



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE FOR BY-ELECTIONS

Nairobi, Kenya: 26th February 2026

a. Opening of Polling Stations

1. The Commission is pleased to announce to the country that the scheduled by elections to fill the following vacant elective positions are progressing well as planned:
 1. Member of the National Assembly for Isiolo South Constituency, Isiolo County;
 2. Member of the County Assembly for West Kabras Ward, Malava Constituency, Kakamega County; and
 3. Members of the County Assemblies for Muminji and Evurore wards, Mbeere North Constituency, Embu County are progressing well.
2. Polling stations opened at 6.00 a.m. in most of the by-election areas.
3. We appreciate that Kenyans woke up early in the morning, braving the chilly weather to queue at the various polling stations hours before opening.
4. Those who are yet to leave their homes are highly urged to go and exercise their democratic right – Please go out and vote.
5. In polling stations where unexpected delay in opening or interruption in voting is experienced at a polling station, the Presiding Officer shall extend the hours of polling by the amount of time lost.
6. As at 01.00 p.m 45.74% of the registered voters in the four by-election areas had turned out to vote.

b. KIEMS Kits and Network Connectivity

7. All eligible voters in the certified Register of Voters for the respective by-election areas are accurately identified using the Kenya Integrated Elections Management System (KIEMS) kits.



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8. The Commission is working round-the clock to resolve any reported issues on KIEMS kits by Returning and Presiding Officers.

c. Use of Mobile Phones in Polling Stations

9. The Commission reiterates that the secrecy of the ballot is a constitutional right guaranteed under Article 38(3)(b) and 81 (e) (i) of the Constitution and is a fundamental principle of democratic elections. Any act that compromises this secrecy, particularly photographing and/or recording a marked ballot paper at the polling booth undermines the integrity of the electoral process, exposes voters to undue influence, coercion, and vote-buying, and constitutes an electoral offence. Voters are expected to comply with this legal requirement.

d. Conclusion

10. The Commission calls upon all stakeholders, 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.
11. The Commission will keep you regularly updated on all developments touching on these by-elections.
12. We urge those eligible voters in the respective electoral areas of Isiolo South Constituency, and West Kabras, Muminji and Evurore wards to turn out and ensure they vote for their candidates of choice.

God Bless You and God Bless Kenya.

ERASTUS EDUNG ETHEKON, HSC

CHAIRPERSON, INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC)

Your **VOTE** | Your **Future**

For more information, contact: Department of Communications and Corporate Affairs

| @IEBCKenya

#26thFebByElections #TalkwithIEBC #StopFakeNews #YourVoteYourFuture