

EIA ELECTIONS 2026

DATE: 14/6/26 • EMPOWER INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Last week our school completed an election season that was less about winning and more about learning. As the current vice president of the student senate, I watched students step up, sharpen their ideas, and grow in ways that will benefit our school after the in time to come.

For the first time, we held a pre-conference before nominations began. This new addition set the tone for the whole season. Candidates who had registered with me prior attended sessions on leadership responsibilities, communication and criticism. The pre-conference gave every participant (winners and non-winners alike) a clear picture of what student leadership involves. Unlike past seasons where many ran without guidance, this year students arrived prepared and confident because they understood what they were aiming for.

The vetting process tested applications to ensure they were fit to lead. Serving on the electoral commission board gave me a front view of students applying critical thinking and responsibility. The process wasn't just about questioning students, it was an opportunity for them to reflect on their goals and for the board members to practice fairness and judgement. As a student, I learned a lot about evaluation, integrity and the importance of transparent procedures in leadership.

One of the most rewarding parts of the season was mentoring some students who considered me for advice. Guiding others reminded me how much leadership has changed me, my social skills are stronger, my decision making is sharper and my resilience is greater. Seeing my mentees improve and find their own voice made me appreciate leadership not just as a title, but as a journey of personal development.

Our open campaign structure was designed by one of our students and executed by the student body. That initiative showed what leadership can cultivate: creativity, organization and ownership. Campaigns gave candidates a practical experience in planning and communicating their visions. The presidential debate was a highlight. It revealed a new level of critical thinking and calmness under pressure. Candidates presented thoughtful visions and answered tough questions with poise. The debate allowed voters to compare visions directly and gave candidates a stage to practice public speaking and persuasion skills, I believe they'll use beyond student leadership. On the other hand, students in the audience raised thoughtful questions to the presidential candidates which reflected growth and passion for the school to move forward.

On Friday students were able to cast their ballots with the knowledge they had gained over the season. The winners will assume their roles, but everyone who participated left with new skills and confidence. That, to me, is the most important.

This election season proved that when we invest in preparation and create space for learning, leadership becomes an engine for personal and collective growth. Whether elected or not, students gained experience in public speaking, critical thinking, organization and ethical leadership. I am proud of our school for embracing a process that values development over simply choosing winners. As vice president, I'm excited to support our new leaders and continue mentoring them.

By Nakivuumbi Jacinta

VICE PRESIDENT 2025-2026