



PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2017 GENERAL ELECTIONS

28 FEBRUARY 2017, NAIROBI

Fellow Kenyans, we wish to take this opportunity to give you an update on the state of preparedness on this 161st day to the 2017 General Elections.

I want to assure Kenyans that elections will take place on 8 August 2017 as per our constitution.

Today, I want to appraise you of the progress, challenges and some key decisions that the Commission has taken towards the preparation for the General Elections.

Procurement of Ballot Papers:

Fellow Kenyans, on 17 August 2016, the IEBC published an invitation to tender for supply and delivery of ballot papers for elections, election results declaration forms and poll registers.

This tender was challenged at the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) and the appeal was defeated. Subsequently, the tender notice was awarded to Al Ghurair Printing and Publishing Company. However, the award was challenged in court leading to a ruling on 13 February 2017, directing the Commission to advertise the tender afresh.

In view of these developments, the Commission has decided to re-advertise the tender for the ballot papers, election results declaration forms and poll registers. I want to assure you that the period we have is sufficient to finalize the procurement process and to have this strategic material available within the timelines internationally recommended, which is at least 2 months before elections.

The Integrated Elections Management System:

Fellow Kenyans, you may recall that the Elections Laws (Amendment) Act 2016, specifically Section 44 required the Commission to establish an integrated electronic electoral system. The system was required to integrate biometric voter registration, electronic voter identification and electronic transmission of results.

The Act also required that the integrated electronic electoral system be put in place 4 months to the General Election, which is by April 2017 and shall be tested at least 60 days before the General Election.

In compliance with the law, and in consultation with various stakeholders, including representatives of political parties, the Commission developed the terms of reference for the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS).

The tender was advertised on 16 December 2016. However, like the previous tenders, it was challenged at the PPRA on 28 December 2016. The appeal was withdrawn on 20 January 2017 giving way for the procurement to proceed and close on 2 February 2017. As per the provisions of the Procurement Act, the Commission proceeded with the next stage of evaluation of the bids.

However, once more on 22 February, 2017 a firm lodged an appeal with PPRA. As per the law, that procurement process has been stopped and PPRA has 21 days to decide on the matter.

This system is critical for the success of the 2017 General Elections. It is urgently required to be in place by March to be used for the voter verification process that shall commence on 10 May as per the law.

The Commission regrets the delays in acquisition of this technology that ideally, according to international best practice should be completed two years before a major electoral event.

To mitigate against risks that may undermine the entire electoral process, the Commission has decided to cancel the KIEMS tender. The Commission will put in place alternative measures to ensure that the integrated electronic technology

provided for in Elections Laws (Amendment) Act 2016, section 44 is in place by the legal timelines and on time for the May 10th biometric voter verification process.

Conclusion

On many occasions, the Commissioners and I have affirmed our resolve to deliver a credible, free and fair general election on 8 August 2017. Our first clients are the Kenyan people. We are determined to serve Kenyans and uphold the Constitution of Kenya without fear or favor as we declared when we took the oath of office on 20th January, 2017.

We shall not accept to be held captive by firms or individuals pursuing “tender wars” to the detriment of credible, free and fair elections.

God bless you, God bless Kenya.

Wafula Chebukati

CHAIRPERSON