Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: THE FINAL STATUS REPORT ON THE ENHANCED CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (ECVR) PHASE 1

Nairobi, Kenya: 30th April 2026

A. INTRODUCTION

Fellow Kenyans

1. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) presents to the nation the outcomes of the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) phase 1 conducted from 30th March 2026 to 28th April 2026.
2. The ECVR Phase I constituted a structured, time-bound national exercise designed to accelerate voter enrolment ahead of the 2027 General Election. The programme integrated continuous registration with targeted outreach to enhance participation, inclusivity, and accessibility to all eligible Kenyans.
3. In implementation, the Commission operationalized 30,615 registration centres, and recruited, trained, and deployed 12,520 registration officials supported by 5,390 Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) kits.
4. The Voter Registration exercise was rolled out in all 290 Constituencies, 1450 County Assembly Wards, 57 Huduma Centres across the country, All Institutions of Higher Learning (universities, colleges and vocational training institutes) and the Customer Experience Centre at Anniversary towers, Nairobi.

B. NEW VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS, 2026

5. Since the resumption of Continuous Voter Registration on **29th September, 2025** to the closure of ECVR on **28th**

April, 2026, the Commission has enlisted a total of **2,612,725** new voters. This comprises **267,249** registered under Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) conducted at IEBC offices and **2,345,476** under the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration Phase 1 undertaken between 30th March, 2026 and 28th April, 2026 at all County Assembly Wards across the country, Huduma Centres, Institutions of Higher Learning and the Customer Experience Centre at Anniversary Towers, Nairobi.

6. From a performance perspective, the ECVR 2026 particularly recorded notable improvements in both efficiency and output compared to previous large-scale registration initiatives. This performance reflects a sustained and consistent upward trajectory, with weekly registration exceeding 500,000 voters after the initial week.

C. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

7. By comparison, the 2016 Mass Voter Registration Phase I registered 1,451,489 voters against a target of 4 million (36% achievement) over a similar 30-day period, the ECVR 2026 exercise demonstrates more than double the efficiency in terms of target realization. Similarly, the 2021 voter registration cycle, which recorded 1,519,294 new voters against 3 million.

8. Taken together, this comparative analysis highlights a clear institutional progression in the design and execution of voter registration strategies. The ECVR approach not only delivered higher absolute numbers but also achieved significantly improved conversion rates relative to targets, underscoring its effectiveness as a scalable responsive voter registration model.

D. STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

9. The improved performance of ECVR 2026 can be attributed to deliberate strategic and operational shifts that distinguish it from earlier exercises. In particular:

    a. The **"Open Kit"** strategy, which allowed eligible voters to register at any convenient registration centre irrespective of their place of origin, effectively eliminated geographical restrictions that had historically constrained participation, particularly among mobile populations, urban residents and peri-urban communities.

b. **Expansion of the registration network beyond Ward-level centers** to include institutions of higher learning (Universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions), IEBC Constituency and County offices, all 57 Huduma Centers across the country and Customer Experience Centre at Anniversary Towers, Nairobi. This multi-channel access model enhanced convenience, reduced participation costs for citizens, and contributed to higher increased uptake, especially among youth and first-time voters.

c. **Adoption of data-driven planning and real-time performance monitoring:** Unlike earlier exercises, where projections were largely based on static census data, ECVR projections leveraged ID-based datasets and dynamic data analysis to guide resource allocation, identify high-potential registration areas and enable continuous tracking of progress. Weekly public updates on registration figures not only enhanced transparency but also created a feedback mechanism that encouraged lagging regions to intensify mobilization efforts. This approach marked a shift towards evidence-based decision-making and adaptive management, enabling the Commission to respond promptly to emerging operational challenges.

d. **Enhanced stakeholder engagements:** The Commission implemented a multi-layered stakeholder engagement strategy involving national and county governments, political parties, civil society organizations, educational institutions, private sector, media, faith-based organizations, youth networks among others. These partnerships facilitated targeted mobilization campaigns, particularly in high-density population areas such as universities, industrial zones and agricultural estates.

   Collaboration with the National Registration Bureau further enhanced access to identification documents, which remain a prerequisite for voter registration. The integration of traditional outreach methods with digital campaigns utilizing social media platforms and targeted messaging increased awareness and participation.

e. **Institutional preparedness and capacity building** were equally instrumental in ensuring smooth implementation. The Commission implemented a structured five-tier training cascade, comprising Content Development by Master Trainers; Training of Trainers of Trainers; County Cluster training for IEBC staff; User

Training of Voter Registration Assistants and ICT Clerks; and User Training of Voter Registration Clerks. This approach ensured uniform interpretation of legal and procedural requirements, strengthened technical competence in the use of biometric registration technology and reinforced compliance with data protection and operational standards. These efforts where complemented by round-the-clock ICT support, which minimized system downtime and ensured uninterrupted registration services nationwide.

E. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT

10. Notwithstanding these notable achievements, the ECVR 2026 exercise encountered a number of operational and structural challenges that constrained the full realization of voter registration objectives. These include:

    a. **Existence of significant regional disparities in registration outcomes**. This imbalance is as a result of structural barriers, including vast geographical distances, sparse populations, limited infrastructure, and socio-economic constraints in arid and semi-arid areas. Although the ECVR made notable progress in extending coverage to historically underserved regions, the results underscore the need for more targeted, context-specific and sustained interventions to achieve equitable voter registration outcomes nationwide.

    b. **Logistical constraints:** The deployment and movement of voter registration kits varies and often difficult terrains required substantial coordination and logistical resources, particularly in remote areas. These logistical pressures underscore the importance of early planning, enhanced logistical resourcing and flexible deployment strategies in future registration exercises.

    c. **Security concerns,** though localized, also affected operations in certain areas. Incidents of threats and attacks on registration personnel necessitated enhanced coordination with security agencies to safeguard both staff and equipment. Such challenges are indicative of the broader political and socio-security environment within which electoral processes are conducted and highlight the need for integrated security planning as part of voter registration operations.

    d. **Proliferation of mis/disinformation:** While the weekly publication of official statistics helped mitigate the risk of misinformation, the experience emphasizes the increasing influence of digital mis/disinformation

thereby necessitating the need for continuous communication and the need for the public to verify data and information.

e. **Environmental factors:** Adverse weather conditions, including flooding and prolonged drought, affected accessibility in certain regions and disrupted planned deployment schedules. These challenges were particularly pronounced in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, underscoring the need for context-specific logistical planning and climate –responsive deployment contingency measures.

F. ECVR HEROES

11. All those who participated in one way or another towards the success of the ECVR exercise are our heroes.

a. To the young people of this nation: You are the energy that powered this engine. Through your songs, your hashtags, your dance, and your peer-to-peer mobilization, you have proven that you are not merely leaders of tomorrow, but the decisive stakeholders of today, and infact, you can lead today.

b. To our elderly citizens, some aged 80 and above: You walked to our registration points centers with the wisdom of years, setting an example of civic duty that shames the indifferent.

c. To our pastoralist communities: We saw you. We saw you navigating the harshest terrains and the most unforgiving climates to claim your right to vote. Your resilience in the face of nature's trials is the very definition of Kenyan strength.

d. To the women of Kenya in your Chamas and marketplaces, and to our Persons with Disabilities (PWDs): We celebrate you. We especially honor patriots like Mr. Habbily Adaki from Muthwani Ward, who, despite physical challenges, cycled from village to village to ensure no one was left behind. You are the soul of this commission.

e. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Government of Kenya, the 47 County Governments, and the Security Agencies for the immense support extended to the Commission. Through your unwavering support, you ensured a stable and secure environment. We specifically thank our security agencies across the country for

being the silent guardians of this process, facilitating a space where every Kenyan felt safe to step forward and register.

f. We share our appreciation to all our stakeholders, the media fraternity that has proved to be an integral anchorage since the launch of the ECVR in Shimoni Village, Lunga Lunga Constituency in Kwale County and all partners for their immense support. Thank you for walking this journey with us pre- and during the ECVR exercise.

g. To the staff of the Commission including the temporary staff for this exercise: You are the unsung heroes of our Republic. We have seen the photos of you trudging through mud without in gumboots, crossing flooded rivers, and enduring the blistering sun of the north. You did not just do a job; you executed a heroic mission.

We want to assure you today: The Commission hears you. Your welfare is our priority. We are committed to improving your working conditions and providing the tools you need to achieve even greater heights. Your sacrifice is the bedrock upon which the 2027 General Election will stand.

G. PREPARATION OF THE REGISTER OF VOTERS

12. The generation of the Register of Voters is a comprehensive, multi-stage process designed to ensure that the final register is accurate, comprehensive, current and credible. The process begins with in-person voter registration, during which each prospective voter's identity and eligibility is verified using official and legally recognized documentation in accordance with the Constitution and application electoral laws.

13. Upon successful verification, the registration process proceeds to the capture of biographical data and biometric data (fingerprints, facial image and Iris), ensuring that each voter is uniquely identifiable and thereby safeguarding against multiple registrations.

14. 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 is subjected to 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.

15. Only after completion of these processes are the validated records compiled into the Register of Voters for 30 days of verification of biometric data. During this period, voters are invited to verify their details and report any discrepancies, which will be subsequently addressed through claims and objection processes. This public participation stage reinforces transparency and accountability in the voter registration process.

16. The public is further informed that during this period the voter verification portal will only carry a voter's registration centre and not the polling station which shall be allocated during an election.

17. Equally, the Register of Voters is then subjected to an independent audit, conducted by a qualified independent auditor, to assess among other aspects, the accuracy, completeness and integrity of the Register of Voters.

18. Upon completion of the verification of biometric data, audit processes, the Register of Voters is finalized and certified by the Commission by a publication in the Kenya Gazette. The Certified Register of Voters forms the official and legally recognized Register to be used during an election.

H. WAY FORWARD

19. With the General Election scheduled to be conducted on 10th August 2027, the strong public response to the just concluded ECVR Phase 1, signals a commendable level of national readiness. To sustain this momentum and ensure that all eligible citizens are afforded an opportunity to participate, the Commission will continue with the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) at the 57 Huduma Centers countrywide, the 290 IEBC Constituency offices across the country and Customer Experience Center at Anniversary Towers, Nairobi.

20. Registered voters are encouraged to confirm their registration status through **https://verify.iebc.or.ke/**. The Commission notes that verification processing may, in some instances, take slightly longer due to the rigorous, multi-layered validation processes, including biometric verification, de-duplication and comprehensive data integrity checks, all aimed to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the Register of Voters.

21. In conclusion, the gains realized and challenges overcome during the ECVR exercise provide a strong foundation for enhancing the confidence, integrity and inclusiveness of the Register of Voters. As the cornerstone of Kenya's electoral process, a credible Register remains fundamental to the conduct of a free, fair and credible 2027 General Election.

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

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

ECVR Statistics as of 28th April 2026

County Code	County	Enrolments	Transfers of Registration	Changes of Particulars
001	MOMBASA	51,286	10,593	143
002	KWALE	29,375	1,995	17
003	KILIFI	65,572	4,443	20
004	TANA RIVER	19,479	2,651	61
005	LAMU	9,481	405	5
006	TAITA TAVETA	23,121	2,976	26
007	GARISSA	24,575	3,428	23
008	WAJIR	21,171	2,710	17
009	MANDERA	18,214	6,299	25
010	MARSABIT	23,267	895	7
011	ISIOLO	10,632	1,004	15
012	MERU	67,651	5,317	76
013	THARAKA - NITHI	26,284	1,090	14
014	EMBU	22,999	1,891	107
015	KITUI	61,839	3,022	47
016	MACHAKOS	84,198	7,703	146
017	MAKUENI	45,849	3,061	64
018	NYANDARUA	20,467	2,665	75
019	NYERI	46,552	5,627	135

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

ECVR Statistics as of 28th April 2026

County Code	County	Enrolments	Transfers of Registration	Changes of Particulars
020	KIRINYAGA	36,617	4,715	80
021	MURANGA	49,791	9,075	121
022	KIAMBU	128,859	19,670	424
023	TURKANA	58,428	4,082	12
024	WEST POKOT	39,605	1,939	10
025	SAMBURU	19,418	659	2
026	TRANS NZOIA	42,254	7,507	63
027	UASIN GISHU	64,774	4,419	74
028	ELGEYO/ MARAKWET	29,740	1,025	13
029	NANDI	52,630	2,256	80
030	BARINGO	38,388	1,521	23
031	LAIKIPIA	25,780	2,624	66
032	NAKURU	102,207	10,873	144
033	NAROK	46,794	1,960	103
034	KAJIADO	55,013	4,535	87
035	KERICHO	52,290	1,842	38
036	BOMET	44,637	998	40
037	KAKAMEGA	93,858	8,239	65

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

ECVR Statistics as of 28th April 2026

County Code	County	Enrolments	Transfers of Registration	Changes of Particulars
038	VIHIGA	24,400	4,409	61
039	BUNGOMA	73,599	7,287	52
040	BUSIA	39,311	4,742	26
041	SIAYA	44,078	2,210	30
042	KISUMU	45,280	2,671	39
043	HOMA BAY	53,553	2,224	134
044	MIGORI	46,620	2,869	46
045	KISII	65,152	13,809	146
046	NYAMIRA	23,502	6,462	32
047	NAIROBI CITY	276,886	41,233	718
Total		**2,345,476**	**243,630**	**3,752**

Your VOTE | Your Future

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

@IEBCKenya

#ECVR2026 #YourVoteYourFuture #14thMayByelections #TalkWithIEBC #StopFakeNews