COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO REMARKS DURING THE STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT FORUM IN MOMBASA COUNTY AT MOMBASA BEACH HOTEL ON 13TH AUGUST 2025

The IEBC Chairperson, **Erastus Edung Ethekon, HSC**

Vice Chairperson, **Ms. Fahima Araphat Abdallah, OGW**

Members of the Commission **(Name them)**

The Deputy Commission Secretary-Operations, **Md. Ruth Kulundu**

IEBC Senior Management and All Staff Present,

Members of the Civil Society, Community Based Organizations, Special Interest Groups, Social Media Influencers, and the Media fraternity

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Opening and Welcome

Good morning everyone. My name is Marjan Hussein Marjan, The Commission Secretary/CEO of the IEBC.

It is a real pleasure to welcome you to this important engagement — the very first under the new leadership of the IEBC.

This is a meaningful moment — not just for us as a Commission, but for all of you who care about the future of Kenya's democracy.

Democracy is not a one-day event; it's an ongoing journey. And today, we affirm our commitment to walk that journey with every Kenyan — including each one of you here.

2. Why This Meeting Matters

Your presence here today is not just appreciated — it is essential.

As civil society actors, influencers, youth leaders, and members of marginalized communities, you play a vital role in shaping public opinion,

driving civic action, and holding institutions accountable.

This space is yours — to speak, to share, and to shape how we move forward together.

3. Recognizing Your Influence

Today’s political landscape is changing. Politicians know they can’t go to an election without influencers, or digital storytellers — because your voices matter.

As President Obama once said, “We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

We at IEBC recognize your power. And just as you’ve opened up new spaces for dialogue and activism, we are opening our doors to you.

So I ask — can we work together?

4. Use Your Voice for Good

Many of you have become trusted opinion shapers.

Your words, videos, tweets, and posts reach thousands — sometimes millions. That's power. Use it wisely.

Use that trust to uplift, not divide. To enlighten, not mislead.

Today, we celebrate you not just as influencers — but as partners in protecting democracy and honouring the diversity of our nation.

5. The Responsibility of Influence

As we approach future elections, your platforms will shape how Kenyans think, vote, and engage.

Let your content reflect truth, balance, and national responsibility.

There's an African proverb that says, "Words are free. It's how you use them that may cost you."

Let's use our words to build — not to break.

6. A Call to Action

As we prepare for the General Election on 10th August 2027, we are calling on your support in three key areas:

- Voter registration
- Voter education
- Peaceful participation in elections

Your content, advocacy, and digital presence will shape the tone of this election. So I urge you: Choose unity. Choose integrity. Choose peace.

7. Bridging the Information Gap

You have a duty to inform and educate.

Kenya's electoral process should be simple, understandable, and accessible to every citizen.

You are the bridge between technical electoral information and everyday Kenyans. Help us make it clear, timely, and trusted.

8. Closing: Let's Do This Together

We look forward to working with all of you — not just today, but throughout this journey.

Together, let's make sure Kenya's democracy stays vibrant, inclusive, and truly representative of all her people.

Thank you.

Marjan Hussein Marjan, MBS

Commission Secretary/CEO