

## **POSITIONING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN 2016 ELECTIONS**

With elections coming up in 2016, the role young people would play during and after will be a force to reckon with in advancing Uganda's electoral process as part of a new ideological orientation where a greatest percentage of young people are likely to be new voters.

This target group represents a significant cohort of the total population that should be at the center of national development and a new generation of active participants in the electoral and democratic process. Their immense numbers, energy, potential, dynamism and technical know-how make them a reliable constituency.

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), out of the estimated 36.6 million Ugandan population, 18 million are 16 years and above and this means that half of the country's population will be eligible to vote by 2016. With 2010 Uganda Bureau of Statics, youth demographic statics indicate that 50% of the population were aged less than 15 years, while 58% were 17 years and below and 70% were 24 years and below. With this analysis, it is estimated that the 50%-53% of young people are likely to be new voters. With the statistics above, the youth of this nation are the trustees of posterity." With all the challenges that our country is facing right now, we don't just need you for the future; we need you now, this country needs your passion and energetic ideas now.



Nothing inspires us like knowing that all young people across the country are already making their marks. They are not waiting but making a difference. As the election in 2016 unfolds, for those of you who are now 17, I indulge you to exercise your right to vote with responsibility by making an informed decision to choose leaders who are dedicated to serve.

An election is neither a joke nor an event but rather a beginning point for offering services to the community since it is through elections that you elect leaders who are ready to make good decisions for us all.

Leadership begins with self-knowledge, because it is a basis for character and we need to fire leaders who do not perform to our expectation and elections give us that mandate as citizens.



As young People, we should say no to Money during campaigns, because it discourages good people from becoming candidates as they are bribed and thus give up on contesting. Money also prohibits us from voting competent candidates. Elections are not about employment for

those standing, but rather about choosing leaders that make good decisions and offer us service like roads, hospitals.

We have a powerful potential and we must take the courage to make change, if we are to make our country prosperous and this calls for each of us to be passionate, daring and creative. I hope that every single one of you who is ready to vote in 2016 will exercise his or her right to vote with responsibility and each of us should keep reminding our friends, brothers and sisters about the meaning of elections.

For more intellectual discussions, Students for Global Democracy Uganda indulges you to join the Students Coalition for Participation in 2016 general elections Facebook page:

Sign the commitment book in your school:

Call No 0703876638/ 0706481636/ 0752203025 to find out how to join

Join us in the Campaign as we make Uganda a better place

“Democracy for All”

Students for Global Democracy Uganda