



PEACE DEPARTMENT

Name of activity

STATUS MONITORING ONLINE REPORT ON
THE PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS AS ON 17th 19TH FEB. 2015

Theme

Uganda Decides 2016, a focus on
Rwenzori region

Background

KRC in partnership with Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPJ) with support from DGF is implementing a project aimed at strengthening conflict prevention and transformation mechanisms in Rwenzori region. The project targets to benefit 500,000 people both directly and indirectly from five cultural institutions and other peace actors in five districts of Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kyenjojo and Kasese. The project uses a community based approach of Community Based Peace Actors spread evenly in their respective districts. These are charged with monitoring and reporting emerging conflicts through an on-line web based platform that is centrally managed by KRC. These efforts are also buttressed by the KRC initiative of voter education, which is also supported by DGF. In preparation for the 2016 general elections, KRC applied and was the only organization accredited by the Electoral Commission in the Rwenzori region to conduct voter education exercises. From July 2015, with financial support from DGF, KRC spearheaded processes of voter education directly in 21 sub-counties through community meetings, rallies, debates and also through radio talk shows. It also used printed voter education materials to disseminate voter education in the entire 7 Districts of the Rwenzori Region.

In light of these two projects, KRC participated in the monitoring process of the presidential and parliamentary elections that were conducted on Thursday 18th February 2016 across the country.

Methodology

The methodology applied to generate findings contained herein was through the *Kangabaije* online platform at KRC with over 250 reporters, direct calls by Community Based Peace Actors and change agents evenly distributed in the region. The data is further backed up by more related platforms within the region.

This report basically focuses on the violence that erupted through the electioneering period and some of the processes that went on including; voter turn up, voting time, materials, casting of votes, use of the Biometric Voter Verification Machines (BVVM), the voting process, counting and the aftermath situation.

Direct calls were used upon the closure of the social media by the Uganda Communications Commission. These calls were equally backed up with direct observation at polling and tally centres by staff and reporters. Over 23 sub counties and 2 municipal councils were covered by the exercise.

General impression

Reports from community based reporters and the online platform indicate that the elections were generally peaceful across the region. There was also noticeable overwhelming voter turn up, both in urban and peri-urban areas.

Time for voting

Time for voting was generally observed by the voters and in most polling stations voters were able to turn up as early as 06:00am save for some places which received voting materials late. These included; Kigoyera Catholic Church Polling Station in Kyarusoji S/C voting started at 09:50am and Kyamutasa polling station in Nyantungo Kyenjojo District where voting started 2 hours and 30 minutes late. While in Kikyendo polling station in Kakabara, Kyegegwa, voting started at 09:40am. The reason given by the polling officials, was late delivery of materials to the sub county, as there was only one vehicle delivering materials.

Agents

All agents of different candidates from various political parties who presented relevant documents to the polling officials were accorded full recognition and right to observe and verify the electoral process.

Presence of Security

There was presence of fully recognized security personnel at every polling station. These personnel were not armed but were in police uniform with batons. They were referred to as election constables.

Biometric Voter Verification Machines (BVVK).

All polling centres were availed with BVVK. The very first 10-15 voters who used the machines complained about the slowness of the process but as time went on both the voters and the polling officials got used to applying the use of the machine rightly and the process went on smoothly. By midday the long queues had started reducing drastically. ***“These computers of yours will make us stand here for the whole day, if you were using our registers as it has always been I would have left this place...”*** remarked an old man at Kathembo Primary School.

Regrettably and sadly In Kinyamaseke, Kasese District an old Man ***Mzee KASUKUTU Aaron*** 70 years, collapsed after receiving a ballot paper on the first table for the presidential candidates. He had been on the line for over 3 hours under terrible sunshine. Kasukutu fainted, fell down and was rushed to Hospital but ***died*** before he was delivered to the health unit.

Some polling stations in Kabarole like Busaiga and Karangura, reported their machines to having been faulty thus delaying the process. However the districts were availed with reserve machines which were used in cases of faulty ones.

During the casting of the votes Calmness was observed across the region, voters were enthusiastic and able to persistently withstand the heavy sunshine with calmness till they cast their votes and went of the polling stations. For some it was a time to keep vigil and watch the entire voting process. It is reported that some voters stayed at the polling stations till the time for counting the votes saying they were “protecting their votes”

The very first reporter from Kayanzi fishing village Kasese Mr. NASUR Banganalya indicated that the voting process in his parish was very calm as reported on the online platform. .

Reports from Kyegegwa district indicated that the Woman MP was not voted because the ballot paper contained two NRM Flag Bearers. The head of the electoral commission together with the District Police Commander therefore cancelled the election till further clarification by EC-Kampala. While in Kamwenge there was mis-delivery of polling materials of one station to the other, this was noticed in Kitagwenda and Kibaale counties. Immediate remedy was done by the electoral commission in the district.

Closure of the voting process

Reports across indicated that most polling stations closed at exactly 04:00pm. Even where materials arrived a little late the closing time was observed. Calmness was still observed at this very moment of closure. For stations where there still queues police constable stood after the very last person (s) on the line to ensure nobody else joins the line.

Vote counting

The vote counting process in most areas started at 04:00pm amidst calm voters who gathered at the respective polling stations to witness the counting.

Signing of declaration forms

Reports from reporters indicate that agents of various candidates and EC staff in the various polling stations signed declaration forms without any form of tension all over. This signing indicated a mutual agreement on the outcomes of the election at the respective polling stations.

Transportation of results

Materials were transported to Sub Counties by EC officials and escorted by Police Constables. At this point the role of the voter seemed to end and they stayed waiting for the official declaration of results.

Closure of Social Media and Mobile Money

There were general complains from elite voters on why the social media platforms especially whatsapp, facebook and twitter were temporarily shut down by the UCC. This was majorly by those who can ably use these platforms. The situation was worsened by closing of the mobile money services which affected even a very local person. The voters did not see a linkage between the electoral process and the mobile money.

Cases of Electoral Violence

As opposed to the peaceful and calm elections across the region, Kasese districts turned bloody in the aftermaths of the polling day.

The Kasese conundrum

On Friday afternoon a mammoth crowd of voters had gathered at the Tally centre in Kasese to get the results being declared by the EC. Reports indicate that as they were eagerly waiting, Police Officers and a polling official from Nyakasoja polling station came with two Ballot Boxes to the tally centre. The Polling Official had told the Police that he had mistakenly sealed copies of declaration forms in the Ballot boxes. He therefore requested that the boxes be opened and he gets the forms. But the crowd with all the anxiety and suspicions of rigging stormed the tally centre. Police quickly rushed in and started shooting live Bullets in the air and tear gas to disperse the crowds. As the situation got more tense, UPDF soldiers were called in to give support to Police. In the ensuing scuffle and the sporadic shooting, a straying Bullet killed a 16 year old boy called KULE ABRAHAM who was buried on Sunday 21st Feb 2016



Above: Angry residents at the tally Centre in Kasese on Friday

The tension went on through the night under heavy security deployment comprising, the UPDF. A few party representatives were allowed to access the tallying room. After a long period of advent characterized by heavy anxiety, shouting, throwing of stones and wearing of grass by the voters, results of all Members of Parliament from all the five constituencies were declared at 02:00am. Results of the woman Member of Parliament were declared on Saturday at 3pm equally under tight security and pressure mounted on the EC officials from the angry community.

Police in Kasese regretted the loss/death of the young boy and promised to give the necessary support to the family of the deceased. The other two survivors who were injured were rushed to Kilembe Mines Hospital.

All in all the exercise was generally peaceful in the whole region and KRC mourns with family of Late Mzee **KASUKUTU Aaron and KULE ABRAHAM**.

**Compiled by
Kabarele Research and Resource Centre (KRC)**

Back up from the online platforms

Messages below indicate the situation during the elections while the last slide of the Kanga Baije platform represents a trigger that had been sent out and showed that the situation would calm but also chaotic in specific areas.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Kanga Baije application. The browser address bar shows 'krcug.net:8080/krc/message/index'. The application header includes the 'RFPJ Kanga Baije' logo and a user profile 'root'. A navigation menu contains 'Dashboard', 'Trigger', 'SMS', 'Data', 'Reports', and 'Maps'. Below the menu is a 'Message List' section with a search input field. The main content area displays a table of messages.

Message	Reply	Number	Sender Name	Date Created	Msg Id	Map To Question
1 no	Your Number Does Not Exist in our Register,However your message has been received	256781995260		2016-02-22	1,939	↔
1 no	Your Number Does Not Exist in our Register,However your message has been received	256781995260		2016-02-22	1,938	↔
conflict in kasese fighting for failures refused to sign opposition people have been put to jail plus those who passed through mp katusabe, mugisha	Your Message has been received at krc	256773965685	Mbambu Martha	2016-02-19	1,936	↔
1 elections has been free and fair	The response[elections has been free and fair] is not allowed for the question[As we approach the closure of the elections to vote counting, we emphasize that you stay calm and avoid big crowds of chaos.]Possible values include: 1 Yes	256783906268	Nasoor	2016-02-18	1,934	↔

Mafabi, Wamanga return a... x View Responses x

krcug.net:8080/krc/questionResponse/index/triggerid=7352d9a0eb584e22b8052212b398e8ac

Search RADIO RAGE Listen to the Radio Music Videos Music News Play Music Podcasts Music Fun

RFPJ Kanga Baije root

Dashboard Trigger SMS Data Reports Maps Settings

Questionresponse List Please type search item and press enter

View Responses

Select Active Trigger Trigger Name: Situation prior to choosing. Creation Date: 2016-02-11

#	Question	Response	Actual	Actual	Tel:	Action
1	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:28:47 UTC	256785103784	<> ✕
2	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:29:48 UTC	256772956145	<> ✕
3	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:33:47 UTC	256781304826	<> ✕
4	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:28:12 UTC	256772471753	<> ✕
5	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:27:52 UTC	25677307780	<> ✕
6	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:58:51 UTC	256774473103	<> ✕
7	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:37:03 UTC	256782622442	<> ✕

4:58 PM 2/22/2016

Mafabi, Wamanga return a... x View Responses x

krcug.net:8080/krc/questionResponse/index/triggerid=7352d9a0eb584e22b8052212b398e8ac

Search RADIO RAGE Listen to the Radio Music Videos Music News Play Music Podcasts Music Fun

RFPJ Kanga Baije root

4	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:28:12 UTC	256772471753	<> ✕
5	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:27:52 UTC	25677307780	<> ✕
6	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:58:51 UTC	256774473103	<> ✕
7	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	1 calm	2016-02-11 12:37:03 UTC	256782622442	<> ✕
8	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	calm	calm	2016-02-11 13:04:29 UTC	256771437438	<> ✕
9	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-11 12:33:52 UTC	256779811616	<> ✕
10	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-11 19:48:37 UTC	256787391077	<> ✕
11	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-11 18:18:50 UTC	256778622351	<> ✕
12	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-11 12:39:55 UTC	256777878415	<> ✕
13	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-15 02:13:32 UTC	256774985142	<> ✕
14	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	tension.	2016-02-15 06:11:58 UTC	256782814290	<> ✕
15	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-12 08:03:21 UTC	256789577605	<> ✕
16	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-11 18:27:01 UTC	256772180029	<> ✕
17	What is the situation like as we prepare to choose our leaders on 18.02.2016?	tension	1 tension	2016-02-12 17:11:06 UTC	256782141296	<> ✕

4:59 PM 2/22/2016