Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY TO CONTEST IN THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTION

Nairobi, Kenya: 25th November, 2026

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has noted with concern a report aired by a national television station and subsequently circulated on social media, alleging that the Commission has cleared former Deputy President, Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, to contest the 2027 General Election as a Presidential candidate. The Commission wishes to clarify that it has made no such determination and states as follows:

1. The report appears to have arisen from remarks made by the Commission's Director of Legal Services, Mr. Chrispine Owiye, during an engagement with political reporters held in Nairobi on Tuesday, 24th November 2026.
2. Mr. Owiye's presentation was limited to explaining the constitutional provisions governing qualifications and disqualifications for election under Articles 99 and 193 of the Constitution, including the provisions under Articles 99(3) and 193(3), which provide that a person is not disqualified until all avenues of appeal or review have been exhausted. He also addressed the applicable appeal processes. His presentation did not concern removal from office under Article 75, impeachment or the eligibility of a person who has been impeached to contest an election.
3. The Commission regrets the misrepresentation of facts and urges media houses to uphold accuracy, fairness and due diligence when reporting on sensitive constitutional and electoral matters. Such matters require proper context and verification to avoid misleading the public.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, the Commission has neither cleared nor made any determination regarding Hon. Rigathi Gachagua's eligibility to contest the 2027 Presidential Election. The constitutional requirements for nomination as a Presidential candidate are set out under Article 137, read together with the applicable provisions governing eligibility to stand for election. Any determination of a prospective candidate's eligibility will be made at the appropriate stage of the electoral process, in accordance with the Constitution and applicable laws. Candidate registration for the 2027 General Election has not commenced and will be undertaken within the

timelines prescribed by law.

5. The Commission remains committed to transparency, impartiality and the consistent application of the Constitution and electoral laws. Members of the public are encouraged to rely on official Commission communication for accurate information on electoral matters.

The Commission remains steadfast in discharging its constitutional mandate independently, fairly and in accordance with the law.

ERASTUS EDUNG ETHEKON, HSC

CHAIRPERSON, INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC)