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## CANDIDATES' MEETINGS/CANDIDATES CAMPAIGNS

### YOUR CHANCE TO ASSESS THE CANDIDATES

Candidates' Meetings programmes have now been organised for all parishes throughout the country. At each Candidates' Meeting, all candidates of an Electoral Area are given equal opportunity to present themselves and their ideas about the Constitution to the public, and answer questions from voters.

Candidates are expected to stand on their own merit. The law does not allow any candidate to stand as a member of a political party. Candidates are also not allowed to attack each other at Candidates Meetings.

In each parish, the Candidates' Meeting is chaired by the Presiding Officer for the Electoral Area.

At every Candidates' Meeting, the Presiding Officer introduces the candidates one by one and allows each candidate reasonable time, in each case not less than twenty minutes, to address the meeting on matters relating to the Constitution.

After all candidates have addressed the meeting, the Presiding Officer invites questions from the voters, and a candidate to whom a question is directed is allowed reasonable time to answer.

At a Candidates' Meeting the Presiding Officer and candidates may use the local language of the area.

Candidates are also going round their Electoral Areas individually to speak to voters directly. Candidates are not allowed to hold separate rallies but they can speak to as many people as they wish face to face.

Now is your chance to assess the candidates of your Electoral Area. Attend the Candidates' Meeting in your parish, and listen to the candidates when they come round individually to speak to you. You can ask them questions and also give them your own views about the future Constitution.

Choose the candidate with whom you agree most about the future Constitution for Uganda, the candidate who you think can speak out and do the best job for you in the Constituent Assembly. Make sure you know his/her name and picture. On Polling Day you will need to recognise your candidate's picture and his/her name on the ballot paper to be able to vote for him/her.

## VOTING

### WHO CAN VOTE:

Only Uganda Citizens who are at least 18 years old and have registered can vote.

### WHERE TO VOTE:

The Polling station in your Parish/Village where you have your name on the register.

TIME TO VOTE: Polling Day is Monday 28th March, 1994.

1. Voting will be on this day only so do not miss it.
2. Voting begins at 7:00 a.m. and closes at 5:00 p.m. that day only.
3. Although stations may open slightly before that time, no polling starts till 7:00 a.m. and nobody will be admitted to the station to vote after 5:00 p.m. Only voters who are already in the line before 5:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

### BEFORE VOTING BEGINS:

1. The Presiding Officer will open the ballot box and show it to the public and candidates' agents by tilting it upside down to make sure it is empty and then seal it.
2. The Presiding Officer will show the parcelled and sealed ballot papers indicating to all present that they have not been tampered with, and that they are genuine.

### HOW TO VOTE:

1. On election day carry your own Certificate of Registration and go in person early to the polling station where you have your name on the Register.
2. Start or join the queue and wait for your turn to vote.
3. Go to table 1. There you will show your Certificate of Registration. The Election Officer will check your name and number in the Register and examine your fingers.
4. If everything is in order, you will be given a ballot paper and your Certificate of registration will be returned. Carry the ballot to table 2. There look carefully for the picture of the candidate of your choice and mark a tick... or place your thumb print in the box beside the photograph of the candidate of your choice.  
**DON'T PUT ANY OTHER MARK ON THE BALLOT PAPER.**  
**NOTE THAT X IS NO LONGER A VOTING MARK, SO NEVER USE IT.**

5 Fold your ballot paper.

How to fold the ballot paper

(This is important for people who will mark the ballot paper by thumb- print).

- a) To fold the ballot paper, first bring the two long edges together (that is, the left and right edges together) and crease the fold.
- b) Then the top and bottom edges together, and crease the fold.

**Note that if you fold the ballot paper by bringing together the top and bottom edges first, the wet thumbprint you have placed beside the picture of the candidate of your choice, may accidentally mark the space next to another candidate's picture and your ballot will be rejected because it has two marks.**

6. Walk to table 3, where one ballot box sits. Put the folded ballot paper into the box through the slit in the top. Be sure you do not put your Certificate of Registration in the box. Only ballots go into the box.
7. Walk to table 4, and an Election Officer will help you dip the small finger of your left hand into the indelible ink. This is to show that you have voted.

SECURITY OF THE VOTE:

The voting is done in the open but your choice is secret.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If you need someone to help you vote, you should bring a member of your family or someone you know and trust. His/her age does not matter. If you have no one to help you then the Election officers can help. They are sworn to secrecy.

SOME ELECTION OFFENCES: It is an election offence:-

- to vote or try to vote more than once;
- to forge a registration certificate or ballot paper;
- to vote in the name of another person, living or dead;
- to vote if you have not registered;
- to vote if you are not qualified to vote;

Voting is a serious responsibility. Anyone who tries to cheat will be caught and prosecuted.