



Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON PREPAREDNESS FOR THE 26TH FEBRUARY 2026 BY-ELECTIONS

Nairobi, Kenya: 24th February 2026

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) wishes to inform the nation that all preparations for the by-elections scheduled for Thursday, 26th February 2026 to fill the following vacant elective positions: **a) Member of the National Assembly for Isiolo South Constituency**, Isiolo County; **b) Member of the County Assembly for West Kabras Ward**, Malava Constituency, Kakamega County; and **c) Members of the County Assembly for Muminji Ward and Evurore Ward**, Mbeere North Constituency, Embu County are ongoing and 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 centres;
- c. Servicing, testing, configuration and readiness of the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) kits for deployment;
- d. Packaging and dispatch of all strategic and non-strategic election materials including ballot papers to the respective electoral areas; and
- e. Training of election officials, with emphasis on professionalism, customer service, integrity, opening, polling and closing procedures as well as the results management.

The Commission further notes that campaigns officially closed yesterday on **Monday, 23rd February 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.



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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 Polling Stations

With the widespread use of smartphones, the Commission has observed a growing trend of voters using mobile phones inside polling stations. This conduct was observed during the by-elections held on **27th November 2025**, where some voters photographed their marked ballot papers and shared those images on social media.

The Commission reiterates that the secrecy of the ballot is a constitutional right guaranteed under **Article 38(3)(b) and 81 (e) (i)** of the Constitution and is a fundamental principle of democratic elections. Any act that compromises this secrecy, including photographing or recording a marked ballot paper, undermines the integrity of the electoral process, exposes voters to undue influence, coercion, and vote-buying, and constitutes an electoral offence.

To prevent such occurrences, the Commission will apply administrative control measures at polling stations. These measures are intended solely to protect voters and uphold the integrity of the electoral process.



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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

During previous by-elections, the Commission noted concerns regarding the presence of unauthorized persons, intimidation, and references to so-called “super agents” within polling and tallying centers. 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, politicians, political party officials, State officers, and public officers who are registered voters are entitled to vote **only at their designated polling stations**. They are **not permitted to move 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, has deployed adequate security personnel to all polling stations, tallying centers, and other strategic locations across all four by-election areas.



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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.

The Commission wishes to inform the public that two uniformed police officers will be deployed at every polling station, while additional uniformed officers will be deployed at tallying centers to maintain law and order and safeguard the electoral process.

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 original results forms, and
- b. A copy of the results form will be pasted at the polling station for public display.

Returning Officers will thereafter:

- c. Receive results from all Presiding Officers;
- d. Verify, collate, and announce at the Constituency tallying centres;
- e. Declare the winner and issue the certificate to the duly elected candidate **in the presence of candidates' 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>



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Call to Action

To all voters in the four by-election areas: your participation matters. We encourage you to turn out in large numbers and peacefully exercise your democratic right. We also call upon citizens and leaders to maintain peace during polling, counting, and announcement of results and even after the completion of by-elections.

The Commission calls upon 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.

**ERASTUS EDUNG ETHEKON, HSC
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Your **VOTE** | Your **Future**

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

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#26thFebByElections #TalkwithIEBC #StopFakeNews #YourVoteYourFuture