



THE INAUGURAL SPEECH OF THE IEBC CHAIRPERSON DURING THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF IEBC CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HELD ON 11TH JULY 2025 AT THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

Your Ladyship, the Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya,
Hon. Justice Martha K. Koome, FCIArb, EGH.

Hon. The Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Dorcus Oduor,
OGW, EBS

The Chairpersons of Constitutional Commissions present,

Members of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

Members of the Judicial Service Commission

Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, Hon. Winfridah Boyani Mokaya, CBS

The IEBC Commission Secretary/CEO, Mr. Marjan Hussein Marjan, MBS

Staff of the Judiciary and IEBC Present

Distinguished Guests,

Fellow Kenyans,

Good afternoon,

1. It is with profound humility and a deep sense of duty that I address you today as the newly appointed Chairperson of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). I am immensely honored by the trust placed in me to lead this vital institution—one that lies at the heart of our democracy.
2. I extend my warmest congratulations to my fellow Commissioners. While the path to our appointment was demanding, it merely prepared us for the far greater responsibility ahead. Today marks the beginning of our service to the people of Kenya. We must approach this sacred duty with urgency, integrity, and absolute commitment, guided by the Constitution and the expectations of every Kenyan.
3. Free, fair, and credible elections are the cornerstone of a democratic society. The IEBC is entrusted with the solemn responsibility to ensure that every citizen's voice is not only heard but honored. As Winston Churchill once said, "The price of greatness is responsibility." That responsibility now rests with us—and with all Kenyans.
4. I thank His Excellency the President for the appointment, the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee for the vetting process, the National Assembly for their approval, and the Selection Panel for their confidence. I also recognize the Judiciary for upholding the legality of our appointments.
5. To my family, mentors, colleagues, and above all, the people of Kenya—thank you. Your trust is the foundation upon which I commit to serve with transparency and accountability.
6. I sought this role not for personal gain, but to give back to my beloved country. In the words of Douglas Adams, "To give real service you must

add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." I pledge both.

7. My first and foremost loyalty is to the people of Kenya, who hold sovereign power under Article 1 of our Constitution. That power is exercised through your vote. Fellow Kenyans, your vote is your voice, your future—and yes, it counts.
8. As we look ahead, I urge each of you to stand firm in your commitment to democratic values. Together, we must build a stronger, more resilient nation—one election at a time. John Lewis once said, "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democracy." I echo that truth today. Let us all use that tool wisely and responsibly.
9. The credibility of elections depends on our collective commitment to the rule of law, to fairness, and to the principle that every Kenyan matters. Article 88 of the Constitution outlines our mandate, and we take this responsibility with the seriousness it deserves. We have sworn an oath—and we will deliver.
10. Today is not a day for lengthy speeches but let me be clear: while the 2027 General Election is in sight, our focus must be on every step that leads us there. Elections are not an end—they are the means through which democracy lives and breathes.
11. In the coming months, the Commission, working hand-in-hand with the Secretariat, will undertake a comprehensive review of the electoral process—from data verification and transmission, to training and public engagement. Technology will be central to this transformation. We will

prioritize transparency, real-time access to information, and citizen empowerment.

12. One of the greatest challenges in today's electoral cycle is the spread of misinformation, disinformation, and fake news. Falsehoods can erode public trust, fuel division, and disrupt democratic processes. But new media is not just a threat—it is also a powerful tool. If used responsibly, it can enhance civic education, expand access to information, and engage more citizens—especially the youth. We will work with fact-checkers, media, and digital platforms to fight falsehoods and promote verified information. I urge all Kenyans: question what you see, share responsibly, and always seek the truth. A credible election depends on it.

13. A credible election is not the responsibility of the IEBC alone—it is a national duty. Political parties, public institutions, civil society, media, and every Kenyan have a role to play. Parliament must enact responsive legislation, security forces must guarantee peace, and the media must educate, not inflame. We call on all stakeholders to walk with us—guided by the national interest, not personal gain.

14. To our youth, your energy, voice, and ideas are not a disruption—they are essential. We will expand avenues for you to participate in shaping our electoral future. Under Article 38, your political rights are protected. Use them.

15. Let me remind you: democracy is not inherited—it is built. Young people, you are not just tomorrow's leaders; you are today's custodians. Learn the laws, understand the processes, and participate—

not just as voters, but as election officials, civic educators, and policy advocates. Be counted. Be involved.

16.To the staff of the IEBC, we recognize the uncertainty you've endured.

That season is over. We are moving forward decisively, and we count on your dedication. I pledge to lead with integrity, professionalism, and impartiality—and I ask you to match that commitment.

17.To every Kenyan preparing to vote in 2027: trust is not demanded—it

is earned. We understand this, and we are ready to earn your trust every step of the way.

18.To our institutional partners: your cooperation is indispensable. Let us

strengthen our collaboration to deliver a truly inclusive and credible electoral process.

19.To civil society, the media, and election observers: your scrutiny is

welcome. Accountability strengthens democracy, and our doors will remain open to dialogue, questions, and improvement.

20.We inherit a full agenda. The next General Election is just two years

away. From voter registration to by-elections and the complex issue of boundary delimitation, there is no time to waste. We will act with purpose.

21.But no election can succeed in an environment of fear or violence. Let

us reject hatred and division. Let us remember our painful history and vow never to return there. Peace is the foundation on which fair elections must rest.

22. As I conclude, I appeal to every Kenyan: be part of this journey. Support it with your participation, your vigilance, and your voice. Our democracy will only be as strong as our collective belief in it. We cannot build it alone—we need you.
23. I also honor my predecessors—the architects of the systems we now inherit. Your contributions will not be forgotten. We stand on your shoulders as we carry this Commission forward.
24. Let me leave you with the words of Larry J. Sabato: "Every election is determined by the people who show up." So show up. Engage. Vote. Because if you don't, others will choose your future for you.
25. Thank you. May God bless you and may God bless the Republic of Kenya.



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