



COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
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PRESS RELEASE

CHRAGG Statement on the importance of conducting campaigns and the general election process basing on the principles of justice, equality and peace

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) would like to join various stakeholders to reiterate its position of urging different stakeholders in the process of the 2015 General Elections to ensure that the elections are conducted fairly, impartially and peacefully.

Like other stakeholders, the Commission has noted that signs of violation of these principles have begun to emerge.

The Commission calls on all election actors - institutions, state organs, and various decision makers to conduct their duties basing on the principles of justice, equality, transparency and non-discrimination so as to promote human rights and avoid unnecessary conflicts.

In addition, the Commission would like to advise leaders of political parties, their followers and the general public to refrain from political emotions, which lead to the use of sarcastic, divisive, and derogatory languages during the election campaign period, for this will help to maintain unity, peace and tranquility that have lasted in the country for all these years since our country gained independence.

According to Section 2.2(b) of the Code of Ethics for the 2015 Elections of the President, Members of Parliament and Councilors signed on 27th July, 2015 by all political parties, the leaders and their candidates are required to refrain from the use of inappropriate languages.

Further, the Commission would like to take this opportunity to warn and to denounce the use of derogatory and unsuitable languages in the ongoing campaigns of marketing Election Manifestos and candidates for presidential, parliamentary and local councils, and wishes to remind politicians and their followers to adhere to the Code of Ethics in order to maintain clean and pure politics, peace and tranquility in the country.

CHRAGG reminds that rallies for advertising policies, manifestos and candidates is an important part of implementing the right of citizens to participate in the governance of the State, either directly as a candidate or to participate to elect one's representative.

It is therefore important for authorities to ensure there is equal opportunity in the process. It is vital to have a situation of fairness (level playing field) so that the election exercise gains legitimacy.

Furthermore, the Commission wishes to alert the authorities, political parties and the police force on the presence of security groups within the political parties. The Commission emphasizes that the presence of these groups is against the Constitution.

Experience in different countries has shown that such groups have been sources of breach of peace and violation of human rights, particularly during and after the elections when there is lack of transparency and fairness. Legally these groups are not accountable to anyone, but they are only there to protect interests of the parties.

Therefore, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance urges the Government to ban these groups from engaging themselves in any way in the electoral processes, given that the police force has been established to provide protection for candidates, citizens and their properties.

Finally, the Commission urges the National Electoral Commission to address anomalies in the improvement of the Voters Register using BVR. Also, the Commission recommends that all registered students have the opportunity to vote wherever they will be.

The Commission has been monitoring closely the process of the 2015 General Election campaigns, before and after the campaign programs of political parties started on 22nd August, 2015. The Commission has noted several issues so far, including use of inappropriate and divisive language, to mention but a few.

Issued by:

Hon. Bahame Tom Nyanduga
CHAIRMAN

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