

Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



Religions for Peace

MESSAGE FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO THE NATION ON THE EVE OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Dear Fellow citizens,

In a few hours we shall be going for the national elections. This journey has been a tough one which has been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. We condole with all families who have lost their dear one to COVID-19. We also give encouragement to Ugandans due to the hardship and negative impact of COVID-19 on families, businesses, employment, institutions and the economy at large. We are aware of the incredible pain, anxiety and stress that have been brought about by the sad events that have characterised this campaign period.

We extend our sincere condolences to all those that have lost their dear ones during the various episodes of violence.

As per our calling, we engaged with relevant duty bearers on various issues that have emerged during this electoral period. We understand your frustration with regard to the limited effect that our initiatives have had in contributing to an enabling environment for all participating candidates. This reality, underscores the handicaps that continue to characterise our efforts of consolidating democratic values in the country. It is for this reason that we echoed the need for a national dialogue as the only path through which we can address the root causes related to the consolidation of a democratic culture in our country as well as other challenges within our body politic.

As for the coming election we urge you to fulfil your constitutional obligation by turning out in large numbers to vote and refrain from acts of violence.

We appeal to the Electoral Commission as the arbitrator in this process to exercise wisdom and prudence and uphold the integrity of the whole electoral process. The Holy Scriptures in Proverbs 18:18 remind us that ***“casting lots causes contention to cease and keeps the mighty apart.”***

We appeal to all the security agencies to enable the voters exercise their rights and refrain from acts that may interfere with the delivery of a free and fair electoral outcome.

As for the candidates, you have done your very best in sharing your manifestos, we plead with you to honour the choice of the electorate and seek justice where that choice is interfered with.

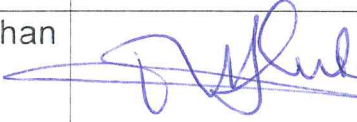


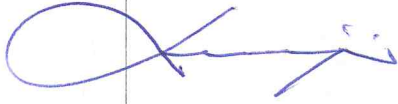
Assuring you of our availability for support and accompaniment over these coming days. We are available at the different levels in the country. At the National level the Council of Presidents will be available; At the regional level we have regional peace and stability forums and at district level, we have Peace and reconciliation committee to attend to any issues that may emerge in the coming days.

Prayer:

Lord God our Creator we thank you for our country Uganda we commit all the citizens as they exercise their right to vote, grant us wisdom in making our choices. Protect our country from the plans of the evil one and grant

us peace which surpasses all understanding in the name of the living God
Amen.

Signed this 13th day of January, 2021 for and on behalf of the faith
fraternity in Uganda.

No.	Name and Designation	Signature
1.	His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Ramadhan Mubaje, Grand Mufti of Uganda Chairperson, Council of Presidents	
2.	His Grace Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga Archbishop of Kampala Roman Catholic Church Uganda Co-Chairperson, Council of Presidents	
3.	His Eminence Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga Archbishop Uganda Orthodox Church Co-Chairperson, Council of Presidents	
4.	His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu Archbishop, Province of the Church of Uganda Co-Chairperson, Council of Presidents	
5.	Pastor Dr. Daniel Matte President, Seventh-day Adventist Uganda union Co-Chairperson, Council of Presidents	
6.	Apostle Dr. Joseph Serwadda Presiding Apostle Born Again Faith in Uganda Co-Chairperson, Council of Presidents	
7.	Bishop Joshua Lwere General Overseer National Alliance of Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches in Uganda Co-Chairperson, Council of Presidents	
8.	Joshua Kitakule Secretary General Inter-Religious Council of Uganda Council Secretary	