Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ELECTION PREPAREDNESS

Nairobi, Kenya: 20th August 2026

1. The Commission has published in the Kenya Gazette Notice No. 13497 carried in Vol. CXXVIII – No. 144 published on 20th August 2026. The said notice marks the commencement of the **election period** and coming into force of two legal instruments in respect to the 10th August 2027 General Election:

    - The Electoral Code of Conduct, and
    - The Election Offences Act.

Credible and Inclusive Election

2. The EOP operationalizes the Strategic Plan 2024–2029 and serves as compass for the Commission's activities towards the 2027 General Election.

3. Drawing from past electoral cycles, the Commission remains committed to conducting the 2027 General Election in accordance with the law and guided by independence, accountability, transparency and professionalism.

4. The foundation of a credible election is a clean, accurate and verifiable register of voters.

5. Since launching Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) on 29th September 2025, eligible Kenyans have continued to register as voters, transfer their registration and update their particulars.

6. In 2022, the Commission had 22.1 million registered voters; for 2027 General Election, we project a register of voters of approximately 28.5 million. The Commission is also expanding voter registration for citizens residing outside Kenya from 12 to 26 countries, advancing the progressive constitutional right of eligible Kenyans residing outside the country to participate in elections. As at 20th August 2026; 2,936,516 Kenyans had registered as voters.

7. Through the use of biometric technology for voter registration and voter verification, we are strengthening the integrity of the register of voters by enabling voters to inspect and verify their biometric data ahead of Election Day. The process also facilitates the removal of deceased persons and double registration.

8. Further, the register of voters will be subjected to a professional independent audit firm that will undertake a forensic audit and certify it for use in the 2027 General Election.

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

9. A successful election is a collective national endeavor. As we prepare for the 2027 General Election, we will continue working closely with government agencies, political parties, media, civil society, faith-based organizations, development partners, Kenyans among other stakeholders..

10. The Commission is proactively working towards strengthening coordination among security and justice actors to ensure a peaceful and secure environment. This multi-sectoral approach is vital for ensuring peaceful elections, enhancing the capacity of our officials and efficiently enforcing the law.

Critical Timelines

11. As we move forward, adherence to the **set timelines is non-negotiable.** These are not mere guidelines, but legally binding requirements essential to the orderly and credible conduct of the electoral process.

12. From the outset, the Commission notes the recent judgment in **Dr. Owiso Owiso, Khelef Khalifa and Ashioya Biko v Attorney General & Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Malindi High Court Petition No. HCCHRPET/023/2025,** where **Hon. Justice Thande** considered the constitutional timing of the next General Election. In interpreting Article 136(2)(a) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the Court held that the fifth year following the General Election held on 9th August 2022 commenced on 9th August 2026; consequently, determining that the presidential election was constitutionally due on Tuesday, 11th August 2026.

13. The Court suspended its decision until the next General Election scheduled for 10th August 2027. Accordingly, the matter remains subject to the applicable appellate and constitutional processes and the Commission continues to discharge its mandate and prepare for the 2027 General Election.

Owing to the above, the Commission points out the following:

14. **The General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, 10th August 2027.** This is the day when Kenyans will go to the polls to elect their leaders.

15. Any **public officer** who intends to contest in this election must resign from public office by **Wednesday, 10th February 2027,** which is exactly six months before the election.

16. Political Parties shall submit their authorized person(s) and their specimen signatures by **15th October 2026.**

17. Political parties must have their Nomination Rules certified by the Registrar of Political Parties by **30th October 2026** and submit to the Commission by **6th November 2026.**

18. In addition, political parties shall submit their membership lists to the Commission by **Tuesday, 16th March 2027.** On the same day, they are also required to submit the names of candidates contesting in their party primaries, along with the dates and venues for those primaries. All party primaries must be concluded and any intra-party disputes resolved by **Saturday, 8th May 2027.**

19. For independent candidates, the law requires that they are not members of any registered political party and must submit their names and symbols to the Commission by the same date, **Saturday, 8th May 2027.**

20. Aspirants vying for President shall deliver to the Commission a list bearing the names, respective signatures, identity card or valid Passport numbers of at least 2,000 voters registered in each of a majority of the counties by **24th May 2027.**

21. All nominees will appear before the Commission for the candidate registration process between **Saturday, 2[9th] May 2027 and Friday, 11[th] June 2027**, depending on the elective seat for which they are seeking nomination.

S/No	Election	Start Date	End Date
1.	President	29th May 2027	11th June 2027
2.	National Assembly	29th May 2027	1st June, 2027
3.	Senate	29th May 2027	2nd June 2027
4.	County Woman Member to the National Assembly	7th June, 2027	11th June, 2027
5.	County Governor	3rd June 2027	6th June, 2027
6.	County Assembly Ward	2nd June,2027	11th June, 2027

22. During nomination, the Commission shall register eligible and qualified candidates for election.

23. Any **dispute** arising from the nomination process will be lodged within **24 hours of occurrence but not later than 12[th] June 2027.** The disputes shall be resolved by **23[rd] June 2027.**

Campaign Period

24. The law prescribes when election campaigns may commence. For the 2027 General Election, the campaign period shall commence upon registration of a candidate by the Commission, but not earlier than **29[th] May 2027**, and shall end on **7[th] August 2027**, 48 hours before Election Day.

25. Any campaigning outside this prescribed period is unlawful. This includes the display of campaign posters, caravans, billboards and other forms of campaigning.

26. Political parties, candidates and their supporters are therefore urged to adhere to the law. The Commission will take appropriate action against violations of the electoral laws and regulations.

Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement

27. The Electoral Code of Conduct, contained in the Second Schedule to the Elections Act, 2011, sets standards of conduct for political parties, candidates, agents and other election participants.

28. The Commission may impose sanctions for violations of the Code, including:

    a. Formal warning;
    b. Fine determined by the Commission;
    c. Restriction or prohibition from using public media allocated for electoral purposes;
    d. Prohibition from holding public meetings, demonstrations or marches;
    e. Restriction from entering specified electoral areas for campaigning; and
    f. Prohibition or restriction on erecting posters, banners or distributing campaign materials.

29. Persistent or serious non-compliance may result in prohibition from participating in ongoing or future elections. In cases involving violence, intimidation or gross and systematic violations, the Commission may move the High Court for appropriate orders, including cancellation of the right to participate in the next election.

30. During the campaign period, the Electoral Code of Conduct Enforcement Committee will be fully operational to address breaches of the Code.

31. All persons bound by the Electoral Code of Conduct shall, throughout an election period refrain from campaigning in places of worship or during burial ceremonies.

32. All political parties, candidates and other participants are therefore reminded that violations will attract the full sanctions provided by law.

Election Offences

33. The Election Offences Act, 2016 criminalizes conduct that undermines the integrity and credibility of elections,

including bribery, violence, intimidation, multiple voting and interference with electoral processes.

34. The Commission urges the National Police Service and Office of the Director of Public Prosecution to enforce the law and calls on all stakeholders to strictly comply with it.

Use of Commission Logo

35. The Commission has noted the unauthorized use of its logo on campaign materials. Such use is irregular and unlawful and may falsely imply Commission endorsement, thereby infringing on its independence, impartiality and non-partisan status.

36. Aspirants and political actors are directed to cease such use and remove the offending materials within five (5) days, failing which appropriate action will be taken.

Legal Reforms on Elections

37. The Commission has reviewed the electoral legal framework and developed draft Bills and Regulations to strengthen the conduct and management of elections. The proposals have been submitted to Parliament for consideration.

38. The proposals are contained in:

    a. The Elections laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

    b. Proposals for amendments to the Election Offences Act.

    c. Proposals for amendment to the County Governments Act.

39. In addition, the draft reviewed Regulations are in respect of:

    a. The Elections (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

    b. The Elections (Voter Registration) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

    c. The Elections (Voter Education) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

d. Elections (Party List and Party Primaries) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

e. Elections (Technology) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

f. Rules of Procedure for Settlement of Disputes, 2026.

Election Campaign Financing

40. On 7th August 2026, the Commission gazetted the Election Campaign Financing Regulations 2026 and the Contribution and Spending Limits for the 2027 General Election.

41. The prescribed limits seek to promote a level playing field and ensure that financial resources do not unduly influence political participation or electoral competition.

42. All political parties, candidates, campaign teams, donors and other regulated persons are required to comply with the Regulations and the prescribed limits, including requirements on contributions, expenditure, record-keeping, disclosure, reporting and accountability. Key compliance timelines are set out in the Gazette Notice No. 13503 carried in Vol. CXXVIII – No. 144 published on 20th August 2026.

Filling of Vacant Positions in the Commission

43. The Commission has, in the month of August 2026, declared and advertised the positions of the Commission Secretary/CEO and seven Directors. In addition, the Commission has competitively promoted staff from lower to senior cadres. The Commission will continue to competitively fill other vacant positions in time to ensure that it is fully staffed and adequately prepared for the 10th August 2027 General Election.

Procurement of Election Strategic Materials

44. The Commission, with the provision of General Election budget in the current financial year 2026-2027, is in the process of procuring General Election materials. Currently, the procurement process of election technology and ballot papers has been temporarily halted following a notification of request for review filed at the Public

Procurement Administrative Review Board.

45. The procurement of several other strategic and non-strategic materials is on course and expected to be concluded in good time for the General Election.

Rallying Call for Unity and Peace

46. As we approach the General Election, the Commission urges all political actors, candidates and their supporters to exercise restraint and ensure that political competition remains firmly within the bounds of the law. Differences in political opinion are a legitimate and necessary feature of democracy.

47. Let us choose peace over violence, unity over division and issues over personalities. Let us resist the temptation to spread misinformation, incite hatred or demonize those with whom we disagree. Kenya has demonstrated its capacity to conduct competitive elections while preserving its democratic institutions, and the 2027 General Election must provide yet another opportunity to demonstrate the maturity and resilience of our democracy.

48. The Commission urges the people of Kenya to register and verify their voter details, reject misinformation and exercise their democratic rights peacefully and responsibly.

49. The Commission will continue to provide timely information and engage stakeholders to ensure the 2027 General Election is conducted peacefully, transparently, accountably and in accordance with the law.

God bless you, and God bless Kenya.

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