



## PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

It is now 32 days to the August 08<sup>th</sup> General Elections. So far, preparations have been within the timelines. We will continue to address any emerging challenges and provide mitigating measures to ensure that there is clarity and involvement to the process. Today, we highlight the following:

### 1. ELECTORAL TIMELINES

Despite the numerous hurdles, especially emanating from procurement processes and the subsequent court orders, it is worth noting that the Commission has been able to abide by the set timelines. We are determined to recruit and train polling officials, print and distribute ballot papers and other materials, test the technology, and carry out all other critical activities in a timely manner.

Under the law, political parties were required to nominate their candidates and resolve intra-party disputes at least 90 days prior to the Election Day. The Commission was required to register the candidates at least 60 days to the Election Day and a period of 10 days for disputes in resolution. However, a month to the polls we are concerned that disputes continue in Courts and at the Political Parties Disputes Tribunal.

As you are aware, the law now requires the Commission to put in place an integrated electronic electoral system to govern the process of voter registration, verification and results transmission. The Commission has since put in place this technology with an additional feature known as the candidate registration and management system (CRMS).

The Election Act requires that the register of voters, voter identification system, candidate registration system and results transmission system are all interlinked. While the CRMS is used to register candidates and produce ballot paper proofs, the voter identification will be used to authenticate voters, check voter turnout for purposes of results transmission and to stem any election fraud.

Once the cast ballots have been counted, they will be captured and transmitted through the Results Transmission system to a public portal for display. The Integrated electronic system will ensure a secure, verifiable, transparent and reliable electoral system.

The inter-linkages of processes require that each of the 45,000 KIEMS kits must be loaded with the names of the candidates from the Ward to the Presidency. This is a time consuming exercise and any further delays in resolving disputes in the remaining 40 electoral areas could mean that the names of the candidates involved will not appear on the ballot paper. It also means that the transmission of results electronically will be hampered in the affected areas. Rather than risk the realization of the entire polls on August 8<sup>th</sup>, the Commission has resolved that no further amendments to the candidates list and the register of voters shall be introduced at this stage.

## **2. RECRUITMENT OF POLLING OFFICIALS**

The Commission is currently recruiting polling officials in each of the 290 constituencies and 47 counties. We received over 982,381 applications for 362,858 thousand positions. The officials will be adequately trained to ensure that they are able to manage the election process in accordance with the law.

## **3. PARTY AGENTS**

By law, each political party is entitled to one agent at each polling station to represent the party candidates. Where the party has not presented any agent each candidate could present an agent. It is important to take note the crucial role agents play in an election. They are the guardians of the election process.

We expect all political parties to submit to us the names of its national and county chief agents on or before 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. In selecting their agents, parties and candidates are requested to choose persons who can effectively represent their interest before, during and after elections. We call upon all stakeholders to respect and protect the rights of Agents. The Commission intends to train all the agents to ensure that they effectively play their role on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2017.

#### **4. ACCESS TO REGISTER OF VOTERS DATA ONLINE**

An online platform to query the register of voters is available on the Commission's website. One needs to enter only your ID or Passport number, whichever document was used to register with, and the names, polling station and other details will appear.

Voters may also access the same information by sending an SMS message to short code number 70000. We will continue to provide this SMS register query service until the day before the elections.

#### **5. THE KPMG AUDIT REPORT**

##### **a) Pre-certification of the Register**

The preparation of the Register of Voters is an integral component in the planning process for the General Election. The Commission wishes to clarify that the accuracy of the 2017 Register of Voters has been enhanced by both the outcome of the verification exercise and recommendations from the audit by KPMG.

The voter verification by use of biometrics was availed from 11 May - 09 June 2017 in the country and in 5 countries in the Diaspora (Burundi, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda). A total of 6,893,861 voters were verified using the KIEMS kits. This represents 35% of all registered voters.

During the verification period the Commission took note of missing names in the register of voters, change in particulars, clerical errors in data entry, misrepresentation of polling station and multiple registrations. For those who were affected by these concerns, their records were corrected.

Further, following the audit of the register by KPMG, the Commission implemented what it considered short-term recommendations for purposes of enhancing the 2017 Register of Voters.

**b) Certification and Inspection**

On 27 June 2017, the Commission announced the certification of the Register of Voters and the same was published in the Kenya Gazette Vol.84 on the same day. This is the final register that will be used for the 2017 election, without any further changes.

**CONCLUSION**

We call upon Kenyans and all stakeholders to support the electoral process. We also urge all those who play critical roles in the process to make their contributions taking cognizance of the rigid timelines, going forward.

Thank you.

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