility.

Commitment to Future Engagement

GEOM remains dedicated to supporting the Electoral Commission in future electoral activities. We are committed to offering our expertise to ensure that Uganda continues to set benchmarks for democratic governance in the region.

Once again, we appreciate your exceptional work and look forward to continued collaboration.

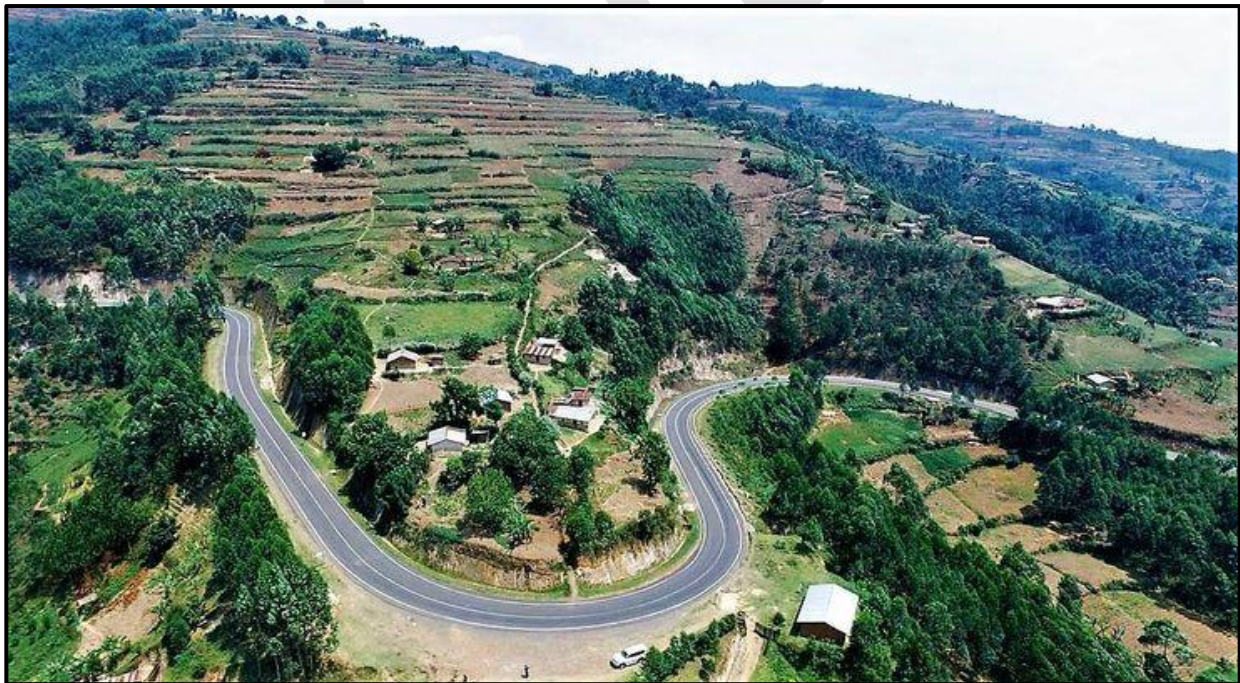
Yours sincerely,
Walusimbi Baker

Head of Observation Missions
Global Election Observation Mission-GEOM

KISORO DISTRICT BY-ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 14th 2024



THE MEANDERING ROADS IN THE BEAUTIFUL HILLS WITH TERRACES OF ONIONS AND IRISH POTATOES GARDENS.



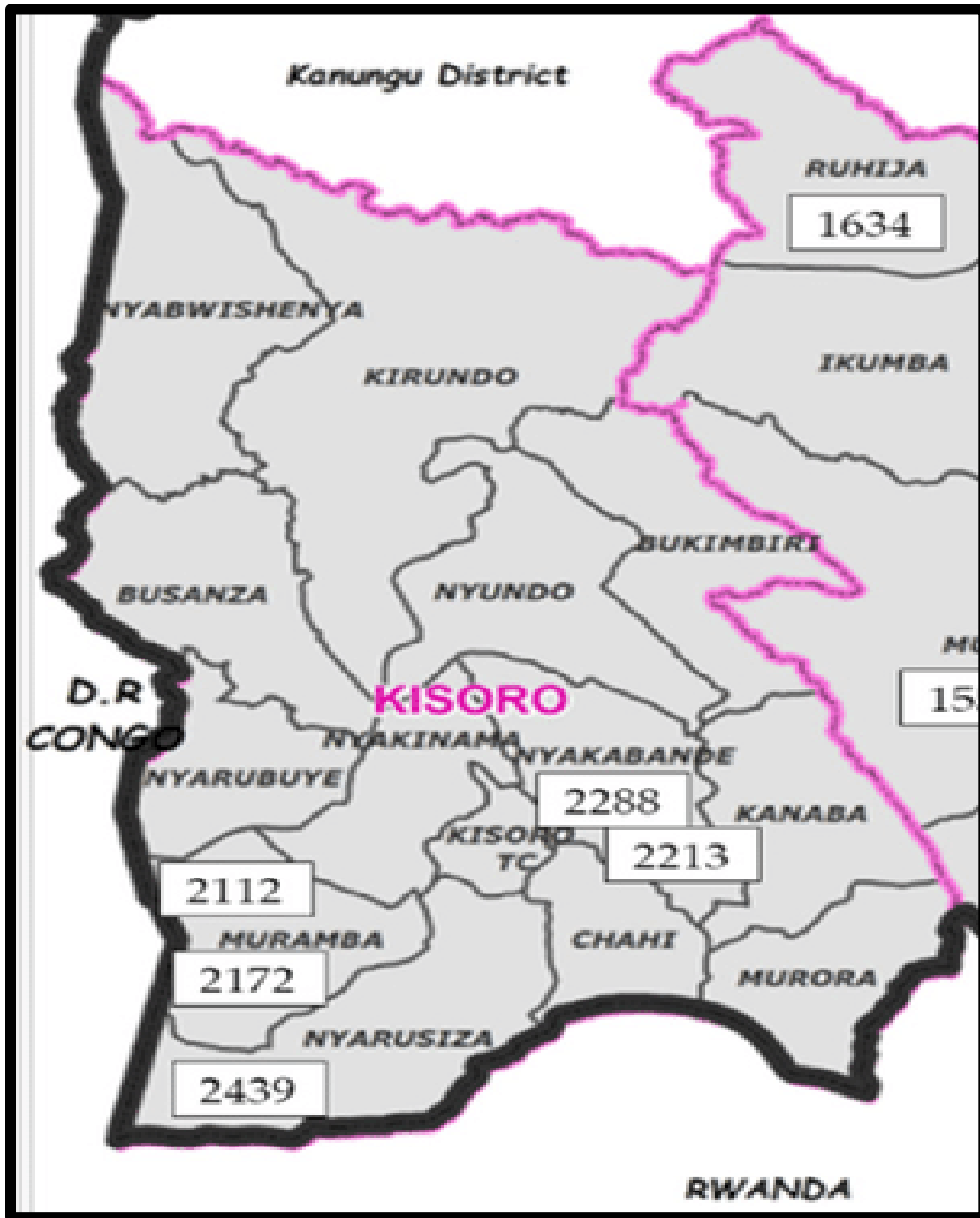
KISORO DISTRICT A TRUE DEFINATION OF CHURCHILL'S DESCRIPTION OF UGANDA THE PEARL OF AFRICA.



LAKE BUNYONYI IN KISORO DISTRICT



A VIEW OF KISORO TOWN.



KISORO DISTRICT LOCATED IN SOUTHERN UGANDA NEIGHBORING KANUNGU IN THE NORTH ,RWANDA IN THE SOUTH ,KABALE IN THE EAST AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO IN THE WEST

OBSERVATION REPORT

By-Elections for Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament

Date of Election: November 14, 2024

Occasion: Following the passing on of the former Member of Parliament the late Mateke Nyirabashitsi.

Introduction

The Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament by-election held on **November 14, 2024**, was necessitated by the unfortunate passing on of the former office bearer the late Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi. The election took place in Kisoro District, a region with a dynamic electoral history and significant political engagement. Spanning **5 constituencies, 24 sub-counties, 71 parishes, 322 polling stations, in 448 villages**. This election was pivotal in filling the leadership vacuum while reinforcing democratic principles in the district.

Global Election Observation Missions (GEOM) deployed a team of observers to ensure that the elections adhered to national and international standards for free, fair, and credible elections. Observers focused on key aspects, including the preparations, execution, voter turnout, challenges faced, and adherence to electoral laws.

This election presented a unique opportunity to gauge voter enthusiasm, the efficiency of election technology, the performance of electoral officers, and the inclusiveness of the electoral process. It also served as a test for the electoral commission's ability to manage logistical and operational challenges in a rural setting.

The process unfolded peacefully with the launch of the **By-Election on the 26th September 2024** at the Shaza Grounds officiated by the lord Chair Justice Simon Mugenyi Byabakama chairperson of the Uganda Electoral Commission plus other electoral commissioners with the district stake holders of which included the intending candidates, the security, plus local leaders in their respective capacities, marking a significant milestone in Kisoro District's commitment to democratic governance. However, certain shortcomings, such as low youth turnout, operational delays, and allegations of malpractice, underscored the need for targeted reforms.

The launch focused on:

- Encouraging peaceful campaigns and adherence to electoral laws.
- Informing stakeholders, including candidates and voters, about the election roadmap.
- Addressing logistical preparations and ensuring transparency in the process.

Launch of the Kisoro District woman MP by-elections 26.09.2024 at Shaza Grounds.



Lord Chair arriving at the launch of the by-elections at Shaza grounds



Lord Chair Justice Simon. Byabakama addressing the stake holders at the launch of the Kisoro By-Election of the district woman MP.

The lord chair quoted the constitution which states in clause 2 that the clerk informs the commission within 10 days after the death or any other cause of absence of an MP the electoral commission then has to organize the elections for that particular district or constituency within 60 days.

He said that therefore by 15th November 2024 Kisoro district must have a district woman member of parliament after a sudden passing on of Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi on the 7th September, 2024 who was the Kisoro district woman member of parliament, He also said that there will be other elections of counselors in Kyanika and Kyahi. So the whole exercise started with publicizing the positions for filling, mobilization of the stake holders and all were effected with the updating of the voters registers, changing of voting locations, displaying of the registers at all polling stations, screening of the registers and issuing of the voter location slips.

Nomination of the intending candidates on all positions was done at the electoral office of the district and screening of the candidates CVs. Campaigns started by 1st to 12th November and that on 14th November was fixed as the polling day. The Lord Chair said that all agents for the candidates were trained and that each candidate was allowed to have 5 observers per Sub County. He cautioned the voters not to sell their votes and brought an example of a hen at home being sold at 30,000/= and then a voter is bought at 10,000/= and said in that context a hen is more valuable than a voter who is bought at 10,000/=. He therefore appealed to the locals of Kisoro to value their votes.



Some of the Local leaders who attended the launching of the By-election



Amongst those who attended was Ms. Akifeza Grace Ngabirano on a blue dress. Who later on future in as an independent candidate after the NRM primaries.

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process, including commendable efforts by stakeholders and recommendations to address the challenges observed.

Context of the Election.

The sudden passing on of Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi who doubled as the State Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs on the 7th September, 2024, as required by law the electoral commission declared the position vacant and elections had to be conducted within 60 days thus choosing 14th of November, 2024 to be the day of elections created a significant political void in Kisoro District, making this election crucial for maintaining representation and continuity in leadership. The election served not only as a means to fill this vacancy but also as a barometer for the political climate in the region, particularly regarding women's representation and electoral integrity.

Methodology of Observation by Global Election Observation Missions (GEOM)

Global election observation Missions is an organization which follows the international codes of conduct of observers. When in Kisoro district for the Kisoro district woman member of parliament by-elections we had to follow our method of observing as it is below;

Preparatory Phase

Before the election, GEOM undertook several activities to ensure comprehensive and credible observation of the Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament representative by-election. These steps included:

1. Deployment Planning

- **Mapping Coverage:** GEOM identified and mapped all **322 polling stations** across the **71 parishes, 24 sub counties and 5 constituencies** in **428** villages of Kisoro District to ensure balanced deployment of observers.
- **Observer Selection and Training:**
 - Selected experienced observers familiar with the electoral process and local context.
 - Conducted intensive training on Uganda's electoral laws, the use of technology, and best practices in election observation.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

- Met with key stakeholders, including district electoral returning officer of the Electoral Commission, candidates, security agencies, civil society organizations, and local leaders, to:
 - Understand the logistical arrangements and challenges.
 - Promote cooperation and transparency in the electoral process.

3. Assessment of Pre-Election Environment

- Observers assessed and confirmed the campaign environment to all candidates and parties had equal opportunities to engage voters except the final campaign schedule some were destructed with the coming of the president of republic of Uganda as fountain of Honor.
- Observed reports of intimidation, violence, or any malpractice that could undermine the election's integrity if any.

4. Technology and Materials Assessment

- Evaluated the readiness of biometric voter verification machines and election materials to ensure their adequacy and functionality on polling day which was confirmed by the electoral commission during the briefing.

Observation During Election Day

On the day of the by-election, GEOM deployed teams to observe activities at polling stations and gather data systematically.

1. Deployment and Coverage

- Observers were stationed across all **24 sub-counties**, ensuring representation at rural and urban polling stations.
- Teams worked in pairs to independently verify activities and document findings.

2. Opening of Polls

- Observed the timely delivery of election materials to polling stations.
- Assessed the setup of polling stations for accessibility and adherence to standard procedures.
- Verified the presence of the required 10 voters to commence polling and recorded any delays.

3. Voting Process

- Observed the conduct of polling officials and their adherence to procedures, including:
 - Verification of voters using biometric systems.
 - Handling of voters with special needs, such as the elderly or those requiring assistance.
- Noted any instances of delays, equipment malfunction, or procedural irregularities.

4. Allegations and Incidents

- Recorded reports of alleged malpractice, such as ballot stuffing, and noted their impact on the electoral process.

5. Security observation

- Assessed the role of security personnel in maintaining order without intimidating voters.
- Observed the safety of voters, polling officials, and election materials.

Post-Election Activities

1. Closing and Counting of Votes

- Observed the closure of polling stations to ensure that all voters in the queue were allowed to cast their ballots.
- Witnessed the counting process, verifying that results were announced transparently and in the presence of agents, officials, and observers.

2. Compilation of Reports

- All observer teams submitted detailed reports, which included quantitative and qualitative data on polling station operations.

- Aggregated data was analyzed to provide a district-wide perspective on the election's conduct.

Data Collection Tools

1. Checklists and Questionnaires

- Observers used standardized checklists to record findings at each polling station, covering areas such as:
 - Timeliness of activities.
 - Voter turnout and demographics.
 - Functionality of equipment.

2. Digital Reporting Systems

- GEOM employed digital tools for real-time data submission, allowing the central team to track developments and respond to incidents promptly.

Key Objectives of the Methodology

- **Accuracy:** Ensure data collection and reporting were unbiased and comprehensive.
- **Transparency:** Provide clear documentation of all observations and findings.
- **Accountability:** Support the integrity of the electoral process by identifying areas for improvement and recommending corrective measures.
- **Impartiality or neutrality**

This methodology we used ensured that GEOM could deliver a credible and detailed analysis of the Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament representative by-election.

Key Observations from the Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament representative By-Election

Voter Turnout

1. Demographic Trends:

- Older voters significantly outnumbered younger voters at the polls.
- This trend indicates a worrying level of disengagement among the youth, who form a critical segment of the population.

2. Implications:

- The low youth turnout underscores a pressing need for **targeted voter education campaigns** that emphasize the importance of active participation in elections.
- Collaborative efforts with schools, universities, and youth-focused organizations should be prioritized to address this gap.

Election Materials and Logistics

1. Timely Delivery:

- Election materials were delivered to all **322 polling stations** on time, a positive indicator of logistical preparedness by the Electoral Commission.

2. Commencement Delays:

- Voting started after 8:00 AM in most polling stations due to two main issues:
 - **Mandatory 10 Voter Rule:** The opening of polls was delayed in many stations as the required 10 voters were not present at the start of the day.
 - **Biometric Challenges:** Operational difficulties with biometric voter verification machines caused further delays in some areas.

Technical and Training Issues

1. Biometric Failures:

- Biometric voter verification machines malfunctioned at several polling stations, disrupting the voting process.
- **Cause of Failures:** Investigations revealed that some presiding officers lacked adequate training in operating and troubleshooting these machines.

2. Recommendations:

- Implement **comprehensive, hands-on training** programs for all electoral officials well in advance of elections.
- Develop contingency plans, such as deploying technical support teams to polling stations, to address equipment failures promptly.

Allegation of Electoral Malpractice

1. Incident Reported:

- Allegations were raised against Hon. **John Kamara**, MP for Bufumbira North, accusing him of **ballot stuffing** at the Busanza polling station.

2. Recommendations:

- **Thorough Investigation:** The Electoral Commission and relevant authorities must investigate these allegations to uphold the election's integrity.
- **Transparency in Findings:** Any confirmed malpractice should result in appropriate legal and electoral consequences to maintain public trust in the democratic process.
- **Campaigning on Voting Day:** Observers noted that some voters were actively campaigning for specific candidates on Election Day. This behavior is against electoral regulations and undermines the integrity of the voting process. Authorities responded by arresting individuals involved in these activities, which underscores the importance of enforcing electoral laws

- **Impersonator on polling day:** one person was arrested on allegations of impersonation as an agent at three polling station by regional police commander afande Saiga Ibrahim RPC Kigezi Region at Gahuro polling station

Deployment and Coverage

1. Observer Presence:

- GEOM deployed observers in all **24 sub counties** of Kisoro District, ensuring comprehensive monitoring and documentation of the election process.

2. Coverage Achievements:

- Observers ensured that every aspect of the election, from the delivery of materials to the announcement of results, was thoroughly scrutinized.
- Reports were submitted in real-time using digital tools to provide a comprehensive picture of the Election Day activities.

General Conduct of Elections

1. Peaceful Environment:

- The election was largely peaceful, with no major incidents of violence or disruption reported.
- The cooperation between voters, polling officials, and security agencies contributed to the smooth conduct of the elections.

2. Credibility of the Process:

- The by-election was observed to be free and fair, reflecting the commitment of the Electoral Commission to uphold democratic standards.

3. Commendation:

- Credit is due to the **Electoral Commission** for its logistical preparedness and to the **people of Kisoro** for their orderly participation in the election process.

Summary of Observations.

While the by-election was successfully conducted in a peaceful manner, key issues such as low youth turnout, technical challenges like that of the Bio Metric Machine, and allegations of malpractice highlight areas for improvement. GEOM acknowledges the positive aspects of the election but stresses the need for reforms to strengthen future electoral processes.

Preparatory Phase

Before the election, GEOM undertook several activities to ensure comprehensive and credible observation of the Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament representative by-election.

These steps included:

5. Deployment Planning

- **Mapping Coverage:** GEOM identified and mapped all the **5 constituencies, 24 sub-counties, 71 parishes , 322 polling stations, in 448 villages** to ensure balanced deployment of observers.



Global Election Observation Missions observers who were deployed for the 14th November 2024 Kisoro By-Election observations .

- **Observer Selection and Training:**
 - Selected experienced observers familiar with the electoral process and local context.
 - Conducted intensive training on Uganda's electoral laws, the use of technology, and best practices in election observation.
 - Understand the logistical arrangements and challenges.
 - Promote cooperation and transparency in the electoral process

6. Stakeholders Engagements

- Met with key stakeholders, including the Kisoro District Electoral Returning Officer of the Electoral Commission, candidates, security agencies, civil society organizations, and local leaders, to:



GEOM observers At the Kisoro district electoral office



In a group photo with the Kisoro District Returning Electoral Officer Mr.Nayebare Daniel Centre on a grey shirt, with the PRO of EC on white at the extreme right.

Mr.Nayebare Daniel welcomed us and briefed us about how the elections came about. He said that six candidates were nominated for the woman Member of Parliament seat

as indicated below:-

Candidates' Name	Political Party
Akifeza Grace Ngabirano	Independent
Cyimpaye Aisha	Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP)
Ingabire Mable	Uganda Peoples' Congress (UPC)
Kabagyeni Rose	National Resistance Movement (NRM)
Musanase Juliet	Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)
Zubedi Sultana Salim	National Unity Platform (NUP)

He started by telling us that it is in constitution which states that as soon a district/constituency falls vacant then after 10 days the clerk of the parliament notifies the electoral commission to organize the elections in that particular area within 60 days and that the 60 days are ending on the 15th of November so he said that under all circumstances the district must have a new member of parliament representing the women in parliament for the district of Kisoro. He said that the campaigns started on 1st November, 2024 and they were to run until the 12th of November, 2024 and that the whole process has been peaceful whereby all candidates followed their campaign schedules except for NUP that was changed because of the coming in of the chairman of NRM party/ President of the Republic of Uganda and fountain of honor. NUP therefore had to change their campaigns to the 11th a day earlier than the scheduled period to which they obliged peacefully. He said that Kisoro has five constituencies which include;

- 1. Bufumbira East**
- 2. Bufumbira West**
- 3. Bufumbira North**
- 4. Bufumbira South**
- 5. Kisoro Municipality**

Mr Nayebare also stated that Kisoro district, not only will Woman Member of Parliament take place but also Women Counselors in two constituencies that is Kyanika and Kyahi.

At the RDCs office

We also managed to meet the Resident District Commissioner –RDC of Kisoro District Mr. Badiru Ssebyala. He said that generally the election process has been peaceful and that to them as security people they didn't face any challenges but however he said that the people of Kisoro are divided on religious lines between the Catholics and Protestants. And said that this cancer can lead to serious problems if not handled well. The RDC assured the GEOM observers that even at that, and as security, they will make sure that all goes well for the people and district of Kisoro in their by-elections. He appealed to the young generation to value and respect their elders in this era of dot.com. with social media



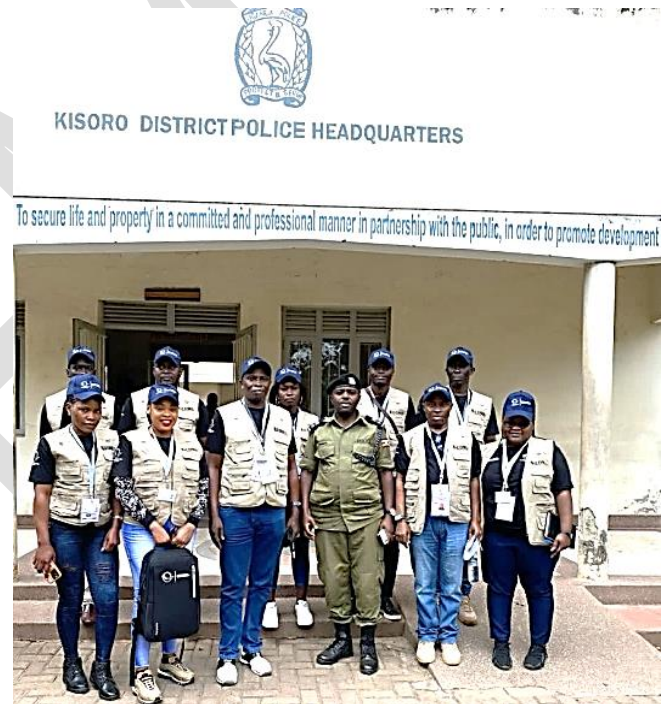
The RDC Kisoro District Hajji Ssebyala Badiru briefing the GEOM team of observers at his office.



In a group photo with the RDC at the district offices.

From the RDC's office the GEOM observers introduced themselves to the Kisoro District Police OC station at the Kisoro Police Headquarters where we met the OC station afande Tumuhairwe. He briefed us about the election process and said that there was no

incidences of violence or intimidation from the candidates with their supporters. He like the RDC said that the only problem in the district is the differences created around religious believes between the Catholics and Protestants, but he said they are ready to contain any eventualities which can come out of that. He said that they have enough forces of the police plus other sister forces of UPDF and ISO in case there is need for deployment.



Meeting of the GEOM observers with afande Tumuhairwe OC Station Kisoro District Police Headquarters.

We met and talked to the candidates to get their sides as far as campaigning and how they were prepared for the elections.



Ms. Rose Kabgyenyi NRM candidate



Candidate Kabgyenyi greeting the religious leaders.



A group photo with the NRM candidate Ms. Kabgyenyi Rose.

The NRM candidate Ms. Kabagyenyi Rose informed us that the campaigns went on well and that she is ready and going to win the Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament. She said that by the coming in of the NRM party chairman and who doubles as the president of Uganda HE. Yoweri Kaguta Tibuhaburwa Museveni ,then there is no way she can fail to win the elections. She said she has Managed to make a door to door campaign and she believes the voters understood her message and willing to vote her come 14th November



HE. Yoweri Kaguta Tibuhaburwa Museveni greeting supporters of Rose Kabagyenyi at her last rally.

The president /Chairman of NRM arrived at the rally at around 4pm at Nyagashaka Primary school where the final rally of Rose Kabagyenyi the flag bearer of NRM took place. The chairman cautioned the people of Kisoro to avoid politics of divisions basing on religious affiliations and warned the religious leaders to stop that practice. The rally was interrupted by the coming in of rain and the president/chairman had to cut his speech short .He called on the people of Kisoro to vote Rose Kabagyenyi and handed over the flag to her as the NRM candidate.



Ms. Kabaganyi Rose after receiving the flag from the chairman President Yoweri Tibuhabwe Kaguta Museveni.

Candidate Akifeza Grace Ngabirano

We also managed to reach at the Independent/NRM candidate's office Ms. Akifeza Grace Ngabirano but it was closed and we could not get her to tell us her side of the whole election exercise and how she was prepared for the elections day 14th November, 2024. Following the screening of candidates in the primaries of NRM party, Grace did not go through as the party flag bearer so she chose to stand as an independent candidate against the NRM party candidate Kabaganyi Rose.



Candidate Akifeza Grace Ngabirano Independent/NRM

GEOM with the NUP candidate



NUP candidate Zubedi Sultana Salim

We then went and met the NUP candidate Ms. Zubedi Sultana Salim. According to her the campaigns were peaceful and she said she has done enough ground work to win the elections. We attended a rally for National Unity Platform (NUP) party on the 11th of November, 2024 that was in town, where the party President Mr. Kyagulanyi Robert Sentamu and the secretary Mr. Rubongoya were present and rallied support for their NUP candidate by telling the supporters that they have been left behind by

government in terms of development programs and that the people of Kisoro deserve better. The party President made a direct call to his wife Barbie Kyagulanyi and she called upon the people of Kisoro to vote for Zubedi Sultana Salim and to tick only where there is an umbrella. The NUP candidate told us that her only concern was when the chairman of NRM/president of Uganda HE.Yoweri Kaguta Museveni came in to campaign for his candidate and the flag bearer of NRM Ms.Rose Kabagyenyi . Zubedi told us that she was supposed to have a rally at Kanaba and Nyakabanda but because of the coming of the president/ chairman of NRM then they were advised not to campaign there for security purposes.



GEOM observers at the NUP rally in Kisoro town.

UPC party;



Candidate Ingabire Mable standing On UPC card for the woman MP of Kisoro District

UPC party was represented by candidate Ingabire Mable. She was supported by the party president Mr. Akena. In a rally held at kabugu trading centre the party president Mr. Akena said that the NRM has neglected the people of Kisoro and yet Kisoro was a strong hold of UPC during his fathers time. So he appealed to the people of Kisoro to vote Mable because she can develop Kisoro better than the other candidates.



Mr. Akena the UPC party president campaigning for his candidate Ms. Ingabire Mable

FDC Party;



Ms. Musanase Juliet standing for the FDC party as candidate for the Kisoro District woman MP.

She criticized those MPs who go to parliament and do nothing for their people. For her she promised to represent them well by serving their interests.

PPP Party;



Cyimpaye Aisha candidate for the PPP of the Kisoro District woman MP.

She promised to put much emphasis on the education and health of people of Kisoro and to skill the youths saying that they are left behind and doing nothing and yet they are still energetic

At the briefing of the stake holders at Kisoro District town hall, officiated by the Lord Chair Justice Simon M.Byabakama in the Kisoro By-elections of the woman Member of Parliament representing Kisoro district after the passing on of the then MP Hon. Sarah Mateke Nyirabashitsi.



Lord Chair Justice Simon M.Byabakama EC chairman.



Lord Chair of the Electoral Commission of Uganda Justice Simon M. Byabakama with a team of commissioners from the electoral commission which included;Hajjat Aisha Lubega Deputy Chairperson, Dr.Stephen Tashobya, Dr. Kayunga Sallie Simba, Mr.Okello Anthony, Mr.Peter Emorut ,Mr.Richard Kamugisha, Ms.Beinamaryo Caroline Bright.

On the 13th November at 3:00pm a briefing of all the stake holders started. The chairman electoral commission started by thanking all the stake holders of the Kisoro by-elections; the district electoral returning officer Mr. Daniel Nayebare, all the security forces, the candidates, the local leaders , the observers and media and all the people of Kisoro for the work so far done of making sure that the Kisoro By-elections can be a success. He called for peace during and after elections and said that there is life after elections. He briefed us on how the exercise started from the launch, the display of the registers, the screening of candidates, the training of the presiding officers, candidate agents and sub county observers to the starting of the real campaigns. He said that the campaigns went on well with no incidences of violence or intimidations and he called on all the stake holders to maintain this during and after the elections. The lord chair said that all the voting materials are already at the district electoral commission office and ready for dispatching to the respective 322 polling stations in the district of Kisoro. He said that the voting materials are to be dispatched at exactly **4am** and that he has deployed **80 double cabin trucks** to deliver the materials with an escort of two police constables to all the polling stations in the district. He said that the candidates or their observers, the observers plus the media are free to come at **4:am** at the electoral office and witness the dispatching of the voters materials to the polling stations.

The lord chair said that voting should start at exactly **7:am** at the presence of 10 registered voters, the security and observers in all the polling stations officiated by the presiding electoral officer and must stop at **4:pm**. However he said that only those voters found on the line at 4:pm are allowed to vote.

About accessing the Tally Centre the chairman said that only those accredited with electoral accredited cards will be allowed to access the tally Centre but that all candidates are free to access the tally Centre. He shared toll free numbers-**08003001121** and **080030012** in case of any emergency. On the numberless vehicles he said that the security should arrest them and that it is only the presiding officers in charge of the polling stations and no expert helpers for voters who are incapacitated.

All the commissioners called for peaceful elections and calmness of the voters with their candidates. Cerebrations should be carried out in peaceful manners for the winners. The lord wished the best to all the candidates. In attendance of the briefing were; the candidates of NRM Ms. Kabagyenyi Rose, the candidate for NUP Ms. Zubedi Sultana Salim and the independent candidate Ms. Akifeza Grace. As a sign of peace for Kisoro these candidates sat together.



The three candidates from left to right; Zubedi Sultana Salim-NUP, Akifeza Grace-independent plus Kabagyenyi Rose NRM at the briefing of all stake holders .



GEOM Observers were also present at the briefing of all stake holders in the Kisoro woman member of parliament by-elections.



Present were; Dr.Tanga Odoi Chairperson NRM Electoral Commission, Dr Ebil UPC Secretary General with the Kisoro District Resident Commissioner Hajji Badiru Ssebyala.



The RPC Kigezi Region Hajji Saiga Ibrahim.

The **RPC Kigezi Hajji Saiga Ibrahim** called for **neutrality and impartiality** of the stake holders and especially the police plus the sister forces deployed to keep peace in the district during election time. He thanked the police for keeping peace during campaigns and said they should keep it even during and after the elections. At Gahuro polling station he arrested one man impersonating as an agent for one party but after being sited at three polling stations. When asked who he was representing he could not explain himself well and hence the arrest.

Hon Fred Ebil Ebil, assistant secretary general of UPC raised an issue of his candidate Ingabire Mable having been disturbed in the campaigns and asked the electoral commission to see how they can compensate them. The lord chair said there is no way electoral commission can compensate any candidate whatsoever and that all candidates are given equal opportunities to look for votes.



Global Election Observation Missions-GEOM- observers with the Chairperson of The Electoral Commission –Uganda Lord Chair Justice Simon Mugenyi Byabakama at Kisoro District headquarters after the briefing of all stake holders in the 14TH November 2024 Kisoro Woman Member of Parliament By-Elections.

Dispatching of the voters materials to the polling stations;

Dispatching of the materials started at 4:am at the district electoral commission offices at 4am. The 80 vehicles were ready to deliver the materials. These vehicles were to be escorted by two police men from the place of dispatch to the polling stations and handed to the presiding officer of the station. In all they are 322 polling stations.



The GEOM observers, observing the dispatching of the voters materials





Galaxy S20 FE 5G

Some of the trucks which delivered the voters materials.to the polling stations.



Galaxy S20 FE 5G

The dispatching of some trucks were delayed to deliver the materials due to the absence of police men to escort them.

Voting starts;



A presiding officer setting up a polling station at Rukoro Primary School

This station had 774 registered voters. But again voting was delayed due to the Bio Metric Machine failing to pick the net work. Voting started at 8:13am. We noted that the



AGEOM observer looking for a polling station in Chahi.






A presiding officer after verifying the serial numbers on the box then opened it at the presence of the voters plus the observers and police.



A presiding officer verifying the contents of the voters materials in the box and one presiding assistant checking for the Bio Metric network at Rukoro primary school polling station.



The 10 registered voters giving in their slips to check their names in the registry as witness to open the box with the voters materials.


PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
 CATEGORY: GENERAL ELECTION BY-ELECTION (Tick where applicable)

TEN VOTERS WITNESSING THE OPENING OF THE POLLING STATION
(Parliamentary Elections Act, Sec 30 (8) (as amended))

Date: 14/11/2024
 Polling Station: RUKORO PLS
 Parish/Ward: RUKORO WARD
 Sub county/Town/ Municipal Division: CYAMUKA X
 Constituency: BUVUMBIRA JAVI
 District: KUSORO

Time at opening the Polling Kit: _____
 Serial number of the seal on the Polling Kit: _____

We the undersigned and registered voters at _____ Polling Station
 state that we witnessed the opening of the Polling Kit and confirm that it was properly sealed before
 opening, the Transparent Ballot Box was/were devoid of any content and the Ballot Papers were
 devoid of any mark before commencement of Polls.

NAMES	VOTER NO/ NATIONAL ID OR APPLICATION ID NO	VILLAGE	PHONE NO.	SIGNATURE/ THUMBPRINT

SPECIMEN

Registered voters witnessing form.



Voters waiting to start voting at Rukoro Primary School polling station.



The old voters who turned up and at some stations they were not helped to vote first simply because they were many old men and women.





At 7:am voting started in most of the polling stations and no cases of intimidations or violence was observed by GEOM and at most of the polling stations the voters were old men and women.



One relative helping an old woman to vote.



There is need for voters education in Kisoro because most of the voters are old and many don't know what to do with the ballot papers.

COUNTING OF THE VOTES AT 4:00PM IN ALL THE POLLING STATIONS.





The future voters were also there observing and they wanted to know how it is done.



Presiding officer with his assistants sorting the ballot papers before counting them.

Voting stopped at 4:pm as was fixed by the Electoral commission and agreed in the briefing of all stake holders with only those found on line to be allowed to continue voting. At some stations by 4:pm they had already finished voting and only waiting to count the votes and in some few stations counting started after all those found on line had also finished voting. At Gahuro polling station, the issue of deciding the valid and invalid vote was really not easy. Some valid were counted as invalid and some invalid were counted as valid according to the voters who were present with many of them drunk. In one of their arguments the voters had to consult a policeman at the station to decide the valid and invalid vote but he referred them to the presiding officer.



Voters disagreeing to agree on the valid and invalid vote ordering the presiding officer to put it down and count it invalid.



There is need to carry out voters education especially on the way a ballot paper is ticked or where to put the thumb mark and who is supposed to help the old voters.

At the Tally Centre

A **Tally Centre** was set up at the district town hall and only those accredited people were allowed to attend and witness the tallying of the votes as they were coming from the different sub-counties of Kisoro district. All stake holders were allowed in so long they were accredited by Electoral commission. A team of five accredited GEOM observers attended at the Centre to observe how the tallying was done. This was officiated by the Kisoro District Electoral Returning officer Mr. Daniel Nayebare. It was also attended by the chairman of Electoral commission Justice Simon Mugenyi Byabakama plus other electoral commissioners. Before declaring, the winner Lord chair thanked all the stake holders for reaching at the beginning of the end of the elections in Kisoro. He then invited the District returning officer Mr. Daniel Nayebare to preside over the occasion.



The chairman Electoral Commission addressing the stake holders at the Tally Centre



GEOM Observers at The Tally Centre

At the tally Centre three boxes were brought in late with DR forms and they were opened by the district returning officer Kisoro at the presence of the asp of a high ranking police officer ,media, observers plus others in the hall. After confirming that all the results were collected from the polling stations the District returning officer Mr. Daniel Nayebare tallied all the results of all the candidates and candidate Akifeza Grace who came in as an independent candidate was announced a winner of the Kisoro District woman member of parliament having collected **50,459** voters of the total votes of **98,117** votes of the votes counted.



Mr. Daniel Nayebare at the Tally Centre

Independent candidate wins Kisoro Woman MP by-election

GEOM Global Election Observation Mission





CANDIDATE AKIFEZA GRACE NGABIRANO DECLARED WINNER OF KISORO DISTRICT WOMAN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.



FORM TR

PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION, 2024
(Parliamentary Elections Act, Section 73, Cap 177)
ELECTION OF DISTRICT WOMAN REPRESENTATIVE TO PARLIAMENT

RETURN FORM FOR TRANSMISSION OF RESULTS

DISTRICT: KISORO Code: 018

I, **Nayebare Daniel** being the Returning Officer for **Kisoro** Electoral District having added up the number of votes cast as recorded on each Declaration of Results Form in accordance with Section 72 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, (Cap 177), declare that the total number of valid votes cast for Candidates are as follows: -

Candidates' Name (Surname First)	Political Party	In Figures	In Words
AKIFEZA GRACE NGABIRANO	INDEPENDENT	50459	FIFTY THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE
CYIMPAYE AISHA	PPP	157	ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN
INGABIRE MABLE	UPC	362	THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-TWO
KABAGYENI ROSE	NRM	44982	FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO
MUSANASE JULIET	FDC	193	ONE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE
ZUBEDI SULTANA SALIM	NUP	903	NINE HUNDRED THREE
Total Number of Valid Votes Cast for Candidates		97056	NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND FIFTY-SIX
Total Number of Rejected (Invalid) Ballot Paper		1061	ONE THOUSAND SIXTY-ONE
Total Number of Ballot Papers Counted		98117	NINETY-EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN
Total Number of Spoilt Ballot Papers		249	TWO HUNDRED FORTY-NINE

Accordingly, as Returning Officer for Kisoro Electoral District and in accordance with Section 72 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, (Cap 177), declare **AKIFEZA GRACE NGABIRANO** who has obtained the largest number

of votes winner and District Woman Representative to Parliament, **Kisoro** Electoral District.

Returning Officer's Name: **Nayebare Daniel**, Signature: 

Date: **15/11/2024** Place: **.Kisoro District Council Hall. Time: :1:30 AM**



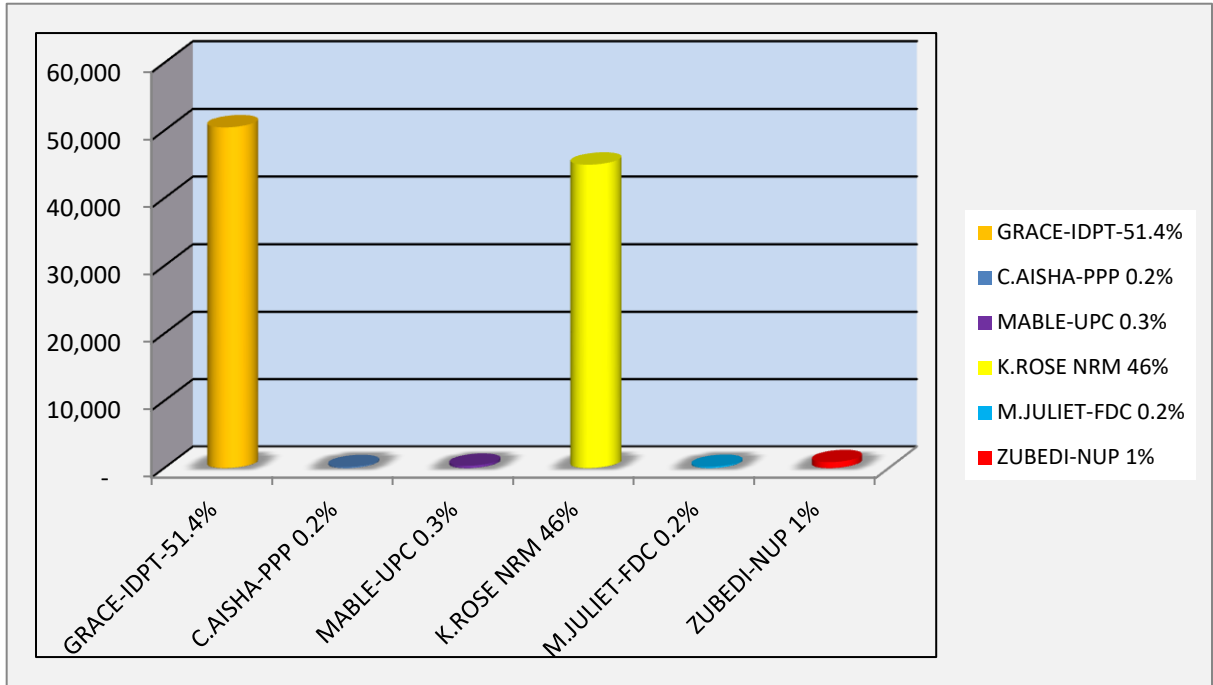


Chart showing how the candidates performed

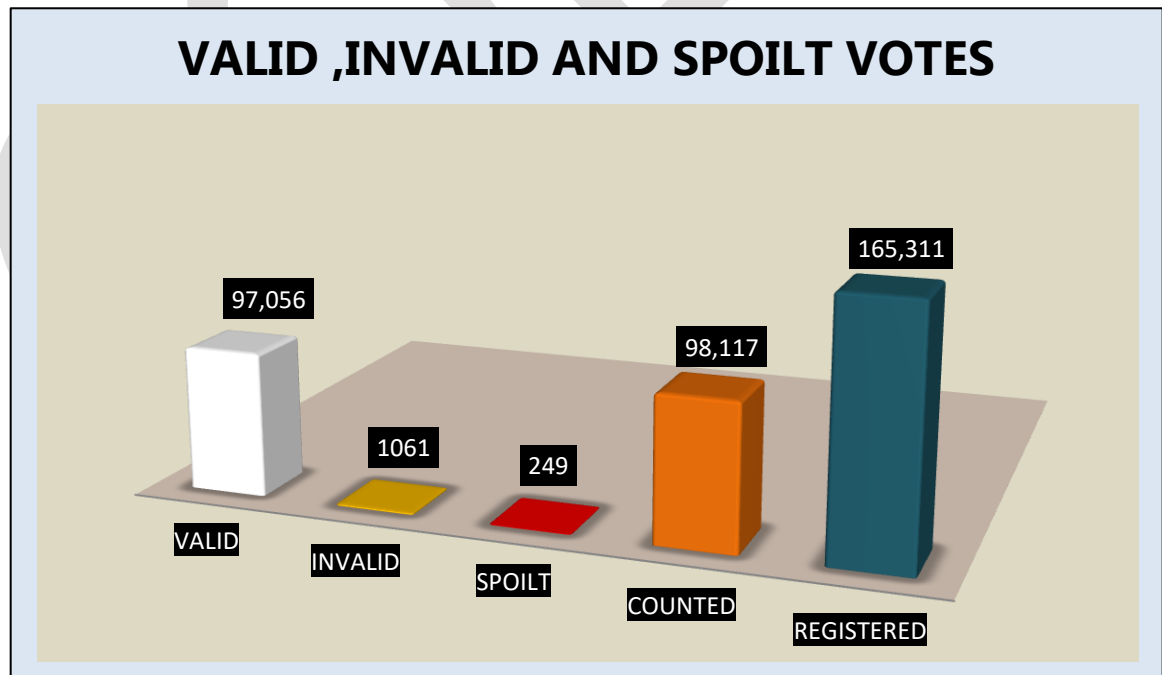


Chart showing the Valid and Invalid votes

Commendations;

Kisoro district woman member of parliament was one of the peaceful elections organized in the district by the electoral commission. Having enlisted all the stake holders presence and participation from the launch to the declaring of the winner.

We as GEOM commend the stake holders;

1-The bringing together of all the stake holders for the launch of the elections is a good idea because stake holders can understand what they are supposed to do in the electoral processes and this helps to iron out the would be problems during and after the elections.

2-The displaying of the voters registers was open to all registered voters and no excuse was raised to any voter not appearing in the register. This means the electoral commission did their work.

3- All candidates who intended to stand after satisfying the electoral commission with their academic papers were allowed to be nominated and stand.

4-Equal campaigning period was given to all the six candidates with no discrimination or interference .

5-All the candidates we met as GEOM observers told us that the campaigns were peaceful with no intimidation or violence whatsoever.

6-Security did their work of keeping law and order in the district during and after the elections.

7-There was transparence in the handling of the voters materials right from the offloading them at the district electoral offices, to opening and dispatching them to the **322** polling stations in the district. This is because the exercises were done at the presence of the candidate agents, observers and the media. This means the electoral commission did their work as expected.

8- By 7:00am on the 14th of November all the polling stations had received the voters materials. So this was good because no delays were there because of late arrivals of the materials and voting started in most of the polling stations as was scheduled.

9-Tallying of the results was also open to all the stake holders like when the four boxes with DR forms arrived late at the Tally Centre ,they were opened at the presence of the Police officer, candidate agents, observers plus the media.

10- Looking at the turn up of the voters the number was good because the registered voters were **165,311** and the votes counted were **98,117** representing **59.4%** this is not so bad because of the **60 days** given to the electoral commission to mobilize the voters. This means that the electoral commission did some work in mobilizing the voters in the district to turn up as voters.

11-The issue of numberless vehicles moving in the area during voting hours was not there so the warning by the chairman of EC Lord chair Justice Byabakama was taken serious because it was a big issue in like Oyam by-elections where one party raised it as a big concern for the security of the candidates with their voters . The lord chair tasked the security officers to check it seriously.

Recommendations.

1-The electoral commission should maintain the good work done right from the launching to the declaration of the winner of the election. Minimal complaints if any were raised accusing the electoral commission.

2-There is need to increase on the awareness of the rights and responsibilities of the voters through civic or voters education since the 2026 elections is around the corner.

3-Polling stations should be marked earlier on before the arrival of the voters materials because at some stations the presiding officers were seen trying to mark the station at the presence of voters. We can also borrow a leaf from our neighbor Rwanda where the polling stations are marked with the national colors. So can do it in the coming 2026 elections.

4- There should be some barriers between the presiding officer with the assistant from those voters who turn up to witness the counting of the votes at one station the voters wanted to grab the ballot paper from a presiding officer saying it was invalid.

5-At the time of dispatching the voter's materials, the security to escort them should always be there in time because we observed some trucks being delayed to go to the stations because they didn't have the two police men to escort them.

6-The electoral commission should put much emphasis on the youths voters education so that they can know their rights and responsibilities to participate in elections. They are very good at involving themselves in acts of violence because majority of them don't know that it is their rights and responsibilities to elect their leaders. This was observed and note in this election where majority of the voter are very old people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Kisoro District By-Election provides a positive example of how effective electoral processes can contribute to a successful democratic environment. Whenever an election takes place and the pre, during and after elections end in peace then it is a sign of political maturity .We should learn to agree to disagree and respect one another as Ugandans. We once again commend the electoral commission, the security our fellow observers, the media and above all the people of Kisoro especially the voters for the calmness in handling this exercise.