

Ugandans to the rescue



2010-09-16

facebook

[Ekitibwa Kyabuganda](#) sent a message to the members of [UGANDANS AT HEART BLOG](#).

Subject: Sembabule robbery -A Microcosm and Rehearsal
Dear Ugandans at heart,

This post contains 5 bullets, including a 'post -script'. So please bear with us when reading it.

Summary: Sembabule is, in the electoral sense, a microcosm of the eternally flawed Electoral process in today's Uganda. Indeed, the Sembabule NRM vote-handling and the way machinations were the order of the day, must be painful spectacle and experience to the anti-Corruption crusader. The absence of the practice of right of polling stations to declare their results as tallied, leaving that right to the Electoral Commission [or, to a body far away from the centre of events (from the Stations)] is the biggest disservice that is being perpetuated by the current plutocratic regime.

One candidate wins at a station but the announcement comes out with the opponent as the winner, with altered results. We saw this in the 2001 and in the 2006 Presidential elections and we have seen it now, in the current [NRM=National Rigging Movement as the Red Pepper put it] Primaries. But, Sembabule is only an illustration.

1/5. One of the aberrations in our Uganda of today is: Many Ugandan activists and commentators look at the current M7 plutocracy in isolation of its ingrained ideology of "super-race" syndrome, thus missing the pointer to their actions, both tactical[short term] and strategic [long term]. Otherwise, it would be easy to predict their actions in advance, as was the case with my post on this forum, some days back.

I shared on Sembabule, on this forum, that, in the minds of the generals like Tinyefuza, etc, "SEMBABULE MUST be liberated" at any cost and that Bululi and 'Bunyala' [whatever the later means] are rehearsals. Main target: Sembabule. The home of 'Bigo-bya-Mugenyi' and of 'Ntuusi'

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term], even 'pure' - politically, culturally, etc, depending on one's area of interest.

2/5. Back to the mis-election in Sembabule where the 'bad side', that is, the 'anti-Kutesa, anti-establishment' side, "LOST COMPLETELY" [Monitor's words in quotes].

Have a look: The Daily Monitor wrote today [<http://www.facebook.com/1/226897iOPIMMLinyddmgYJyOkTw;09.09.10>, p.3]:

The 'big' loss

"Theodore Ssekikubo, the MP for Lwemiyaga, lost his position as NRM flag bearer in the 2011 elections to Mr. Patrick Nkalubo, by 43 votes. yesterday he rejected the results, saying, evidence' had been burnt. Mr. Ssekikuubo's faction also lost with Ms Joy Kabatsi coming behind incumbent MP Ms Anifa Kawooya, in the race for woman MP flag bearer"

What the caption did not add was that the current LC V Chair, from Ssekikuubo's side, lost too, to the same Kutesa's side that, by declaration, 'swept the board'.

3/5. The Truth

But what loss are we talking of here, in the case of Hon. Ssekikuubo? They say he lost by 43 votes but, the same syndrome of declaring results that differ from those tallied at the polling station, as the Supreme Court confirmed both in the 2001 and the 2006 elections, is still with us and was rampant here.

An Example will illustrate what I mean: We take one polling station in Lwemiyaga, Sembabule [Hon. Ssekikuubo's constituency]:

For Mr. Nkalubo [on Kutesa's side and opposing Hon. Ssekikuubo]:

Station: Kamwojje.

Tallied: 68 votes (on site)

Declared : 680 votes (by the Returning officer, at the District)

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So, if Ssekikuubo lost by 43 votes as declared and yet the opponent got, from nowhere, a bonus of 612 votes on top of those from the polling station as tallied and signed for, even by his opponent's own agents, who is Ssekikuubo not to 'run amok?'.

This is where any electoral officers in Uganda should be ashamed. People vote and their votes are 'counted' on site but the powers that be, in this case, the GISO's, the DISO's and the RDC's [all so called GoU workers but on partisan activities] submit doctored results. Indeed, this practice, plus that of deleting names from the roll on polling day, even after verification at the same polling stations, remain the main ways of rigging an election – the reason the EC must change or cause civil strife in Uganda.

4/5. Conclusion & Recommendation: The practice of barring stations from declaring their results as tallied and even forbidding the media from quoting them [like Paulo Muwanga and Mzee Kikira's EC in 1980 –yet the bush war was ostensibly against such practice], leaving the right to declare the results ONLY to the returning officers at the Districts/The EC Headquarters, is one of the main sticking points in Ugandan electoral malpractice(s). And unless this practice of altering vote counts by manipulation is outlawed, then forget any fight against rigging. It is the root cause of the Ugandan electoral ROT.

Christopher Muwanga,

Nakasero,

Kampala.

5/5. P/S:

(A/B).

GISO stands for "Gombolola {sub-county} Internal Security Officer.

DISO stands for "District Internal Security Officer".

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political appointee, normally bragging that they represent the H.E. The President, in their places of deployment. They are in charge of security and therefore responsible for denying the opposition the constitutional right of assembly and demonstration.

The three GoU officers are/were the NRM primaries returning officials, on State expense. The fusion of “party and State” are therefore complete in today’s Uganda. Otherwise, their daily docket involves monitoring NRM ‘eating’ programmes like NAADS, NUSAF, etc, in addition to harassing and blackmailing the opposition and even, in many cases, political rivals, competitors and challengers, perceived or real, at village level.

(B/B)

History and current Practice: In any election, recently or in the past, it is these officials that normally alter the tallied results before sending them to an NRM clearing centre that then sends the doctored results onwards to the EC [National Electoral Commission of Kiggundu]. It is for the because Kiggundu and his commission are unable to reject the results doctored by the NRM agents [instead of the agents of the commission on site] that the opposition thinks he is compromised. This doctoring was twice proved before the Supreme Court of Uganda and by the International observers. Since we see the same in today’s rehearsal and the personnel at the national EC remain the same, the fears are that the electoral roll will continue to be doctored on the eve of the election and that the votes declared will always differ from those cast and tallied on site. Uganda’s electoral pains therefore are not about to ‘go away’.

CM.
