



**SPEECH BY INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL & BOUNDARIES COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON,
WAFULA CHEBUKATI AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL RESULTS AT BOMAS OF
KENYA ON AUGUST 11TH 2017**

- IEBC Commissioners and officials
- Distinguished Presidential Candidates present
- His Excellency, President Thabo Mbeki
- His Excellency, President John Mahama
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps and international organizations
- All international and local election observers
- Political party leaders
- Government Officials
- Members of the fourth estate
- Fellow Citizens
- Ladies and gentlemen

Before we begin, let us all stand for a minute of silence in honor of our slain colleague and former ICT manager – Chris Musando and Mr. Michael Kasulai, a presiding officer in Yatta who passed away in the course of this election.

Thank you!!

Fellow Kenyans,

On 8 August, millions of voters across the country braved long lines and adverse weather to confirm the key tenet of our Constitution that “all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya.”

Millions of our youth - voting for the first time and Kenyans from all walks of life sought to express their right to vote with the confidence that as our Constitution states they were “honoring those who heroically struggled to bring freedom and justice to our land.”

We believe that the more than 15 million Kenyans that turned out to vote did this with the strong conviction that American President, Franklin D. Roosevelt had when he said, “Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.”



As the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya, we committed from the outset to ensure that this second election since the enactment of the 2010 constitution was conducted in a free, fair and credible manner.

The Commissioners and our staff across the country, aware that this was the fifth election since the introduction of multi-party democracy in Kenya in 1991, were determined to make it historical. They worked tirelessly to prove that our democracy has matured and to build the confidence of our people in the established constitutional institutions.

Countries around the world have been watching us closely and we believe that we have a very strong case study to share with our counterparts in the continent and beyond. We are confident that the manner in which these elections were conducted has demonstrated that the Commission has matured and joined the ranks of mature electoral management bodies.

In turn, the country has joined the family of mature democracies that are able to conduct and deliver credible and fair elections.

Voter Turn out

This election saw over 19,611,423 million Kenyans register as voters which is a 36 per cent increase from the 2013 registered voters. Based on the data received, the Commission estimates voter turnout of 15,073, 662 representing 78.91 % of the registered voters.

We would like to commend our fellow Kenyans for taking an active part in this historic vote. Thank you for your patriotic duty. By your participation in the elections, you have expressed your support for the policy of reforms in the country.

Election process

Ladies and gentlemen,

We wish to emphasize that the 2017 General Election was held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Kenya that guarantees the electoral rights of citizens. Our Constitution provides the Kenyan citizens the freedom of expression and respect for the principles of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret voting.

On assuming office in January 2017, this Commission promised Kenyans that it will endeavor to deliver a free, fair and credible election.



We sought to do this through upholding integrity and professionalism, engaging with stakeholders, being transparent in all our processes, addressing electoral malpractices during the election, including firing election officials on Election Day and strict enforcement of the electoral code of conduct.

Election Technology

Ladies and gentlemen,

This election marks a major milestone in the history of our great nation. This is the first time Kenya has successfully deployed the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (what we now call KIEMS kit) nationally, to facilitate an efficient voter registration, candidate registration, voter verification and transmission of results.

The new system integrated the existing biometric voter registration, biometric voter identification, electronic results transmission, political party and candidate registration system.

Despite a few technical hitches in its usage, we successfully managed to adopt a new innovative way of integrating voter identification and transmission of results. This is something we have never done as a Commission in the Republic of Kenya – for that, I would like to say a special thank you to each and every Kenyan for putting the confidence in us to deliver a credible election.

Election Challenges

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year like any other election year, we also faced a number of challenges which we overcame in our quest to deliver a free, fair and credible election. You may all be aware by now that over 200 court cases that the Commission had to deal with, delays in procurement of election materials and services. But through all these, the Commission remained focused in delivering its mandate.

There are many lessons that we have learnt from this electoral cycle that we believe will strengthen our institution ranging from how to mitigate against the late delivery of election materials to ways of ensuring quicker transmission of election results.



Appreciation

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to express our deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful completion of the 2017 election.

First and foremost, to the Kenyan people - our number one stakeholder. You entrusted us this honorable responsibility just seven months to the election.

To all our staff across the country and their families for your sacrifices. You have all worked long hours and sometimes foregone sleep particularly over the course of this week to ensure that all the necessary steps proceed seamlessly. The overwhelming majority of you have demonstrated our core values of transparency and integrity. For your sacrifice and dedication, I and the country in general owe you our recognition and gratitude. We are truly proud of all of you.

All stakeholders including political parties, civil society organizations, candidates, state agencies; I believe that you will all agree with me that the Commission has been accessible and available to discuss issues of concern or that require clarification. In line with the Commission's policy of transparency we have held numerous consultative meetings for which we express our appreciation.

To our international observers and partners especially the African Union, United Nations, IFES, Carter Center, NDI, Commonwealth Secretariat, East African Community, IGAD, ICGLR, European Union, we are grateful for your support. We wish to express our special recognition to the Election Management Bodies within the East African Community, Ghana, South Africa, Namibia and especially Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega of Nigeria for your wise counsel during this election cycle.

The Commission accredited a record number of both local and international observers. I am pleased to note that all the accredited local and international observers unanimously agree that the 2017 General Elections were credible, fair and peaceful. We thank the observers for their preliminary reports and look forward to the final reports which will be incorporated in our post-election evaluation.

We commend the local and international media for the role they played in ensuring the openness and transparency of the election, we would also like to thank you for your patience as we relayed information here periodically before, during and after the general election.



Election Results

Ladies and gentlemen,

According to the great American statesman, Abraham Lincoln - "The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter." The average voter in the country spoke on August 8th, 2017 and today, we are honored to have been entrusted with this historic responsibility to give you the result of the five minute conversation with the average Kenyan voter.

Before we pronounce the result of the Presidential election, we wish to remind you of the results management path in accordance with the law.

The first step in the determination of the result in the presidential election is the counting or the tallying of the presidential votes which is done by the presiding officer at the polling stations after the closing of voting. The results of the counting is then filled by the presiding officer in form 34A which he signs and is countersigned by the agents of candidates/ political parties.

Once form 34A is filled then the presiding officer is required to key in the results into the KIEMS gadget, scan the form 34A and send the two documents simultaneously to the constituency returning officer and to the national tallying center. The presidential result announced by the presiding officer is final.

The constituency returning officer is then required to collate all the results from the forms 34A, tally them and record the aggregates of the votes cast in favor of each candidate in form 34B.

The returning officer then announces the result of the presidential election in respect of the constituency and electronically submits them to the National Tallying Centre. The result announced by the constituency returning officer is final.

The only role of the national tallying center is to collate and tally the results from the 290 constituency returning officers as recorded in form 34Bs and then record the results of the tally in form 34C.



The Chairman of the commission as the returning officer in respect of the presidential elections then announces the results of the presidential election. Where a candidate has met the constitutional threshold in article 138(4) of the constitution that garnering 50%+1 of the total votes cast and garnering 25% of the total votes cast in at least half the counties, then the Chairman shall declare such a candidate as having been duly elected as president of the Republic of Kenya.

In this regard fellow Kenyans, by the powers vested in me under Article 138 (10) allow me now to provide you in total humility with the final tally of the presidential election results:

[Read from Form 34 C]

Having fulfilled the requirements by law, I therefore wish to declare Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta as the President-Elect and Hon. William Ruto as the Deputy President-Elect.

[Read from Form 34 D]

I thank you. God Bless Kenya.

**W.W. CHEBUKATI
CHAIRMAN
INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC)**