



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS BY PARTY LEADER OF THE DEMOCRACY FOR CITIZENS PARTY (DCP), HON. RIGATHI GACHAGUA

Nairobi, Kenya: 27th August 2026

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) takes note of reports and headlines published and circulating in mainstream and social media regarding, among others, the ongoing procurement of electoral technology for the upcoming 2027 General Election.

The reports follow an unsubstantiated and false statement issued by the Party Leader of the Democracy for Citizens Party, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, during a press briefing held on Wednesday, 26 August 2026. The Commission wishes to set the record straight as follows:

1. The appointment of the members of this Commission was conducted publicly. Moreover, the process was subjected to a court process and was determined as lawful. Any attempts to re-write or distort the process and outcome of that process are unnecessary distractions to the Commission and the public. The Commission having been properly constituted is focused on its mandate and owes its allegiance to the Constitution and the people of Kenya.
2. The allegations that a house has been purchased for the Chairperson of IEBC by some politicians for purposes of influencing him are unfortunate, unfair and unsubstantiated to date. This allegation initially claimed that the house was worth Kshs. 80 million and now the price has shifted to Kshs. 200 million. In the spirit of accountability and fairness, the Commission hereby demands that DCP leader tenders' evidence of the location of the house and transaction documents including Sale Agreements, Transfer Documents and payment receipts, details of the Seller and Purchaser among others, to EACC for action. The Kenyan public also needs to know the factual truth and nothing less. In the absence of any evidence, we urge the DCP leader to cease and desist from this reckless misinformation and smear campaign against the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Commissioners



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

and staff of the IEBC. No politician should be seen to undermine the credibility and integrity of IEBC without justifiable reasons based on facts and evidence. Those who have specific issues with any member of IEBC should follow the right channels and due process and must afford them their rights including the rights to be informed of any wrongdoing in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Constitution and the laws of Kenya.

3. Regarding allegations of staff changes, the Commission complies with its Human Resource policies, guidelines and other relevant instruments under the larger public service when engaging employees. The Commission will continue to deploy and redeploy its personnel to enhance service delivery. This is a normal administrative function and should not be politicized.
4. The allegations of malpractices by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson remain untrue and fabricated aimed at tarnishing the names of the Commissioners and the Commission in general. Last year, the DCP leader similarly made unfounded allegations about the Vice-chairperson during the Magarini By Election. They remain false and unsubstantiated to date.
5. The Magarini by-election was conducted in a free, fair and credible manner and there was no election petition filed. Furthermore, the Commission has successfully conducted a number of by-elections and is fully prepared to conduct the 2027 General Election.

Procurement of Election Technology and Ballot Papers

6. The Commission conducts all its procurement processes in strict compliance with Chapter Twelve of the Constitution of Kenya and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 (PPADA), together with all applicable regulations and procedures.
7. Currently, the procurement process of Tender No. IEBC/OIT/01/2026 – 2027 (Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Support and Maintenance of the Integrated Elections Management System - IEMS, Hardware Equipment And Accessories) and IEBC/OIT/02/2026 – 2027 (Supply and Delivery of Ballot Papers, Tactile Folders, Register of Voters and Statutory Election Result Declaration Forms) has been temporarily halted following a notification of request for review filed at the Public Procurement Administrative Review Board.



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

8. The tender process for Tender No. IEBC/OIT/01/2026-2027 is open and transparent. All documents were uploaded on the IEBC website and PPIP on 11th August 2026.
9. The technical specifications are generic, performance-based, open to any qualified supplier, guided by Supreme Court directives, lessons from previous elections and feedback from our field officers. The Commission informs the public that the procurement process for technology commenced with the advertisement of the tender and it is still at its initial stages. No award has been made to any company since the Commission is not aware of those companies that would be competing in this tender. The tendering processes are elaborate, and the final decisions will be reached after rigorous, open and transparent processes are concluded in accordance with the procurement laws. Any attempts to cast aspersions on a process or outcomes of a process that has not yet reached its logical conclusion are premature and aimed at interfering with the affairs of the IEBC.
10. We assure the public and all interested bidders that the tendering processes will be carried out strictly based on their merits and in strict compliance with the laws of Kenya, particularly Article 227 of the Constitution and the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act (PPADA).
11. We urge all bidders to participate competitively in the tender process and to refrain from engaging in political commentary or associating with politicians for purposes of attempting to influence decisions of the Commission on this critical tender processes for technology and ballot papers. No amount of politically instigated allegations, intimidation, threats and malicious propaganda whatsoever will determine how we execute our mandate. Our actions shall be based solely on our interpretation and application of the relevant laws and processes. Where potential bidders have issues to raise, we implore them to follow the correct and proper channels to seek for redress as provided for by the laws of Kenya.

Voters Registration Process

12. The Register of Voters remains under the exclusive custody of the Commission. There is no plan, directive or intention to suppress voters from any region or to tamper with voter data during any system migration. The allegations that IEBC voter registration data sharing with external parties remain false and unsubstantiated.



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

The integrity of the register is very important to elections and leaders should not undermine it without justification.

13. The management of the Register of Voters is the sole responsibility of the Commission as stipulated in Article 88 (4) of the Constitution of Kenya. It is a comprehensive, multi-stage process designed to ensure that the final register is accurate, comprehensive, current and credible.
14. The process begins with in-person voter registration, where each registrant undergoes verification of identity and eligibility using official documentation. This is followed by the capture of biographical data and biometric data (fingerprints and facial image), ensuring that each voter is uniquely identifiable.
15. The captured data is securely transmitted and uploaded to a centralized database enabling national-level data consolidation and processing. Within the centralized system, the data undergoes automated biometric de-duplication, which includes fingerprint matching and alphanumeric comparisons. This process identifies duplicate registrations, conflicting records and any anomalies within the dataset. All flagged records are subjected to data cleaning, validation and adjudication. This ensures that only one unique and valid record is retained per voter.
16. Validated records are then compiled into the Register of Voters for 30-days biometric verification. During this period, voters are invited to confirm their details and report any discrepancies, which will be subsequently addressed through claims and objection processes.
17. Equally, the Register of Voters is then subjected to an independent audit, which, among others, assesses the accuracy of the register. Upon completion of the verification and audit processes, the Register of Voters is finalized and certified, thereby forming the official register to be used in an election. Therefore, with this elaborate process that will lead us to the final register, we assure the public that it is impossible to interfere with the voters register.
18. Therefore, the allegations of bribery, pre-determination of awards and voter suppression are false, alarming and have the potential to incite the public and undermine confidence in a constitutional process.



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

Conclusion

19. The Commission draws attention to Article 249 of the Constitution of Kenya, which provides that IEBC is independent and not subject to direction or control of any person or authority, and are guided by Article 249(2) (b) to be independent and impartial. The Commission Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and its Commissioners will therefore not be intimidated, coerced or swayed by false, manufactured and politically motivated allegations. We remain steadfast in executing our constitutional mandate without fear or favour.
20. As the Commission embarks on its roadmap for 10th August 2027 General Election, the Commission assures the public of its preparedness to deliver free, fair, peaceful and credible General Election in strict adherence to the rule of law.
21. A robust democracy relies on institutional integrity and the active participation of the public. The Commission invites citizens, parliament, civil society, media and development partners to collaborate as it executes its mandate.
22. The Commission welcomes constructive criticism and accountability measures based on the rule of law and laid down procedures as established by the Constitution of Kenya and applicable laws. However, the Commission shall also protect public interest where the allegations are motivated by malice and unjustifiable propaganda aimed at undermining the integrity and credibility of the electoral processes in Kenya. We shall do this by calling out those individuals and entities that have made it a habit to perpetuate harassment, threats and intimidation against the members and staff of the Commission.

God bless you, and God bless Kenya.

**ERASTUS EDUNG ETHEKON, HSC
CHAIRPERSON, INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC)**