



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE;**

**Nairobi, Kenya: February 22, 2020**

**SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON REFUSAL BY IEBC TO PROVIDE DATA ON POLITICAL UNITS**

The Commission's attention has been drawn to information circulating in the media to the effect that it has frustrated efforts of releasing information touching on political units boundaries by Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). In response to this unfounded allegation the Commission would like to set the record straight as follows:

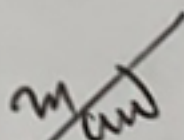
That boundaries delimitation is an express constitutional mandate of the Commission. The Commission (IEBC), following release of Volume 1 Report of the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census results on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019, requested for detailed census data (that includes sub-location, location, division and sub-county) from KNBS in 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to enable it populate the census data into political boundaries. This was in preparation for boundaries review exercise that was envisaged to start in March 2020. KNBS responded on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 that the information will be available in early 2020. The Commission would like to report that to-date this information has not been provided by the KNBS.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 the Commission received a request from the KNBS for shapefiles (*technical boundaries information*) to enable them analyze census data and to produce a basic report on population distribution by political units; an exercise that the Commission is expected to do as part of its mandate in the boundaries delimitation exercise. The Commission expressed reservations in providing this technical information on the basis that

the boundaries review exercise is an express mandate of the Commission. Contrary to allegations that the Commission has frustrated KNBS' efforts, their request on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for data on registered voters per county was duly serviced.

The CS National Treasury and Planning called for a meeting between the Commission, his staff and the KNBS to resolve the issue. During the meeting, the KNBS alleged that the predecessor Commission that undertook the boundary delimitation exercise – the Interim Independent Boundaries Review Commission (IIBRC) – provided them with shapefiles; without providing any evidence on the same. Consequently, it was agreed that KNBS provide those correspondences to IEBC for the record and decision making. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, the KNBS furnished the Commission with correspondences from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and not the IIBRC, indicating a request for political boundaries maps and not shapefiles as earlier alleged.

Nonetheless, the Commission is ready to provide the KNBS with political boundaries maps as done before but not shapefiles. The Commission is committed to protecting the integrity of the impending and highly sensitive boundary delimitation process that is its express constitutional mandate.



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Chairman, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission