

# STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT

BY

**THE HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL  
AFFAIRS**

**11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

## **Introduction**

This statement is made in respect of two related matters raised by Hon. Nzoghu William, Member of Parliament for Busongora County North and Hon. Bamukwasa Muzanira Betty, Woman Member of Parliament for Rukungiri District on:

1. The Disenfranchisement of Youth in Kasese District during the ongoing update of the national voters' register on account of being under age yet they would be eligible to vote at the time of voting in 2021. **(By Hon. Nzoghu William, Member of Parliament for Busongora County North).**
2. The legality of Setting Deadlines to Voters Registration by the Electoral Commission Act, Cap.140 which mandates the Electoral Commission to compile, maintain and update a National Voters Register on a continuing basis **(by Hon. Bamukwasa Muzanira Betty, Woman Member of Parliament for Rukungiri District).**

I will answer the two question jointly as follows:

Article 61(1)(e) of the Constitution enjoins the Electoral Commission to compile, maintain, revise and update the voters' register.

The Electoral Commission provides deadlines for voters registers update in accordance with section 19(7) of the Electoral Commission Act which provides as follows:-

“When updating the voters register, the commission shall update it to a date appointed by statutory instrument in accordance with subsection (8) as the date when the updating shall end.”

The Electoral Commission has since appointed the date for end of updating the voters' register and has since extended the date on two occasions. The last extension ended on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2019.

The Electoral Commission is conducting the update of electoral processes in accordance with the Roadmap for the 2021 General Elections.

Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, it is also important to note that the Electoral Commission does so in accordance with article 59 of the Constitution which provides-

“(1) Every citizen of Uganda of 18 years of age or above has a right to vote.

(2) It is the duty of every citizen of Uganda of 18 years and above to register as a voter for public elections and referenda.”

Accordingly, only persons who have attained the age of 18 years are eligible for registration.

I draw the attention of this House, that in accordance with the Roadmap of General Elections 2021, the Electoral Commission is due to start displaying the voters' register for 21 days from 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **Conclusion**

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, providing the deadline for updating of the voters' register is accordingly in line with the law as provided for above.



**Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu (MP)**  
**Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**