



SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN, INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC) DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE ANNUAL VOTER EDUCATION WEEK (AVEW) 2019, ON THE 10TH DAY OF JUNE.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to address you on this auspicious occasion of the launch of the third edition of Annual Voter Education Week (AVEW). The Annual Voter Education Week (AVEW) is an annual event that offers an opportune moment for the Commission staff to interact with voters, members of the public, partners and stakeholders in all the 47 Counties and the 290 Constituencies across the country.

The Commission successfully held its inaugural Annual Voter Education Week (AVEW) in May, 2015, and a subsequent one in 2016, in all the 290 Constituencies, where the Commission addressed concerns and inquiries on its mandate and operations.

During this year's AVEW, the Commission will listen to, and address public concerns stemming from the 2017 General Election. We shall specifically be creating awareness among the members of the public on continuous voter registration, voting process, election result management, electoral laws,

recommendations of the Post-Election Evaluation (PEE) Report as well as demystifying the use of election technology in Kenya.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Commission is alive to the fact that credible elections play an important role in democracy and good governance. An informed voter is empowered to exercise his/her democratic right which will in turn enhance public trust in the electoral process. Towards this end, the Commission will conduct continuous voter education and awareness, through structured stakeholder engagement. It is my sincere hope that AVEW will serve to enhance understanding among members of the public about the Commission, its operations and processes.

As we look into the future, the Commission takes cognisance of the dynamic environment it operates in and remains open to recommendations, suggestions and proposals from stakeholders in order to draw lessons and enhance service delivery to the public.

I am happy to inform you that the commission is in continuous engagement and collaboration with various stakeholders, including County Government, to enable the Commission deliver civic and voter education to Kenyans up to the grass root level.

As we forge ahead, the Commission is keen on implementing institutional reforms that will improve processes, inspire public trust and enhance stakeholders' confidence in the institution. So far the Commission has undertaken measures to ensure transparency in the procurement process including but not limited to: engaging suppliers and media in all procurement procedures and publishing names of vendors (including names of owners and partners).

Furthermore, the Commission is in the process of carrying out organisational restructuring in response to the dynamic environment with a view of enhancing effectiveness and efficiency in service delivery.

Fellow Kenyans,

The Commission is engaging with various Committees of Parliament, State Agencies and Taskforces to further discussions around the electoral laws reform agenda. The international best practice is such that no amendments are done to the electoral laws one year to a general election. It is worthy to note that late enactment of the electoral laws poses a great challenge in the preparation of elections.

The Commission therefore urges all players in election law reforms to expedite the process in order to ensure the election legal framework is in place at least one year before the next General elections. This will afford the Commission ample time to develop the Election Operation plan for the 2022 elections.

Fellow Kenyans,

The best practice in electoral management is adherence to the electoral cycle which involves pre, during and post election activities. Therefore, effective preparation for the 2022 General Elections begins now. However the commission has not been receiving funding to operationalise its activities within the electoral cycle. This may not only hamper, but also increase cost of the 2022 elections.

Apart from the foregoing, the Commission is concerned about the high cost of elections. In a bid to address this issue, the Commission has proposed various ways to reduce the cost of elections including the re-use of election

materials and equipment including the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) technology. Additionally, the high cost of elections can be reduced in part through early procurement of goods and services.

As I conclude, I wish to thank all our stakeholders and partners for their continued support. We look forward to further developing together concrete strategies for free fair and credible elections.

I invite the entire nation to participate in activities lined up in the annual voter education week in all the 47 Counties and 290 constituencies. On behalf of the Commission I say *Karibu tujadiliane!*

It is now my singular honour to declare the Annual voter education week 2019 officially launched.

Thank you



W. W. Chebukati

Chairman IEBC