

# *Ugandans to the rescue*



2/24/2011

Museveni declared winner as Commonwealth observers dismiss Poll

Posted by Musa

**At 4:30 Pm Ugandan time** the embattled chairman of the Uganda electoral commission, Badru Kiggundu, declared the Ugandan incumbent president, Gen. Yoweri Museveni as the winner of the presidential elections in a highly controversial election which took place last Friday.

**The announcement** come moments after the Uganda's elections were described as tainted by the lack of a level playing field during the campaign and several irregularities on voting day, by observers from the Commonwealth today.

**President Yoweri Museveni**, who has ruled the country for 25 years, looked assured of another five-year term following Friday's elections, according to partial results.

**In an interim statement**, Commonwealth observer group chair Billie Miller said that "the main concern regarding the campaign and indeed the overall character of the election was the lack of a level playing field."

She deplored "the use of money and the abuse of incumbency" by Museveni's ruling National Resistance Movement during the electoral process.

**Ms Miller also reported** irregularities on Election Day and after, including "widespread late delivery of materials and the late opening of many polling stations; inconsistent application of procedures by polling officials."

"In some areas the nature of the presence of security forces was a concern," she told reporters in Kampala. "This statement reflects improvements which were welcome and encouraging. However there remain shortcomings which need to be addressed," she concluded.

**Ms Miller stressed** that many of the problems reported in the aftermath of the 2006 elections remained.

Uganda, a former British colony, is a member of the Commonwealth and hosted its heads of government meeting in 2007.

**According to the Electoral** Commission, 81 districts have so far submitted all the results and 31 districts have partial results. There are 550 polling

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stations whose results have not yet been submitted.

"We are in the final tracking of the results to make sure we complete the process before announcing the winner "says Kiggundu. The opposition parties have rejected the results of the election.

Source: <http://www.crestedjournal.com/news/36-in-the-news/483-museveni-declared-winner-as-commonwealth-observer-dismiss-poll>