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S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

2011 No. 32.

**THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL (COUNCILS AND
COMMITTEES) (ELECTIONS), REGULATIONS, 2011.**

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S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

2011 No. 32.

The National Women’s Council (Councils and Committees) (Elections) Regulations, 2011.

(Made under section 23 of the National Women’s Council Act, Cap. 318)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the Minister by section 23 of the National Women’s Council Act, Cap. 318 and in consultation with the Council these Regulations are made this 27th day of October, 2010.

PART I—PRELIMINARY.

1. Title.

These Regulations may be cited as the National Women’s (Council and Committees) (Elections) Regulations, 2011.

2. Interpretation.

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the National Women’s Council Act;

“women’s council” includes an electoral college assembled for carrying out an election under these Regulations;

“Minister” means the minister responsible for women.

PART II—CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.

3. Electoral Commission to conduct elections.

(1) Elections of women’s councils and committees under the Act shall be conducted by the Electoral Commission.

(2) All elections under sub regulation (1) shall be by secret ballot using a single ballot box.

4. Appointment of election officials.

All returning officers and presiding officers for the purpose of elections under these Regulations shall be appointed by the Electoral Commission.

5. Women’s council to have one polling station.

There shall be one polling station for each women’s council at the village, parish or ward, sub country, district and national level.

6. Eligibility to stand for election.

Except where they are election officials, and subject to any other relevant law in force, all women are eligible to stand for elections.

7. Electoral Commission to appoint nomination day.

(1) The Electoral Commission shall publish in the Gazette and the local media a nomination day and the time when candidates who wish to stand for election at women’s councils and committees shall be nominated.

(2) The nomination of candidates for election under these Regulations shall be made in writing supported by not less than two persons qualified to stand for election to the relevant women’s council or committee.

8. Sponsorship of a candidate by a political organisation or political party.

Nomination of a candidate may be made by a political organisation or political party sponsoring a candidate or by a candidate standing for election as an independent candidate without being sponsored by a political party or political organization.

9. Electoral Commission to designate campaign period.

The Electoral Commission shall designate a period of at least three days after nomination, for candidates nominated under regulation 7 to campaign for the election.

10. Electoral Commission to appoint election day.

The Electoral Commission shall by notice in the Gazette and the local media, appoint a day for elections at the village, parish or ward, sub county, district and national level.

11. Powers of Electoral Commission.

(1) The Electoral Commission may give guidelines as may be necessary for ensuring that the elections are conducted according to the Act and these Regulations.

(2) The Electoral Commission may apply to elections under these Regulations the provisions of any enactment relating to elections.

12. Person to second one candidate.

A person shall not second more than one candidate for the same office.

13. Candidate to reside in the area.

A candidate shall not be nominated for election to a women's council or committee unless she ordinarily resides in that area.

14. Presiding officer to declare nominated candidate.

Where in a women's council or committee election a candidate is nominated in the manner provided for under these Regulations and the presiding officer is satisfied that all the provisions of these Regulations have been complied with, the presiding officer shall declare the candidate as nominated.

15. Candidate may withdraw candidature.

A candidate may, at any time before the commencement of an election, withdraw her candidature by informing the Electoral Commission in writing through the presiding officer.

16. Presiding officer to declare elected candidate.

Where at the close of the nomination only one candidate stands nominated for an office, the presiding officer shall declare the candidate elected unopposed.

17. Presiding officer to order fresh elections.

Where in an election to a women's council or committee no candidate is nominated in accordance with these Regulations, the presiding officer shall order a fresh election to be held by the women's council of committees on the following day between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m.; and if no candidate is nominated, he or she shall record that fact.

18. Commencement of elections.

The presiding officer shall commence elections only after at least five persons who are entitled to vote are present.

19. Time for holding elections.

An election to a women’s council or committee shall be conducted between the hours of 9.00 a.m and 6.00 p.m.

20. Presiding officer to keep order.

(1) The presiding officer or any person acting in his or her place shall keep order at the polling station.

(2) Where a person misconducts himself or herself at a polling station or fails to obey the lawful orders of the presiding officer, that person may, by order of the presiding officer be removed from the polling station immediately by any person authorised by the presiding officer or by the returning officer.

(3) A person removed from the polling station under this regulation shall not be allowed to enter the polling station, unless permitted by the presiding officer.

21. Action to be taken by presiding officer if elections interrupted.

(1) Where the proceedings at a polling station are interrupted or obstructed by a riot, violence or any other unforeseen impediment, the presiding officer shall adjourn the proceedings until the following day and shall notify the returning officer.

(2) Where the poll is adjourned at a polling station, the hours of polling on the day to which it is adjourned shall be the same as on the original day.

22. Presiding officer to appoint enumerators.

The presiding officer in charge of elections to a women’s council shall appoint as many persons other than the persons entitled to vote as he or she shall consider necessary to assist in counting the votes, and those persons shall be known as enumerators.

23. Presiding officer to fill in form.

Upon completion of the counting of votes, and after the results have been declared by the presiding officer, the presiding officer shall fill in Forms W.E.1, W.E.2 and W.E.3 set out in the Schedule and submit the forms to the relevant offices as indicated on the forms within two days.

24. Votes to be counted at each polling station.

(1) Votes cast at each polling station shall be counted at the polling station immediately after the presiding officer declares the polling closed and the votes cast in favour of each candidate shall be recorded separately.

(2) Subject to regulation 21, votes shall not stay uncounted overnight and where required, the presiding officer shall provide light for the purposes of counting votes.

25. Declaration of winning candidate.

(1) The presiding officer shall immediately after counting the votes, or after any recount, declare elected the candidate who has obtained the largest number of votes.

(2) Notwithstanding sub regulation (1), the presiding officer may, where he or she receives a complaint from any person entitled to vote at that election and is satisfied that the complaint is not frivolous, order a recount of the votes before making the declaration.

26. Women's councils and committees to be set up only in existing units.

(1) For the avoidance of doubt, all women's councils and committees shall be established in accordance with the existing administrative units.

(2) Where it is necessary to establish a women's council or committee, the district women's council concerned shall submit its recommendation concerning the proposal to establish a women's council to the Minister for approval.

27. Transitional provision.

Every incoming women's committee shall, before taking over, ensure that there is a formal handing-over from the outgoing women's committee, within fourteen days after the election of the new committee.

28. Offences and penalties.

A person who—

- (a) forges, fraudulently defaces or fraudulently destroys any election return, record or an official mark on an election return or record;
- (b) bribes or attempts to bribe an elector in a women's council with the intention of soliciting for his or her vote;
- (c) engages in any sectarian practice with the intention of soliciting for votes;
- (d) corruptly offers to an elector any food, drink, refreshment or provisions for the purpose of corruptly influencing the person to vote in any manner at a youth council election;
- (e) makes use of or threatens to use force, violence or restraint, or inflicts or threatens to inflict physical or psychological injury or harm against any person for the purpose of influencing the person to vote in any manner at any women's council;
- (f) gives or lends or promises to procure any money, gift, loan, benefit or valuable consideration to an elector, or to any person on behalf of any elector in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting;
- (g) accepts any money, gift, loan, benefit or valuable consideration from a candidate for purposes of voting for that candidate or influencing other candidates to vote for that candidate,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years and, in addition to the imprisonment, to be disqualified for five years from the date of his or her conviction from holding an office on any women's committee or being a member of any women's council, other than a cell or village women's council.

29. Revocation of SI 318 – 1 and 318-2.

The National Women's Council (Women's Council and Committees) (Elections) (No.1) Regulations and the National Women's Councils (Women's Councils and Committees) (Elections) (No. 2) Regulations are revoked.

SCHEDULE

FORM

Form W.E. 1.

Republic of Uganda

Polling Returns.

Women’s Councils and Committees Election.

The National Women’s Council Act Cap. 318.

The National Women’s Council (Councils and Committees) (Elections)

Regulations 2011.

(Fill in triplicate)

District _____

Subcounty/Division _____

Parish/Ward _____

Village _____

Office contested _____

Candidates’ names	No. of votes
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name of presiding officer _____

Designation _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Warning—Anyone who gives false information shall be liable to prosecution.

Distribution—

Parish

- Original—Electoral Commission.
- Duplicate—Sub county headquarters.
- Triplicate—Parish headquarters.

Sub county

Original - District headquarters.

Duplicate – Electoral Commission.

Triplicate – Subcounty.

District

Original—Ministry responsible for women.

Duplicate—National Women’s Council Secretariat.

Triplicate—District headquarters.

National Level

Original—Ministry responsible for women.

Duplicate—National Women’s Council Secretariat.

Triplicate—Electoral Commission.

Form W.E.2
 Republic of Uganda
Declaration of Election Results
 Women's Councils and Committees
 The National Women's Council Act Cap. 318
 The National Women's Council (Councils and Committees) (Elections)
 Regulations 2011
(Fill in triplicate)

District _____
 Sub county _____
 Parish/ Ward _____
 Village _____
 Office contested: WC I, II, III, IV, V

Offices	Names of elected candidate
1. Chairperson	_____
2. Vice chairperson	_____
3. General secretary	_____
4. Publicity secretary	_____
5. Secretary for finance	_____

I declare that the above candidate(s) has/have been duly elected in accordance with the established rules and regulations governing women's councils and committees elections.

Names and signatures of candidates' agents present.	Names and signatures of candidates' agents present.
1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

Name and Signature of Presiding Officer _____

Designation _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Note—Distribution at all levels.

Distribution—

Original—National Women's Council Secretariat.

Duplicate—Ministry responsible for women.

Triplicate—Chief Administrative Officer.

Delete as appropriate

Form W.E.3
 Republic of Uganda
Declaration of Election Results
 Women's Councils and Committees
 The National Women's Council Act Cap 318)
 The National Women's Council (Councils and Committees) (Elections)
 Regulations 2011

(Fill in triplicate)

District _____
 Subcounty _____
 Parish _____
 Village _____

Office contested:

Offices	Names of elected candidate
1. Chairperson	_____
2. Vice chairperson	_____
3. General secretary	_____
4. Publicity secretary	_____
5. Secretary for finance	_____

I declare that the above-named candidates have been duly elected in accordance with the established rules and regulations governing women's councils and committees elections.

Names and signatures of candidates' agents present.	Names and signatures of candidates' agents present.
1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

Date
Designation

 Name and Signature of Presiding Officer

 Delete as appropriate.

Note—Distribution at all levels

Distribution—

Original—National Women’s Council Secretariat.

Duplicate—Ministry responsible for women.

Triplicate—Electoral Commission.

GABRIEL OPIO,
Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development.