



## PRESS RELEASE

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### STATUS UPDATE ON THE PUNGUZA MIZIGO DRAFT REFERENDUM BILL VERIFICATION PROCESS

**NAIROBI, KENYA: APRIL 12, 2019**– On 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019, The Commission received the Punguza Mizigo draft referendum bill presented by The Third way Alliance Party. The Commission received twenty-one (21) cartons containing documents with details of supporters of the initiative, and one flash disk containing soft copy excel sheets of names and ID/PP numbers of supporters.

The Commission pledged to fast track the verification process subject to other factors including availability of resources, quality of the data/documents received and other competing engagements.

The Commission wishes to inform stakeholders that it has undertaken the following activities since receiving the Punguza Mizigo Referendum Initiative documents:

- (i) Appointment of a Referendum Project Implementation Team (RPIT) to undertake the verification exercise with clear terms of reference
- (ii) The RPIT developed a standard procedure for verification of supporters of Referendum initiatives, which has since been approved by the Commission.
- (iii) Development of timelines and budget for the conduct of the verification exercise.

The remaining activities to complete the verification process are as follows:

- Allocation of funds for the process by the National Treasury.
- Training of verification clerks, which will commence as soon as funds are received.
- Conduct of the verification exercise
- Data analysis and preparation of the verification report.
- Release of the report to the promoters and stakeholders.

At the time the Punguza Mizigo Referendum Initiative documents were received, the Commission was engaged in the preparation and conduct of four (4) by elections, three of which were successfully conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2019 while one is due on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019. The Commission therefore put on hold the draft referendum verification process in order to focus on the upcoming by elections.

Having successfully conducted the three by elections on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Ugenya and Embakasi South Constituencies as well as Lelan ward in Elgeyo Marakwet County, the Commission will now resume the verification exercise with a view to finalizing the same.

The Commission also wishes to inform members of the public that preparations for the conduct of Wajir West Constituency by election, scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> 2019, is progressing well.

The Commission reiterates its commitment to conduct the draft referendum bill verification exercise in a professional, transparent and impartial manner and will endeavor to keep stakeholders informed of the progress.

**Wafula Chebukati**

**Chairman**