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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

P. O. BOX 7037

KAMPALA

UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

22nd July 2026

PRESS STATEMENT: PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE INELIGIBLE TO CONTEST LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS UNLESS THEY HAVE FORMALLY AND LAWFULLY VACATED PUBLIC OFFICE

The Ministry of Local Government is concerned about reports regarding Public Officers in Local Governments, including Teachers, Health Workers, Administrative Staff, Extension Workers and other Public Servants, who have expressed interest in contesting or are participating in the ongoing Administrative Unit Elections (Local Council I and Local Council II) while continuing to hold Public Office.

The Ministry wishes to remind all Public Officers, Electoral Commission officials, District Election Administrators, Returning Officers, Local Government leaders and the general public that Public Officers are required to maintain political neutrality in the discharge of their official duties and are prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities. It is important to note that contesting for any Political Office in the multiparty political system entails the articulation of a political agenda or belonging to a political party and hence, is participation in a partisan political activity in every sense.

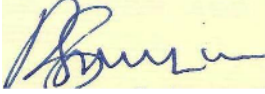
Article 176 of the Constitution establishes Local Governments as units of Government. Consequently, a person serving in a Local Government is a Public Officer within the meaning of the Constitution and the Public Service Standing Orders, 2021 and is subject to the laws and regulations governing the Public Service.

The Ministry further reminds all the concerned persons that under section 129(5) of the Local Governments Act, Cap. 138, a Public Officer, a person employed in any department or agency of Government, an employee of a Local Council or an employee of a body in which government has a controlling interest, who wishes to stand for Election to a Local Council Office shall resign his or her office at least thirty days before nomination day in accordance with the procedure of the service or employment to which he or she belongs. This is intended to ensure all Public Officers remain politically neutral in the performance of their duties and do not engage in partisan political activities that would compromise the impartiality of the Public Service. The Ministry urges all public officers to uphold the integrity, impartiality and professionalism of the Public Service. Public officers play a vital role in delivering essential services to the people of Uganda and must remain nonpartisan while in office.

The Ministry will continue to work closely with the Electoral Commission, the Ministry of Public Service, the Public Service Commission, District Service Commissions, Chief Administrative Officers and other relevant authorities to ensure full compliance with the law.

The Ministry further calls upon all eligible voters to turn up in large numbers, vote peacefully, and exercise their constitutional right to choose their leaders.

Issued by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow rectangular background. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Barugahara'.

Barugahara Balaam Ateenyi (Hon)
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
22nd JULY 2026