Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PREPAREDNESS FOR THE 14TH MAY 2026 BY-ELECTIONS

Nairobi, Kenya: 13th May 2026

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) wishes to inform the nation that all preparations for the by-elections scheduled for Thursday, 14th May 2026 to fill the vacant elective positions of Member of National Assembly for Emurua Dikirr Constituency in Narok County and Member of County Assembly: Porro Ward in Samburu County and Endo Ward in Elgeyo Marakwet County are progressing as scheduled.

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

a. Completion of procurement of election materials;

b. Gazettement of nominated candidates, polling stations, and tallying centers;

c. Servicing, testing, configuration and readiness of the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) kits for deployment;

d. Receipt of ballot papers in the country;

e. Packaging and dispatch of all strategic and non-strategic election materials to the respective electoral areas; and

f. Training of election officials, with emphasis on professionalism, customer service, integrity, opening, polling and closing procedures as well as results management.

The Commission further notes that campaigns officially closed on **Monday, 11th May 2026, at 6.00 p.m.**, in line with the gazetted election timelines. Any form of campaigning or engagement of voters for electoral purposes shall not be permissible.

Polling Day Activities

1. Biometric Identification of Voters

All eligible voters in the certified Register of Voters for the respective by-election areas will be identified using the KIEMS kits. The Register of Voters has been displayed at each polling station for public verification.

2. Opening and Closing of Polls

Polling stations will open at 6:00am and close at 5:00pm. In cases where opening is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, time lost will be compensated.

All voters who are in the queue by 5:00pm will be allowed to cast their ballots.

The Commission encourages voters to follow instructions issued by polling officials to facilitate an orderly voting process.

3. Use of Mobile Phones in the Polling Booth

No one is allowed to take pictures of ballot papers in the polling booth. Doing so 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.

Therefore, the secrecy and integrity of the individual vote must be preserved at all times.

4. 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. However, **only one assistant** is permitted,

and **no person shall assist more than one voter.** Such assistance shall be recorded, and the assistant shall be appropriately marked as proof of having assisted a voter, in accordance with the law.

5. Accreditation of Agents and Conduct within Polling Stations

Each participating political party or candidate is entitled to one agent per polling station, and only one chief agent per candidate is allowed at a tallying center. There is **no provision in law for "super agents" or any unauthorized persons** to operate within polling or tallying centers.

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.

6. Security Arrangements

The Commission, working closely with the National Police Service, will deploy two uniformed police officers at every polling station, while additional uniformed officers will be deployed at tallying centers to maintain law and order to safeguard the electoral process.

The Commission will not tolerate intimidation of voters, interference with election officials, obstruction of the voting or counting process, or any conduct that undermines the integrity of the election.

6. 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, 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.

Any aggrieved party is reminded that the courts of law remain the lawful avenue for electoral dispute resolution.

7. 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 remains fully committed to delivering peaceful, free, fair, transparent, and credible by-elections.

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