



PRESS STATEMENT

RE: RESPONSE TO CORD'S ALLEGATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTORAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2016

NAIROBI, KENYA: Tuesday November 15, 2016 - The allegation by CORD that IEBC is frustrating the implementation of the Electoral Laws (Amendment) Act, 2016 is false and misinformed. To the contrary, the Commission is committed to the realization of the new election law and nothing better can demonstrate this commitment than the steps it has taken to implement.

Since CORD had a high level participation in the drafting of this new law, that is clear and detailed on implementation, the call on IEBC to postpone operations is tantamount to blowing the start and stop whistle concurrently.

The remarks by CORD are unfortunate considering that on 14th November 2016, the CEO had clarified the issues in response to CORD's letter dated 3rd November 2016 but only received on 10th November 2016.

The new law, which came into effect on 4th October, 2016, has timelines that IEBC would be breaking if it did not observe. For example Sec 6 (3) says (3) For purposes of the first general election after the commencement of this section, the Commission shall, within thirty days of the commencement of this section, engage a professional reputable firm to conduct an audit of the Register of Voters for the purpose of— (a) verifying the accuracy of the Register; (b) recommending mechanisms of enhancing the accuracy of the Register; and (c) updating the register.

The Commission advertised an Expression of Interest (EOI) inviting firms to demonstrate that they are willing to bid. 11 firms responded to the EOI and out of that 6 qualified for the second and competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) stage. As a matter of fact, today was the statutory deadline for submission of technical and financial proposals by the 6 firms. The Commission proceeds to evaluate the proposal and award the contract to the successful bidder who will undertake the assignment.

Recently, the Commission held a meeting with political parties, where about 40 parties were represented including CORD, to deliberate the implications of the new law including the voter register. At the end of the meeting, the parties appreciated the efforts the Commission had made in implementing the law.

In its Management meeting, yesterday, the Commission resolved that a 2-days retreat should be held with political parties in the coming week whose aim is to deliberate further on elections preparations. We hope that parties will seize this opportunity as we work towards well-managed elections.

IEBC wishes to assure Kenyans that it is supportive of the newly enacted laws. However, it should be pointed out that the law as enacted has got its own challenges that as a public institution, which Kenyans must be informed about. Our job as professionals is to raise issues of concern for the greater good of the public, however unpalatable the issues might be. There is no single stakeholder aware of the issues the Commission has raised over the new law that does not agree with us unless in pursuit of political ends.

The responsibility of ensuring that new Commissioners are in office rests solely on other actors. The mandate of the secretariat is also embedded in law. It would be a total failure on our part to abscond our duties even when it is clear what the secretariat should be doing in preparations for the elections.

In the meantime, Kenyans are aware that elections are on 8th August 2017. The IEBC has a constitutional mandate to organize and deliver free, fair and credible elections. Our Election Operation Plan, has, and will remain trained on August 8th 2017 General Election date. We must remain steadfast and resilient, as a country, to ensure that we have peaceful and credible elections come 2017. We urge the political class to exercise restraint in its utterances especially on sensitive political processes.

ANDREW LIMO,

MANAGER, COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

address: Anniversary Towers, 6th Floor, off University Way, P.O Box 45371-00100 Nairobi, Kenya
phone: +254 (0) 2769000, **fax:** +254 (0) 20 2219185, **email:** info@iebc.or.ke, **website:** www.iebc.or.ke