Call for Article Submissions

2021 General Elections: Voting for Quality Service Delivery

The Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) invites submission of articles on the theme: 2021 General Elections: Voting for Quality Service Delivery, which is the focus of the 11th issue of its Economic and Social Rights Advocacy (ESRA) Brief to be published in May 2020. ISER’s ESRA brief is dedicated to Economic and Social Rights (ESRs) advocacy in Uganda. ESRs include the human right to health, the right to social security, the right to education and the right to a clean and healthy environment. It also draws on key lessons from the broader East African Community and beyond. The Brief provides insight into the debates and steps currently being undertaken towards the full realization of ESRs.

Background to the 11th issue of the ESRA Brief

The current term of office for all elected leaders expires on 12th May 2021. According to the Uganda Electoral Commission Strategic Plan and Road Map to the 2021 general elections, the polling for Presidential, General, Parliamentary and Local Government Councils shall be between 10th January and 8th February 2021. Nominations will be done between July and September 2020 for the different categories while campaigns will commence around the same period.

During the current term of office of elected leaders, Uganda has been implementing the National Development Plan II (2015/16 – 2019/20) under the theme “Strengthening Uganda’s Competitiveness for Sustainable Wealth Creation, Employment and Inclusive Growth”. As the NDP II draws to a close, the process of development of the NDP III is in advanced stages with a draft in place. However, a review of the NDPII revealed that Uganda still experiences enormous service delivery challenges. The quality of education remains low characterized by low levels of literacy and numeracy, coupled with the high rate of school dropout while the functionality of health facilities is low especially in rural areas and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are on the rise. There is a critical gap in human resources for health. The goal of the NDPIII (2020/21 – 2024/25) is to increase average household incomes and improve the quality of Ugandans. It speaks to improvements in access and quality of social services including improving the quality and relevance of education, focusing more on disease prevention and increasing access to social protection to address the needs of some of the vulnerable populations.

In order to win the support of the electorate, candidates seeking election to various offices make promises that speak to the basic needs of the electorate like improvement in social service delivery related to education and health among others. Almost all candidates vying for various offices, including for President have their election manifestos emphasizing improvements in education and health service delivery. However, more than often, there has been consistent failure to fulfil promises made during election time.
As the elections draw near, this ESRA Brief seeks to assess how the citizens can ensure that quality social service delivery is a major criteria for electing and holding leaders accountable.

We therefore welcome submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- A review of the election manifestos of political parties to understand their strategy to improve social service delivery in Uganda.
- An evaluation of social service delivery in the areas of health, education, water and social security over the past five years.
- Assessing the effectiveness of general elections in holding leaders and political parties accountable.
- How can citizens hold leaders accountable; what redress mechanisms exist when citizens feel their basic needs are not prioritized?
- The impact of campaign financing on service delivery.

The deadline for submission of articles is the Tuesday 24th of March 2020. Contributions should be 800 – 1000 words in length.

Please direct all inquiries regarding this call for articles to the editors at info@iser-uganda.org