



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN MR. WAFULA CHEBUKATI
DURING THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE ENHANCED
CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE HELD AT NAKURU
ATHLETIC CLUB ON MONDAY OCTOBER 4TH 2021

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is delighted to hold the National Launch of the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration exercised coined **ECVR** here in Nakuru County, the County of Unlimited Opportunities, the Seat of the expansive Rift Valley Region. We are proud to be associated with Nakuru County which is rich in diversity of its people who peacefully co-exist and work together to better their lives.

The County also boasts of majestic sceneries, diverse culture and a hospitality industry that makes great tourist attractions. Nakuru County equally boasts of the third highest number of registered voters that currently stands at **952, 244**; coming after Nairobi City and Kiambu counties.

On the 9th August 2022, Kenyans will go to the ballot to elect leaders for six (6) elective positions. In doing so, Kenyans expect IEBC to conduct a

credible electoral process. One of the basic mandates of the Commission is to carry out voter registration and maintain an accurate register of voters for those qualified to vote. The Commission is further mandated to encourage all eligible voters to participate in the exercise through effective voter education.

The voter registration exercise is therefore the first key step in the roadmap to the 2022 General Election. The voter registration exercise shall be followed by cleaning of the registration data. After cleaning the data, the Commission shall competitively procure an independent firm to audit the register after which the register will be verified and certified in readiness for use in the Election.

Article 38 of the Constitution provides for the exercise of political rights that include: forming and participating in activities of political parties; participating in free, fair and regular elections based on universal suffrage; and to be a candidate for public office. These rights can only be exercised by Kenyans who are registered as voters.

The Commission is today 4th of October 2021 rolling out an Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) Exercise in all the one thousand four hundred and fifty (1450) County Assembly wards **except:** Kiagu ward in Central Imeni and Nguu/Masumba ward in Kibwezi West that are scheduled to hold by-election on **14th October 2021**; and Mahoo Ward in Taveta constituency that shall hold by-election on 16th December 2021. The Exercise will run continuously for a period of thirty (30) days to end on 2nd November 2021.

This Enhanced Voter Registration exercise will take place in the **27,241** gazetted registration centers countrywide that include the 52 Huduma

centers. A kit movement schedule will be prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders to determine how the kit will move around the County Assembly ward for the ECVR period.

The requirement for one to be registered as a voter is that he/she **MUST** be Kenyan citizen of majority age and with a national identification card or valid passport. The individual must present themselves physically to a registration officer as the registration process involves capturing biometric features and personal identifiable details of the applicant.

In this regard, we wish to urge agencies involved in the issuance of National Identity cards to fast-track the issuance and distribution of the IDs especially in the 30 day ECVR period so as to facilitate Kenyans who have attained the age of 18 to be registered as voters.

We wish to inform Kenyans that those who were registered between 2012 and now should NOT register afresh, but wait for the register inspection window to verify their details. In due course the Commission will set up and communicate details on how voters can verify their registration status including but not limited to SMS and web portal platforms.

Those wishing to transfer their registration details can visit our IEBC constituency office at any time to be assisted.

The Commission marked the start of the 2022 General Election electoral cycle with the launch of Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) at an event that was held in Makueni County on 15th October 2018. From the date of the launch to 31st August 2021 the Commission has registered a total of **180, 938** new voters. This low numbers realized in the Continuous Voter

Registration is the reason the Commission is today rolling an enhanced version referred to as the Enhanced Continuous Voter registration ECVR at the County Assembly wards level.

IEBC is targeting to register at least six million (6M) new voters during this Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise that shall run for a period of thirty (30) days from today 4th of October 2021 to 2nd November 2021. The Commission shall deploy three (3) Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) kits in each ward to register voters within that ward.

The Commission will make arrangements to have kits for universities and institutions of higher learning, in electoral areas where they are located to cater for students studying away from their home areas. Students are therefore not required to travel back home to be listed as voters.

So one may ask, must I travel to my home area to register as a voter?

The answer is NO! The registration kits stationed at the **52 Huduma Centers** countrywide will be open such that anyone who wishes to register will be allowed to select a registration center of their choice and their details captured to the selected center. This will save Kenyans the trouble of having to travel long distances so as to be registered as a voter.

We therefore appeal to Kenyans, and especially the youth (first time would be voters) who have recently acquired National Identity cards but are yet to register as voters to turn up at our registration centres to be enrolled.

I wish to pledge the Commission's commitment to deliver a **free, fair and credible** 2022 General Election that meets the democratic aspirations of

the people of Kenya. The Kenyan Voters remain our most important stakeholder and we invite all of them to walk with us in our onward march to a stronger democracy.

In addition I wish to assure the nation that the Commission is working round the clock, together with our stakeholders and partners, to improve the voter experience as we prepare for the **9th August 2022** General Election. Our only clarion call to all Kenyans is to unconditionally embrace peaceful elections and shun violence, for it is retrogressive to our economic growth and social cohesion. Elections should serve as an opportunity for us to debate and synthesize the best ideas and strategies for our nation building.

Finally, I wish to reiterate the Commission's appeal to citizens to take advantage of the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (exercise) and register as voters. Our offices remain open for consultations with a view of enhancing the voter registration experience. To the 6 million voters we are targeting to enroll I say to you...**IEBC IKO MTAANI... JIANDIKISHE SASA KAMA MPIGA KURA.**

AHSANTENI AND GOD BLESS KENYA!

W.W CHEBUKATI

CHAIRMAN