

Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



Religions for Peace

PRESS RELEASE ON THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS

For Immediate Release

Fellow Ugandans, we greet you all in the name of the Almighty!

We take this opportunity to congratulate all presidential aspirants from the various political parties and independent candidates who have successfully completed the presidential nomination process. We note the enthusiasm exhibited by the aspiring candidates to seek the nomination for the highest office in the land, the Office of the President.

We appreciate the effort of the Electoral Commission in exercising its constitutional mandate to nominate the Presidential Candidates on 2nd and 3rd November 2020. We acknowledge the work exhibited during the nomination process and urge that this is maintained throughout the electoral process.

We are, however, concerned by the behavior and excessive force exhibited by the security forces during the Presidential nominations. The manner in which two of the candidates were treated before and after their nomination left a lot to be desired as it jeopardized, freedom of, the spirit of free and fair election and cast the entire country in bad light. The conduct of the security agencies may not only undermine citizens confidence in the electoral process, but may also set it on the path of violence, which we are trying to avoid as a country.

As religious leaders, we believe that much as it is the role of the Police to maintain law and order, this should be done with dignity, respect and within the confines of the Constitution, through which Uganda is governed.

Therefore;

- We call upon the Inspector General of Police and other heads of security agencies to use equal and appropriate actions when enforcing law and order to all citizens regardless of their political affiliation.

- We call upon individual security officers to use both their conscience and the law when handling dissent so that we promote unity and fairness for all political players and maintain professionalism within the forces and to continuously work with the security organs
- We urge the electoral commission to make the rules of the 2020/201 electoral process clear, fair and continuously engage all players so that these rules are known and understood by all
- We call on the Electoral Commission to work hand in hand with other agencies to secure an environment that will deliver a fair and peaceful elections.
- We call on the Presidential aspirates to appreciate the enormous responsibility of contributing to an enabling electoral environment and upholding the dignity of the electoral process.
- We call on the electorate to restrain themselves from behavior that might stir up violence.

Finally, we remind our fellow citizens, that COVID-19 is real and spreading rapidly within our communities. Let us ensure that during this electoral process, we adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

As religious leaders we commit to continue to guiding the country during and after the electoral process.

Let us continue to pray and work for peace in our country as we live up to our motto; *For God and My Country*.



Joshua Kitakule
Secretary General
INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

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