

6th July 2013

CCEDU report on the CSO Fair of 5th July 2013 at the Orange Hall,
African Hotel

Citizens' report on Uganda's Electoral Environment

This report comprises ratings by a diverse group of 70 members of the public in Uganda including students, journalists, lawyers, social workers and development workers.

During an interactive session at the just concluded CSO fair, participants listed down areas they felt were critical to Uganda's Electoral environment. Prior to the session, a rate card was established with the following marks:

Key

A	Excellent
B	Very Good
C	Good
D	Fair
E	Poor
F	Failure

Critical Area ratings

No.	Subject	Grade
1.	Freedom to vote without undue influence	D
2.	Relevant information to the citizens on the electoral process at the right time	E
3.	Fair media coverage for all the players	E
4.	Peaceful environment. No threats and free from violence	E
5.	Update to voters register	E
6.	Appropriate legislation	C
7.	Polling centers not far (Accessibility)	D
8.	Up to date infrastructure for votes, administrative structure	E

	e.g. demarcation of polling stations, equipment	
9.	Disciplined security	E
10.	No voter bribery	F
11.	An effective elections institution that is transparent, accountable and independent	F
12.	Right and competent forum for elections dispute resolution	C
13.	Appropriate monitoring system	E
14.	Right to associate and belong to a party of one's choice	E

Summary of rating

Grade	Scores
D	2
E	8
C	2
F	2

Following below are the proposals suggested by participants to remedy the dire electoral situation and scores.

They include:-

1. Determining and understanding the root cause of what has become our electoral culture.
2. We should re-think our understanding of leadership and set standards for leadership. Who is a leader and why should one aspire for leadership?
3. Harsh penalties should be meted for violators of electoral laws.

4. People should be made to understand their rights in as far as elections are concerned.
5. There should be a more disciplined process through which leaders emerge such as Integrity based Forum.
6. We should establish whether these emerging leaders can pass the Integrity Test.
7. There should be policy to enable a high level and equality and participation in the electoral process.
8. How do we introduce consensus in the way we choose or elect our leaders?