



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: CONSISTENT MEDIA INACCURATE REPORTING ON IEBC

NAIROBI, KENYA: Tuesday, June 16, 2020

The Commission is deeply concerned by deliberate trend of consistent inaccurate reporting and publication of false and unverified reports on IEBC issues in the media.

Whereas the guiding principles of journalism is TRUTH, ACCURACY and OBJECTIVITY The Star Newspaper has distinguished itself as a news outlet that has consistently published concocted and inaccurate reports on IEBC.

In today's Star Newspaper, June 16th, they published a story titled **"Chebukati, Aukot plan another Punguza Mizigo bill to beat BBI"**. The story is completely false, unfounded and malicious, aimed at maligning the Institution and its staff in the eyes of the public. There has never been any engagement between the Commission or its officials with Mr. Aukot or his representatives to discuss any referendum drive or any other matter since the first Punguza Mizigo initiative was verified and the outcome communicated to concerned parties on 18th July 2019. The Commission is not even aware that Thirdway Alliance has been involved in collecting signatures for another initiative. The Commission does not initiate or promote referendum drives but rather presides over the verification process and subsequent referenda as provided for in the Constitution. It is unfortunate that the newspaper published the baseless story without seeking any clarifications from the Commission.

One of the baseless allegation in that story is that the Commission has promised to assist Mr. Aukot get signatures required for his referendum drive and in return Mr. Aukot will 'save' the Commission. The Commission does not need any political 'saving' from anyone as it is created and safeguarded by the Constitution. Further, the Commission does not have repository of signatures to share with anyone. The Commission has instructed its lawyers to immediately pursue the matter.

The Commission urges the general public to treat the story in the Star Newspaper as a continuation of sensational misreporting on IEBC that has become synonymous with the paper lately. Further, the Commission urges the media fraternity to be professional and truthful in their reporting. The Commission is always available to provide factual information on its operations.


W. W. Chebukati
Chairperson