



50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON: 19th August – 8th October 2025

FOCUS ON THE GOVERNANCE SPHERE

2026 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IN UGANDA

PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK SEVEN: 29th September 2025 – 5th October 2025

Day	Day of the Week	Date	Area of Focus
42	Monday	29 th September 2025	International Cooperation
43	Tuesday	30 th September 2025	National Vision
44	Wednesday	1 st October 2025	The Judiciary
45	Thursday	2 nd October 2025	The Legislature
46	Friday	3 rd October 2025	The Executive
47	Saturday	4 th October 2025	Political Organizations
48	Sunday	5 th October 2025	The Electoral Commission

DAY 48: 5th OCTOBER 2025

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

EXODUS 18:21-23

Moreover, **look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens.** And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace.” So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said.

DEUTERONOMY 1:13-18

Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.’ And you answered me, ‘The thing that you have spoken is good for us to do.’ So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and set them as heads over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers, throughout your tribes. And I charged your judges at that time, ‘Hear the cases between your brothers, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the alien who is with him. You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God’s. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.’ And I commanded you at that time all the things that you should do.

PROVERBS 18:18 (NLT)

Casting lots can end arguments; it settles disputes between powerful opponents.

PROVERBS 16:33 (MSG)

Make your motions and cast your votes, but GOD has the final say.

PROVERBS 11:1 (CEV)

The LORD hates anyone who cheats, but he likes everyone who is honest.

PROVERBS 29:2

When the righteous are [increased] in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.

Biblical and Historical Perspectives on Choosing Leaders

In Scripture, direct references to the people choosing their leaders are relatively few. Moses instructed the Israelites in Deuteronomy 1:13 to select leaders according to prescribed guidelines, and the apostles in Acts 6:3 directed the early church to choose seven men to serve. Beyond these examples, however, the Bible more often records the practice of casting lots to make decisions.

Casting lots appears several times: to determine a date (Esther 3:7), to divide land (Numbers 26:55), to identify guilt (1 Samuel 14:42), and even to select leaders (1 Samuel 10:21–22; Acts 1:26). In practice, casting lots was similar to drawing names from a container rather than voting. Candidates' names or marks would be placed in a vessel and drawn, sometimes with the first to emerge being considered the choice.

Research suggests that in some traditions, casting lots was a multi-cast process: lots would be drawn repeatedly until the same result occurred three times in a row, confirming it as God's will. If ten casts passed without such confirmation, it was concluded that God had chosen neither option.

While such methods may sound strange to modern minds, they were seen as ways of discerning divine will. In fact, with the growing influence of money, power, and gerrymandering (the practice of dividing or arranging a territorial unit into election districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage in elections) in elections today, some have questioned whether the ancient practice of casting lots might have been more impartial. To many, this seems absurd - yet the distortions and tampering in modern electoral processes often produce results just as bewildering.

Uganda's Traditional and Colonial Heritage

Uganda's history reflects a long-standing tradition of centralized systems of leadership. Pre-colonial societies were led by hereditary kings and chiefs who governed through institutionalized councils. Examples include the Lukiiko of Buganda, the Orukurato in Bunyoro and Tooro, and councils of elders in many communities. These assemblies drew representatives from clans and royal appointees, ensuring broad input in governance.

In all cases, leaders and representatives had to meet prescribed criteria to qualify, showing that the concept of legitimacy of leadership is not new. Over time, however, elections became the primary means of legitimizing government, with the governed expressing consent through regular polls.

The practice of electoral leadership in Uganda began in the pre-independence period, when the British colonial administration allowed Africans to participate in local elections. This started with the Legislative Council (LEGCO), which laid the groundwork for independence in 1962.

Uganda's Modern Electoral System

To consolidate democratic governance, Parliament enacted the Electoral Commission Act (1997), establishing a permanent and independent election management body. The Commission was mandated to organize, conduct, and supervise elections and referenda. It consists of seven members, each appointed for a renewable seven-year term, and its creation marked a milestone in the revival of Uganda's democratic process.

While elections are now the accepted means of choosing leaders, Uganda still faces serious challenges in achieving successful electoral democracy:

- **Voter Participation:** Presidential and parliamentary elections attract high turnout, but local government elections suffer from apathy, despite their importance and the high cost of organizing them.
- **Weak Internal Party Democracy:** Many political parties and organizations lack internal democratic practice, limiting the effectiveness of multiparty competition.
- **Perception of Partisanship:** Sections of the electorate view the Electoral Commission as partisan, leading to reduced trust and support for its activities, which in turn fuels apathy.

Uganda's Electoral Commission and Governance

Role of the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission of Uganda (EC) is a constitutional body established under Article 60 of the 1995 Constitution. Its mandate is to organize, conduct, and supervise regular, free, and fair elections and referenda at both national and local levels.

The EC plays a central role in Uganda's governance because elections are the foundation of democracy. Through elections, citizens choose their leaders, express their will, and renew social contracts with government. The credibility of the EC directly affects public trust in governance and the stability of the country.

Functions of the Electoral Commission

1. **Organizing Elections and Referenda** – For the President, Members of Parliament, Local Government Councils, and special interest groups.
2. **Voter Registration and Maintenance of the Voters' Roll** – Ensuring citizens eligible to vote are registered fairly and transparently.
3. **Demarcation of Constituencies and Electoral Boundaries** – Reviewing and adjusting electoral areas to reflect population and administrative changes.
4. **Civic and Voter Education** – Sensitizing the public on their rights, responsibilities, and the voting process.
5. **Regulation of Political Parties and Campaigns** – Enforcing laws that guide parties, campaign financing, and candidate nominations.
6. **Dispute Resolution** – Handling complaints arising before, during, and after elections.
7. **Collaboration with Security Agencies** – To ensure law and order during electoral processes.

Achievements of the Electoral Commission

- Conducted several general elections since 1996, including multiparty elections since 2006.
- Expanded voter registration and use of technology (e.g., biometric voter verification).
- Increased voter awareness and participation through civic education campaigns.

- Established a legal framework for by-elections, special interest group elections, and referenda.

Challenges Facing the EC

- **Perceptions of Partiality** – Allegations of bias towards the ruling party undermine credibility.
- **Election Irregularities** – Reports of voter bribery, intimidation, and violence weaken trust.
- **Limited Funding** – Financial constraints affect logistics, staffing, and civic education.
- **Weak Enforcement Powers** – Difficulty disciplining parties or candidates who break the law.
- **Public Distrust** – Low confidence in fairness and transparency of the EC threatens participation.

The EC and Governance in Uganda

The EC is a cornerstone of governance. Free and fair elections provide legitimacy to governments and peace to societies. If elections are disputed or perceived as unfair, governance suffers from instability, protests, or conflict. Strong governance therefore depends on an independent, transparent, and credible EC.

Biblically, leadership transitions and accountability matter to God. In Deuteronomy 16:18, God commanded Israel: *“Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly.”* Similarly, Uganda’s EC is entrusted with ensuring that leaders emerge through fairness and justice.

PRAYER GUIDE UGANDA’S ELECTORAL COMMISSION AND GOVERNANCE

1. Thanksgiving

- Thank God for the establishment of the EC as a cornerstone of democracy.
- Praise Him for every peaceful election Uganda has held since 1996.

2. Independence of the EC

- Pray for the EC to operate impartially, free from political interference.
- Ask God to raise commissioners and staff of integrity and courage.

3. Credible Elections

- Pray that future elections (local and national) will be free, fair, and peaceful.
- Ask God to break patterns of rigging, bribery, and intimidation.

4. Voter Registration and Roll Management

- Pray for accurate, transparent, and inclusive voter rolls.
- Ask God to protect the process from manipulation.

5. Boundary Demarcation

- Pray for fairness in constituency demarcations, free from gerrymandering or bias.

6. Civic Education and Awareness

- Pray that citizens will be well-informed about their rights and responsibilities.
- Ask God to empower youth and marginalized groups to participate meaningfully.

7. Dispute Resolution



- Pray that the EC will handle complaints justly and prevent election disputes from escalating into violence.

8. Funding and Resources

- Ask God to provide adequate resources for the EC to conduct its work efficiently.
- Pray for accountability in the use of electoral funds.

9. Peaceful Elections

- Pray that election seasons will not be marked by fear or violence.
- Declare Psalm 85:10 over Uganda: *“Righteousness and peace kiss each other.”*

10. Governance and Legitimacy

- Pray that elections will produce leaders chosen by the people in truth.
- Ask God to align Uganda’s governance with His justice, mercy, and righteousness.

Closing Prayer for Uganda’s Electoral Commission

Almighty God,

We thank You for establishing order among nations and for giving citizens the gift of choosing their leaders. Today, we lift before You the **Electoral Commission of Uganda**, entrusted with the sacred responsibility of organizing and overseeing elections.

Lord, we pray for every commissioner, officer, and staff member. Grant them wisdom, courage, and integrity in their work. Protect them from corruption, fear, and manipulation, and give them strength to act impartially for the good of all Ugandans.

Father, we ask that You bless the entire electoral process — voter registration, education, boundary demarcation, and the conduct of elections — that they may be free, fair, transparent, and peaceful. Let no scheme of violence, intimidation, or fraud prosper, but instead let truth and justice prevail.

We declare Psalm 85:10 over Uganda: *“Righteousness and peace kiss each other.”* May righteousness guide every decision of the Commission, and may peace cover Uganda during every election season.

Lord, let the work of the Electoral Commission build public trust, strengthen democracy, and honor Your name. We pray that Uganda’s governance will be rooted in justice and truth, and that our nation will fulfill its redemptive destiny.

In Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen.