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**GUIDELINES FOR THE  
ACCREDITED OBSERVERS  
OR MONITORS FOR  
THE REFERENDUM  
SLATED FOR  
29TH JUNE 2000**

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## **GUIDELINES**

Notice is hereby given that in exercise of powers conferred upon the Electoral Commission by the sub-section 1 & 2 of section 16 of the Electoral Commission Act, No. 3 of 1997, the Commission issues the procedures and conditions for accreditation of individuals, groups, or institutions for the observation of referendum process as here in below:

### ***1) Scope of international observation***

a) For the purpose of these guidelines, international observation means the verification of the various stages of the electoral processes by International Organisations, foreign governments NGOs, and foreign personalities duly recognized for the purpose.

### ***2) Objectives of observations***

To ascertain the fairness and freeness of the referendum process and tender credibility to the eventual results of the referendum to both the National and International community.

### 3) *Scope of referendum observation*

An accredited person or group shall endeavor to look at various aspects of the referendum process and come out with a fair judgement. The scope may cover the following:

- a) observing and verifying the impartiality and legality of decisions taken by the Electoral Commission and its officers.
- b) Observing and verifying the registration of voters as under the Commission guidelines, the law, and the Constitution.
- c) Ascertaining people's awareness of the referendum process:
  - i) By studying people's participation in the political systems' canvassing programmes.
  - ii) By studying the ease of advocacy with which those canvassing for the different political systems access the public.

d) Observing and verifying the processes as provided by the law: i.e.

- ♦ opening of polls
- ♦ voting materials
  - quantities
  - timeliness
- ♦ procedures
- ♦ conduciveness of polling atmosphere
- ♦ casting of votes
- ♦ counting of votes
- ♦ transmission and declaration of results

**4) *Observers are free:***

- a) to request for and obtain information on activities relating to registration of voters, and polling;
- b) to submit to the Commission, in writing, complaints and appeals about any irregularities in the electoral process
- c) to be present at the polling stations and to occupy the nearest seats or positions to the polling station officers so as to be able to monitor all the operations relating to the casting of votes.

d) To inspect and verify before the beginning of the casting of votes the ballot boxes and any other item to be used in the polling exercise.

**NB** observers are not supposed to interfere by action, comment or advice with the polling exercise.

### *5. Obligation of observers*

Observers shall be obliged:

- ◊ To respect and abide by the Constitution and the law of Uganda;
- ◊ To exercise their role with impartiality, independence and objectivity;
- ◊ To refrain from interfering unjustifiably and in bad faith with the duties of the election officers; but to cooperate with election officers.
- ◊ To report any irregularity noted in the electoral process to the Commission or to competent officers of Commission who will examine the activities reported

as irregular and take corrective measure;

- The accredited person or groups shall submit an interim report of their findings within 24 hours in any case before the final declaration of the result by the Electoral Commission.
- A final report shall be submitted to the Electoral Commission within six months from the time of the Elections. (See S. 16 (5) of the Electoral Commission Act.
- Any person who observes any referendum process without accreditation for the purpose commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding (Fifteen (15) Currency Point = Ug. Shs. 300,000/=) or imprisonment not exceeding six months or both. (See S. 16 (6) of the Electoral Commission Act).

*N.B. One currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand Uganda shillings.*