



Open Letter to the Uganda's Electoral Commission 2016 General Elections

17th, February 2016

The Electoral Commission, Uganda

Dear Commissioner,

I thank you for your civic engagement of chairing the Electoral Commission and rely on you and your colleagues to uphold the highest standards in assuring a proper election processes.

The hopes of the Ugandan people and the country's post-election future rest to a great extent on the trust they can put in the work of the Commission.

I do understand how heavy the responsibility bestowed upon the Commission by the Ugandan National Constitution is; it is an obligation for which I sincerely appreciate you and the team's acceptance to diligently serve the nation.

At the same time, I am deeply concerned over the violent and intimidating incitements of some candidates seeking the office of the Presidency of Uganda, of which I am afraid you might – in some ways - as well be under pressure from. It is obvious that a compromise of any nature in the integrity of the polling, counting and publication of votes would bring shame to the worthy idea of democracy.

As the head of the Electoral Commission you bear a special responsibility to ensure that the results of the election are arrived at. And, it is my prayer that you and the entire team of the commission to conduct this elections in the most transparent and trustworthy way. Please do everything in your power to fulfill our expectations, to demonstrate diligence and cultivate the vital trust between the people and the Commission.

Attached please find a copy of an open letter sent to the presidential candidates. I request you to forward to all the eight nominated Presidential candidates.

As the world watches, Ugandan look up to you to deliver the most credible elections.

Together, we will re-write the history of our country.

Sincerely

Victor Ochen

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Victor Ochen is a Ugandan born and raised in Lira, (Abia - Internally Displaced Peoples) camp in northern Uganda. He is the founder and director of African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET), he became the first Ugandan and youngest African Nobel Peace Prize nominee, and has been named the United Nations Ambassador for Peace and Justice (representing SDG Goal 16), he is the recipient of African regional and Pan-Commonwealth Youth Worker's awards, and also recipient of Mundo Negro Fraternity award by the Daniel Comboni Missionaries of Spain, and still among other recognition, Victor has just been appointed as a Global Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) on Gender, Forced Displacement and Protection.