

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nairobi, Kenya: 14th July 2026

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PREPAREDNESS FOR THE 16TH JULY 2026 OL KALOU BY-ELECTIONS

The Commission wishes to inform the Nation that all preparations for the by-elections scheduled for Thursday, **16th July 2026** to fill the position of Member of National Assembly for Ol Kalou Constituency in Nyandarua County are progressing as scheduled.

So far, several critical milestones have already been achieved, including:

- a) Completion of procurement and delivery of election materials;
- b) Gazettement of nominated candidates, polling stations and tallying centers;
- c) Servicing, testing, configuration and deployment of the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) kits for voter identification;
- d) Receipt of ballot papers in the country;
- e) Packaging and dispatch of all strategic and non-strategic election materials to the by-election area;
- f) Training of election officials in readiness for the by-election;
- g) The certified Register of Voters has been displayed at every polling station to facilitate public verification; and
- h) Continuous voter education and stakeholder engagements.

The Commission reminds its stakeholders that campaigns officially ended on **Monday, 13th July 2026, at 6.00 p.m.**, in line with the gazetted election timelines. Any form of campaigning or engagement of voters after this time constitutes a breach of the Electoral Code of Conduct and shall amount to an election offence.

Polling Day Activities

1. Requirements for Voting

The Commission reminds all registered voters in OI Kalou constituency that their national identity cards/valid passport remain the primary identification documents during polling day and must always be in their possession.

2. Biometric Identification of Voters

All eligible voters appearing in the certified Register of Voters for the by-election area will be identified biometrically using the Kenya Integrated Elections Management System (KIEMS) kit.

3. Register of Voters

The Register of Voters for the OI Kalou Constituency by-election remains secure. The Register was duly certified and published through Kenya Gazette Notice No. 8410 (Vol. CXXVIII—No. 97) dated 5 June 2026 in accordance with Regulation 12(4) of the Elections (Registration of Voters) Regulations, 2012, and it remains the only lawful Register to be used for the by-election. Furthermore, the Register of Voters is a public document that, by law, must be printed and pinned at every polling station seven days prior to election day.

Claims that the Register has been manipulated are false, misleading and unsupported by evidence. The Commission therefore condemns misleading and false claims and urges all stakeholders to refrain from spreading the mis/disinformation.

4. Opening and Closing of Polls

Polling stations will open at **6:00 a.m.** and close at **5:00 p.m.** Where polling commences later than scheduled due to unforeseen circumstances, the lost time will be compensated to ensure that voters receive the full polling period.

All voters who will be in the queue by **5:00 p.m.** will be allowed to cast their ballots. The Commission encourages all voters to follow the instructions of polling officials to ensure an orderly, efficient, and peaceful voting process.

5. Use of Mobile Phones in the Polling Booth

The Commission reminds all voters that taking photographs or recording images of marked ballot papers inside the polling booth is strictly prohibited and constitutes an election offence under Section 7(3)(e) of the Election Offences Act, No. 37 of 2016.

Section 7(3)(e) of the Election Offences Act states that a person attending any proceedings relating to an election who, without lawful excuse, captures an image of any marked ballot for purposes of financial gain or for showing allegiance, commits an offence. The offence

is punishable by: a fine not exceeding Ksh 1 million, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years, or both.

The Commission urges all voters to comply with this legal requirement in order to protect the secrecy and integrity of the ballot.

6. Assisted Voting

The Commission further reminds the public that voters who require assistance due to disability, illiteracy or other lawful reasons are entitled to be assisted by a person of their own choice. The person providing such assistance must be **eighteen (18) years of age or older**. **Only one assistant** is permitted, and no person shall assist more than one voter.

The assistance provided shall be recorded, and the assistant shall be appropriately marked as proof of having assisted a voter, in accordance with the law.

7. Accreditation of Agents and Conduct within Polling Stations

Each participating political party or candidate is entitled to appoint **one (1) agent** at each polling station and **one (1) chief agent** at each tallying centre. Only duly accredited agents assigned to a specific polling station or tallying centre will be admitted to the respective polling station. Roaming of agents between polling stations or tallying centres is strictly prohibited.

There is **no provision in law for “super agents” or any unauthorized persons** to operate within polling or tallying centers including leaders of political parties.

Further, state officers and public officers who are registered voters are entitled to vote only at their designated polling stations. **They are NOT permitted to roam from one polling station to another.**

No person shall be admitted into a polling station if that person is wearing a badge, clothing, symbol, or any other item signifying support for a political party or candidate.

Voters are also reminded that once they have cast their vote, they are required to exit the polling station and its immediate precincts promptly to allow other voters to exercise their right and to maintain order and security.

8. Order at Polling Station

The Commission wishes to remind all stakeholders of the following legal provisions regarding order at polling stations:

- The **Presiding Officer** is responsible for maintaining law and order at the polling station throughout the polling process.
- A **voter who has cast his or her ballot shall immediately leave the polling station.**

- Any person who engages in disorderly conduct or fails to comply with the lawful instructions of the Presiding Officer may be ordered to leave the polling station and removed by the National Police Service.
- A person removed from a polling station may not re-enter during polling without the permission of the Presiding Officer.
- Where a person is suspected of committing an offence at the polling station, the individual may be arrested and dealt with in accordance with the law.
- The Presiding Officer may order the dispersal of any gathering that obstructs access to or exit from a polling station, or intimidates or interferes with voters.
- The authority to disperse such gatherings extends to an area within a **radius of up to 400 meters** from the polling station.
- These powers will be exercised solely to ensure that every eligible voter is able to access the polling station and cast their ballot freely, peacefully, and without intimidation.

9. Security Arrangements

The Commission, in close collaboration with the National Police Service, has put in place adequate security arrangements to ensure a peaceful and orderly electoral process. Two uniformed police officers will be deployed at every polling station, while additional uniformed officers will be stationed at tallying centres to maintain law and order and safeguard the integrity of the election.

The Commission has also noted with great concern the recent use of youths as "goons" to intimidate opponents, disrupt campaign activities and undermine public order during the campaign period. The Commission issues a stern warning that such conduct will not be tolerated on polling day.

The Commission reiterates that organized crime (goonism), voter intimidation and all forms of electoral violence have no place in Kenya's democratic process and will not be tolerated. Any person found engaging in acts of violence, intimidation, harassment, or any other election offence will be dealt in accordance with the Constitution and the applicable electoral laws. Voters are assured of a secure and peaceful environment and are urged to report any incidents through the appropriate security channels.

10. Electoral Code of Conduct

The Commission reminds all political parties, candidates, agents and supporters that compliance with the Electoral Code of Conduct is mandatory. The Commission will not hesitate to invoke all enforcement measures as provided for in the Electoral Code of

Conduct without fear or favour. Our investigation team is actively investigating all alleged violations with a view of enforcing the code of conduct fully.

The Commission calls upon voters, political parties, candidates, observers, civil society organizations and members of the public to report any electoral offence and flouting of the electoral code of conduct. We urge the public to **REPORT** and **PROVIDE** evidence of any electoral malpractices to the Commission, the National Police Service or any other authorized investigative agency.

11. Results Management and Declaration

After the close of polling at 5:00pm, the Presiding Officer in full view of agents, observers, and the media will open the ballot box, count the ballots and tabulate the results at the polling station in an open and transparent process.

To enhance transparency:

- a) Agents present will be allowed to take photographs of the official results forms Form 35A, and
- b) A copy of the results form will be pasted at the polling station for public display.

Returning Officers will thereafter:

- a) Receive results from all Presiding Officers;
- b) Verify, collate and announce constituency-level results;
- c) Declare the winner in the presence of agents and accredited stakeholders.

12. Access to Results

By-election results will be accessible to the public on the Commission's results portal: <https://forms.iebc.or.ke>

Call to Action

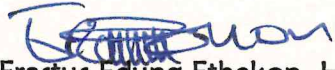
The Commission calls upon all polling officials to discharge their duties with integrity, impartiality and full adherence to the Code of Conduct. Any official found in breach of the Code or the Election Offences Act will face firm action.

Further, we urge all stakeholders, including political parties, candidates, agents, the media, and voters, to respect the law, uphold peace before, during and after polling and refrain from any actions that may compromise the secrecy or integrity of the vote.

The Commission calls upon the National Police Service to act swiftly and decisively against any person who engages in such unlawful conduct by ensuring that offenders are apprehended and investigated promptly.

The Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering a peaceful, free, fair, transparent, and credible election whose outcome reflects the freely expressed will of the people.

Registered voters of Ol Kalou Constituency: your vote is your voice. Turn out in large numbers, cast your ballot, and peacefully shape the future of your constituency.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erastus Edung Etheke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erastus Edung Etheke, HSC
Chairperson