



STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA ON THE POST ELECTION SITUATION IN UGANDA

Good morning members of the Fourth Estate.

On a special note, I want to thank you for the work well done during the General Elections that are about to end. So far you are doing good work, some unprofessional conduct in some quarters notwithstanding. But over all, you have been very professional during this whole period. I want to thank you once again.

Uganda is at the tail end of an election cycle, with the election of presidential, parliamentary, Mayors and Local Council Five chairpersons done. Overall, the country continues to enjoy largely a peaceful exercise, and we commend the public for maintaining calm and order. However, a few isolated incidents have threatened to undermine these efforts.

I congratulate H.E President Y. K Museveni for being re-elected President of Uganda, the NRM Party for the resounding victory and all the leaders who have been successfully elected. I thank all those who participated in the electoral exercise. I also congratulate the Independent Electoral Commission for successfully conducting the exercise.

As you are aware, as we neared the polling dates for presidential and parliamentary elections, cases of indiscipline among some political actors began. These political actors were provoking police by completely refusing to follow guidelines that were given by the Electoral Commission. This kind of indiscipline was largely by the leadership of the National Unity platform. There was always altercation with police and other security agencies whenever such kind of insolence happened. That notwithstanding, the elections went on smoothly and scheduled.

The recent arrests;

Some arrests have been made by security agencies and indeed all those who were trying to cause problems are being processed through courts of laws. The arrested people are of two categories. First, there are people that wanted to cause violence simply because the candidates they supported lost the elections. These were largely spontaneous reactions and driven by the shock of losing the elections. However, there was the second category that involved criminal gangs who were mobilised by their leaders to turn this election period as launching time to cause civil unrest in the country.

As journalists, you must have heard statements like “*mubayisemu Egaali*” Egaali was a call to destroy or cause harm to those that did belong to a different ideology other than that of NUP. Video evidence is available of such leaders in Mukono Municipality rallying their party supporters and teaching them tricks on how to overwhelm security forces in the event their victory is not realised through the vote.

The category that was plotting such kind of violence has been arrested and those that are on the run will be got and apprehended as the law requires. This is not strange to Uganda. In the 2021 General Elections, panga wielding thugs terrorised Greater Masaka region. They killed people and maimed others before security forces came in and neutralised their criminal intentions.

It was because of such criminal plotting by some political actors that government deployed security personnel across the country during and after elections. It is indeed the same reasons why UCC temporarily switched off the internet. Security and intelligence agencies landed on all the plans on how these criminal actors wanted to abuse social media through criminal incitement. There was a detailed plan of misinformation and disinformation to create fear and anarchy across the country.

There is a tendency mostly in developing countries where disputes in elections slide the whole country into total anarchy. Criminal gangs tend to hide in

political activism and overwhelm security to wreck havoc on masses during and after elections. As government, we are resolute not to allow criminal gangs to destabilise our country under the guise of elections. Countries like Sudan, Jamaica, Madagascar have since collapsed because criminal gangs hiding in political activism overran security and collapsed it. This will not happen here in Uganda and we shall not allow it. We are firm and resolute to protect Ugandans and their properties.

The role of the Uganda Police Force and sister security agencies is to ensure that both political actors and hardworking citizens enjoy their rights and freedoms. Anyone who breaches the law must be handled appropriately. Maintaining this balance is delicate but essential, especially during and after elections.

It is unfortunate that some of our political actors have misled some of their supporters into such fatal criminal actions like the people that were killed in Butambala on the 15th January 2026. I do hope that justice will prevail through the ongoing court process.

The government strongly condemns all forms of electoral violence and lawlessness. We remain resolute in preserving law and order throughout this whole period. No group, internal or external, will derail our commitment to providing security to Ugandans.

The business community, investors, and the public require a peaceful environment to thrive. Unfortunately, some organised groups, in collusion with certain political actors, misinterpreted police restraint as weakness and began engaging in provocative acts. The security responded strictly. And it should always do it within the law.

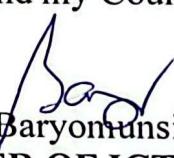
Political contests do not give license to hooliganism or disorder. The government will continue enforcing public order with utmost vigilance and resolve. It has become apparent that some actors deliberately provoke the police to generate negative media publicity and lay the groundwork for

defiance when they lose. Their earlier call for a “protest vote” is a clear indication of such intentions.

Government is also aware that some political actors are collaborating with foreign agents in the hope that they can help in destabilizing the country. No one will destabilize sovereign Uganda. The future, direction and destiny of Uganda shall continue to be determined by Ugandans themselves through constitutional and democratic processes as provided.

Finally, I call upon all Ugandans to resume their work and continue to enjoy their country. Except for the few remaining lower local governments, elections are over. Those that are dissatisfied with the outcome, are free to go to court if they have evidence of unfair play. Courts are ready to listen to their grievances and then give a fair verdict. Ugandans do not need violence and riots. They desire to work, survive and make progress.

For God and my Country,


Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, MP

MINISTER OF ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE

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