



**LAUNCH OF THE ELECTION SECURITY ARRANGEMENT PROGRAMME [ESAP]**

**AT**  
**THE KICC ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2017**

**CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

Hon Chief Justice  
Hon Attorney General  
Director of Public Prosecution  
Chairman, National Cohesion and Integration Commission  
IG Joseph Boinnet  
UNDP Country Representative  
Registrar of Political Parties  
CEO, Independent Police Oversight Authority  
Secretary Peace Building and Disaster Response  
My CEO Mr Ezra Chiloba  
Invited Guests, ladies and gentlemen Good morning

I take this opportunity to earnestly welcome you to this auspicious occasion, it is the culmination of long hours and concerted efforts to ensure that we not only have a successful launch of the Electoral Security Arrangement Programme [ESAP] but that we develop and improve on the programme's past-experiences to ensure we; as a Country; deliver to ourselves a successful, free, fair and credible election come August, 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

As the Country's Election Management [EMB] body we are happy to take lead on this initiative and in collaborating with sister agencies including the Judiciary, the Hon Attorney General's chambers, the National police Service, the UNDP and other partners to realize a secure electoral processes that does not

compromise the exercise of the electorate's free will but one that contemporaneously allows the will of the people to prevail.

You will all recall the recently concluded hard-fought party primaries and the isolated but regrettable incidence of violence that have been reported including in parts Migori, Mbita and elsewhere in the Country; where pockets of violence were witnessed. Indeed as a Commission we are concerned enough to ensure that we take part in establishment of systems that guarantee fairness in the electoral process but also deal decisively and firmly with any threats of breach of peace.

The mandate of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) stems from Article 88 of the Constitution which confers upon the IEBC the role to conduct or supervise referenda and elections to any elective body or office established by the Constitution, and any other elections as prescribed by an Act of Parliament.

As a Commission we recognize that a key prerequisite to conducting free, fair and credible elections is a peaceful environment where eligible voters can express their will freely, without violence, threats, intimidation or coercion.

However due to the high stakes and polarizing nature of electoral competition; from primaries, campaigns, casting of ballot, counting and tallying of results to declaration of winners; all elections have the potential of engendering conflict and resulting in violence.

The 2007 elections, pointedly, made the link between elections and violence in the Kenyan context even more direct and urgent. Based on this history, successful preparations and management of elections requires that the Commission and other stakeholders put in place strategies to ensure that security, as a key component of elections preparedness, is addressed. However, significantly so, provision of security is the constitutional mandate of the National Police Services. It is against this background that the ESAP program was put up with the invaluable assistance of the UNDP.

In the past the Commission was unfortunate to belatedly engaged the security teams during deployment on the eve of polling day. Thus there was a missing

link between election security and election management. ESAP was thus established jointly with the National Police Service, the USALAMA Forum and Saferworld with Support from UNDP.

The overall objective of the project was to undertake election security Coordination and a framework for managing the security aspects of the 2013 elections. This resulted in successful collaboration between the Police, IEBC, and other stakeholders and delivered positive outcome through peaceful elections and greater partnership between the two agencies.

As a Commission in preparing for the coming election, we have prepared the Election Operation Plan (EOP) 2015-2017; which continues to be revised variously and the EOP has identified Election Security as a key pillar towards delivering free, fair and credible elections for 2017 General Elections.

Ladies and Gentle the objectives of the ESAP project is to undertake election security coordination and a framework for managing the security aspects of the 2017 General Elections. Specifically the project seeks to archive the following:

- *First* contribute to building a culture a culture of cooperation between the public, the police, the IEBC and independent commissions in promoting and ensuring security of the campaign periods through best practices in negotiated public order management;
- *Secondly* contribute to “promoting credible and objective investigations and prosecutions of election offenders in Kenya”;
- *Third* promote “joint election risk assessment and response center” during the critical times of the campaigns, the elections day and the period immediately after the release of the results; and
- *Lastly* facilitate public participation in promoting election security in Kenya though monitoring and reporting.

In developing this programme the Commission is minded to identify Key Result Areas (Expected output), which we envisage as including:

- Coordinated response to election security threats;
- Detailed joined security plans between IEBC, police and other stakeholders at the National, County and local levels;
- Increased Accountability by both IEBC and security sector agencies in responding to electoral threats;
- Reduction in cases of gender-based violence; and,

- Reduced number of violent incidents in 2017 GE compared to 2013 GE

We have also developed various literature and publications to facilitate the realization of projected targets which will be similarly used during the trainings and used under the programme these include:

- Review Handbook for Security personnel;
- Review Police Role Card
- Develop Guide for investigation and prosecution of election offences
- Develop Procedure guide on trial process of the court.
- Develop Training manual for IEBC staff and Police Officer
- TOT training of IEBC and police

We are happy to confirm that we have secured multi-sectoral participation of various concerned agencies and the appointed Technical Committee comprises the following organizations:

- IEBC
- National Police Service
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- UNDP/SEPK
- UWIANO Secretariat National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management
- Independent Police Oversight Authority
- Office of the Registrar of Political Parties

We look forward to the commencement of the National training of trainers, county sensitization programs, county trainings and constituency trainings.

This Programme is part of the Commission's effort towards prevention and mitigation against this risk of insecurity, the Commission was able to engage with the police under the Election Security Arrangement Project (ESAP).

A similar programme launched in 2013 but various challenges faced, which have now been addressed included:

- a) The IEBC regional administrative structures, which did not mirror the administrative structure of the country, against which the security agencies are organised. We have since devolved our operation into County Election

Management offices, with county election managers engaged on full time basis;

- b) Police Officers who came for training did not work at the regional or county headquarters where the IEBC Regional Elections Coordinator (REC) was based. These regional offices have now been replaced by the County election offices but we have set-up plans to engage the police within their county structures as well.
- c) Lack of establishment of a joint response centre made it difficult for the issues raised by citizens like campaign violence, voter bribery etc. to be addressed on time.
- d) The ESAP project started late leading to rushed activities like trainings, we have sought to prepare early and the launch of the programme is also meant to allow for sufficient time to test the programme for efficiency and address challenges in the implementation.

The technical teams continue to fine tune the actualization of this programme, and as a Commission we look forward to secure electoral process especially now that the official campaign periods are about to commence.

I want to thank the various state agencies represented here today and wish to urge for continued synergies between our organization for the greater good of Country.

I thank you all, God bless you and God bless Kenya

**W.W. CHEBUKATI**  
**CHAIRMAN**