

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

BY HON

WAIRA MAJEGERE KYEWALABYE SITINGO JAMES

Insertion of new clause in the Bill

Immediately after clause 6, insert the following new clauses-

1. Amendment of section 58 of the principal

Section 58 is amended by inserting the following immediately after subsection (2a)

“(2b) A returning officer may create an electronic communication platform comprising of candidates participating in an election and all presiding officers in charge of polling stations in the constituency onto which returns from each polling station shall be submitted.

(2c). A returning officer shall submit a copy of the documents referred to in subsection (2) to participating political parties and organisations, a candidate or a candidates official agent.”

2. Insertion of new section 83A

The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 83, the following new section-

“83A. Offences by official agent

An official agent who-

- (a) without reasonable cause acts or omits to act in breach of his or her appointment as official agent; or
- (b) makes in any record, return or other document which he or she is required to keep or make under this Act, any entry which he or she knows or has reason to believe to be false.

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding one hundred and twenty currency points or to both fine and imprisonment.

Justification

- *in order to enhance transparency, to require a returning officer transmit electronically certain documents to a participating political parties and organisations, a candidate or a candidates official agent the following documents.*
- *For ease of communication, transparency and to ensure timely and instantaneous communication, to empower the returning officer create an electronic communication platform comprising of candidates and all presiding officers in the constituency onto which returns from each polling station shall be submitted.*
- *The electronic communication platforms will enable candidates raise disputes about the electoral processes and for the same disputes to be determined or decided upon instantly by persons in charge of polling processes in the district.*
- *To create offences against official agents for refusal or failure to execute the duties of their appointment as official agents.*
- *The proposed amendment in section 58 is a consequential amendment arising from the amendment of the presidential elections Act.*