

**PRESS RELEASE****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

NAIROBI, KENYA: Thursday, October 29, 2020

SUBJECT: COST OF PROPOSED REFERENDUM

The Commission's attention has been drawn to a statement by the Rt. Hon Raila Odinga in his twitter handle to the effect that the upcoming referendum cannot cost Ksh.14 billion and that elections have become one of the major avenues for ripping off the Country through various schemes. The Commission considers the statement very unfortunate and lacks objectivity and understanding of the conduct of elections.

The estimated figure of Kshs.14 billion given to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in response to a question by a member of PAC was informed by historical data and previous experience in managing elections in the country. The table below shows historical comparative costs and estimate of what the upcoming referendum may cost:-

ELECTORAL ACTIVITY	REGISTERED VOTERS	NO. OF POLLING STATIONS	TOTAL COST OF ELECTION (Ksh.)	COST PER VOTER (Ksh.)
2010 Referendum	12.6 million	27,689	10 billion	794
2017 Fresh Presidential Election	19.6 million	40,883	11.9 billion	607
2021 Proposed Referendum Estimate	*19.6 million	*40,883	13.7 billion	698

**These figures are likely to change due to ongoing continuous voter registration*

The above table shows that the Country spent **Kshs.10 billion** in conducting the 2010 referendum, under the Rt. Hon Raila Odinga's watch as the Prime Minister, a fact conveniently forgotten. The cost per voter then was **Ksh.794**. At the time, these figures never attracted offensive statements from the Rt. Hon Odinga. It is disingenuous for him to cast such aspersion without seeking clarifications from the Commission.

In the 2017 Fresh Presidential Election, which is a single ballot election like a referendum; it costed the country about Kshs.12 billion. The proposed referendum to be conducted sometime in 2021 is estimated to cost Kshs.14 billion, having factored all major cost drivers such as technology, ballot papers, temporary poll officials and security, among others. In addition, the cost of conducting elections under COVID-19 environment is included.

The Commission will prepare a detailed budget once it receives notification to conduct a referendum and such a budget will be presented to relevant institutions for scrutiny and approval.

The Commission wishes to assure all stakeholders and the general public that it will continue to operate independently and shall not be subject to the direction or control by any person or authority pursuant to Article 249 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

W. W. Chebukati
CHAIRPERSON