



PRESS STATEMENT

Status Update on Election Preparedness

Nairobi: May 10, 2017

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Commission wishes to update the country on the status of election preparedness.

1. BIOMETRIC VOTER VERIFICATION:

We wish to announce that biometric voter verification will commence on ***11th of May* 2017** to ***09th of June* 2017**. A similar process for Kenyans in the Diaspora (Burundi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda) will take place between 15 to 30 May 2017.

The biometric voter verification process is provided for in section 6A (i) of the Elections Act which mandates the Commission to open the Register of Voters for verification of biometric data by registered voters at their respective polling stations for a period of thirty days. Further, the Commission upon the expiry of

the thirty days of verification as provided for in the law will revise the Register of Voters to take into account any changes in particulars arising out of the verification process.

The Commission has trained its staff on the Kenya Integrated Election Management system (KIEMS) gadgets that will be used for the verification process. All the 10,000 gadgets have been delivered across the country.

Unlike in 2013 where verification machines were received too close to the polling day, the electoral body is now interacting with the technology three months to the polls.

The Commission calls upon all Kenyans to go to the verification centres and confirm their details. The biometric verification process will give Kenyans an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the technology that will be used in the General Election.

We appeal to all registered voters to visit any polling station within the ward where they intend to vote to confirm their particulars.

We wish to underscore that this process is only for those Kenyans that registered to vote. There is no window to register as a new voter until after the General Election is over.

2. AUDIT OF THE REGISTER OF VOTERS:

The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016 requires that a professional reputable firm audits the register of voters. KPMG has been contracted to undertake the audit. KPMG has held a number of consultations with political parties, civil society, the inter-religious council among other key stakeholders to explain the methodology to be used for the audit and other processes.

On 24 April 2017, the Commission presented the Register of Voters as at 06 March 2017-after the countrywide closing of the voter registration exercise-to KPMG for purposes of the audit. This is the same Register that is currently loaded in the KIEMS (Kenya Integrated Election Management system) for purposes of the biometric verification of voters.

We wish to explain that from a technical perspective, it is imperative that the same register being audited by KPMG is the same that voters are using to verify

biometrically. The purpose of the two parallel processes is to give the Commission every opportunity to improve the accuracy of the Register of Voters.

Prior to the certification and gazetting of the Register of Voters for the 08 August 2017 elections, the Register will be updated with:

- Any relevant findings and recommendations from the ongoing audit of the register of voters
- The results of the voter verification exercise as appropriate.

The Commission will therefore be in a position to address issues of deceased voters, incorrect data capture and any missing details, disputed voters in the register either on the basis of age or any other issues that the audit may find and then prepare the final Register.

The Commission will continue to inform the Nation on this audit process and as required by law will submit the audit report to the National Assembly and the Senate.

3. TRANSFER OF OFFICERS:

As provided for in Section 39 (1A) and (1B) of the Elections Act 2011, the Commission has gazetted 290 staff to serve as Constituency Returning Officers and 47 County Returning Officers.

We wish to reiterate that the transfer of officers is a normal procedure in any institution and within the Commission. The criteria that was used to move staff around the 290 constituencies was transparent and made known to all our staff. Our goal is to make sure that we continue having our electoral staff serving with impartiality and integrity as guarantors of free, fair and credible elections.

It is worth noting that our returning officers were recruited from each of the 290 constituencies and will serve in any part of the country with high levels of integrity.

As a Commission we want to assure the country that we are committed to ensuring that all polling stations are resourced to deliver a free, fair and credible election.

4. VOTER EDUCATION:

We will start our voter education programme on 10 May with an objective to sensitizing, educating as well as mobilizing registered voters to verify their registration details by 09 June, 2017.

This will encompass a collaborative and inclusive awareness campaign that will focus on stakeholder engagement, media and field outreach activities. Stakeholder engagement forums will take place at National, County, Constituency and Ward levels; engagement of 2900 voter educators at the ward level; engagement of the media both traditional media of electronic and print as well as on digital platforms.

Partnerships and collaboration with state and non-state agencies in provision of voter education programs such as schools, institutions of higher learning, the private sector, professional bodies as well as civil society organizations is also a component of our voter education programme. There will be a marked rise in the use of digital platforms such as social media and SMS in a strategy to widen the audience reach and interaction.

5. NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

Following discussions with political parties and other stakeholders, the Commission will convene a two-day national conference themed *“Working together towards Credible and Peaceful General Elections”* from 12-14 June 2017 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Nairobi.

This conference will seek to promote complementarity of roles of all stakeholders in fostering national cohesion as well as achieving credible and peaceful 2017 General Elections. It will also invite the participation and commitment of key stakeholders mainly political leaders, government institutions, the judiciary, public benefit organisations, faith based organisations, the media, the private sector and development partners to a peaceful, transparent and credible 2017 General Elections.

6. OUTLOOK ON ELECTIONS TIMELINES:

The Commission will continue to remind the public of key electoral timelines. Political parties and aspiring candidates should note the following:

- A political party intending to participate in the General Election shall submit its party list of nominated candidates in party primaries to the Commission

on or before 10th May, 2017.

- The submission of the list of nominated candidates will be done electronically.
- As stipulated in Regulation 18 of Election (General) Regulation, 2012, the Commission wishes to draw the attention of all Presidential candidates that they should submit to the Commission the list of 2,000 supporters from majority of counties both soft and hard copy. In this regard, all Presidential candidates are expected to submit the list of their supporters from 18 May to 22 May, 2017 at 21st Floor Anniversary Towers.
- All Candidates must attend pre-nomination meetings on 23 May at venues to be communicated by the Commission.
- Presidential Candidates have to submit their nomination papers for clearance to the Commission at Kenyatta International Conference Centre between 28 - 29 May, 2017.
- For the County Assembly Ward Representative and National Assembly position Independent candidates and political party aspirants have to submit their nomination papers for clearance to the Commission's Returning Officers at the constituency level between 01 June and 02 June, 2017.
- For the Senate, Gubernatorial and County Woman Member of the National

Assembly position, Independent candidates and political party aspirants have to submit their nomination papers for clearance to the Commission's Returning Officers at the County level between 28 May and 02 June, 2017.

- The Commission shall thereafter, in line with Article 88 (4) (f) of the Constitution, register qualified candidates for election and indicate those disqualified. Disputes relating to or arising from registration of candidates shall be determined within ten (10) days of the lodging of the dispute with the Commission.

W. W. CHEBUKATI
CHAIRMAN