



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAIROBI, KENYA: OCTOBER 11, 2021

SUBJECT: STATUS UPDATE ON ENHANCED CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION

The Commission launched the Enhanced Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise on 4th October 2021 that is to run for 30 days. The purpose of the exercise is to afford all eligible Kenyans an opportunity to register as voters across the country in order to participate in the August 2022 General elections. Further, all registered voters will have a chance to transfer their registration status to electoral areas of their choice and correct erroneous registration particulars. Against this background, the Commission would like to update the Nation on the following key elements of the ECVR.

i. Registration Targets

The Commission targets to register 6 million new eligible Kenyans, on the basis of information from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census report. The target was disaggregated to each County, Constituency and County Assembly Ward to enable monitoring of progress. For the last 7 days, the Commission has registered **202,518** new voters out of the weekly target of **1,500,000**.

The following 10 Counties recorded the highest percentage of targets achieved in week 1

#	County	No. of Constituencies	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
1	SAMBURU	3	27,059	2,128	8
2	ELGEYO/MARAKWET	4	58,856	3,889	7
3	WAJIR	6	52,923	3,489	7
4	WEST POKOT	4	58,675	3,585	6
5	MANDERA	6	57,078	3,335	6
6	NANDI	6	112,925	6,319	6
7	BARINGO	6	76,146	4,225	6
8	NAROK	6	111,278	6,007	5
9	TURKANA	6	62,500	3,275	5
10	TANA RIVER	3	38,492	1,981	5

The following 10 Counties recorded lowest percentage of targets achieved in week 1

#	County	No. of Constituencies	Target	Achievement	% Achievement
1	MOMBASA	6	190,237	4,486	2
2	NAIROBI CITY	17	732,568	16,151	2
3	KIRINYAGA	4	113,784	2,376	2
4	EMBU	4	100,887	2,102	2
5	LAIKIPIA	3	80,231	1,664	2
6	MURANGA	7	191,545	3,259	2
7	KITUI	8	154,341	2,324	2
8	NYANDARUA	5	109,652	1,495	1
9	NYERI	6	148,995	1,915	1
10	KIAMBU	12	385,367	2,334	1

ii. Voters Transfers

During the first week of ECVR a total of 5,206 requests for voter transfer were serviced. The Commission reminds all registered voters that application for transfer is done at the 290 Constituency offices.

iii. Technology and Distribution of Registration Kits

The Commission has deployed the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system with a total of: 4,350 BVR kits distributed to registers voters within County Assembly Wards they are stationed; 1 BVR kit in each of the 290 Constituencies to register University and College students to enroll students to Registration Centres of their choice countrywide; 52 BVR kits in Huduma Centres to register Kenyans to any Registration Centre; 128 kits allocated to vast Counties; and 2900 kits for back-up. In total, the Commission has deployed 7,720 BVR kits.

The distribution of the BVR kits in the Wards is meant to ensure accessibility of Registration Centres by new voters who would otherwise be discouraged by long distances to Registration Centres. For avoidance of doubt, the 1 BVR kit deployed in each Constituency will reach the young eligible voters in universities and institutions of higher learning to register in electoral areas of their choice in any part of the country. Furthermore, the Kits deployed at Huduma Centres have been opened up to allow registration in any centre of choice in the country.

The Commission therefore calls upon Kenyans in all parts of the Country as well as students in universities and colleges to take advantage of this campaign and register in large numbers to enable them exercise their democratic right in the 2022 General Election

iv. Voter Mobilization

As a strategy of ensuring that eligible voters turn up in large numbers, the Commission has hired voter mobilizers in the 290 constituencies to create enthusiasm and awareness of the exercise.

In addition, the Commission has urged the Media to publicize the exercise and is pleased by the media coverage. The Commission takes this opportunity to thank all the Media Houses, both at

the national and county level, that have supported the exercise through coverage and reporting. We call upon the Media to sustain the publicity to bolster the voter registration efforts.

The Commission recognizes that an exercise of this magnitude and huge National interest cannot be successful without participation of stakeholders. All Kenyans are therefore called upon to join in this effort to ensure that majority of eligible voters get registered.

v. **Suspension of Voter Registration in Areas with By-Elections and Legal Petitions**

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Elections Act, the Commission is not conducting ECVR in areas that have by-elections or legal petitions. These include: Nguu/Masumba County Assembly Ward in Makueni County that is scheduled to hold by-election on 14th October 2021; Mahoo CAW in Taita Taveta County that is scheduled to hold by-election on 16th December 2021; Kiagu County Assembly Ward in Meru County that the High Court issued conservatory orders restraining the Commission from conducting a by-election pending an application for Judicial Review; and Kiambaa Constituency that has an Election Petition pending determination. However, arrangements have been made to conduct ECVR in the said electoral areas once the by-elections and legal petitions are concluded.

vi. **Challenges**

The Commission has reported a low turnout in the first week with only **202,518** (13.5%) registration out of the National week target of 1,500,000. This is attributed to:

- General voter apathy.
- Insecurity in parts of Lamu, Baringo and Laikipia Counties as well as along Kenya-Somalia borders.
- Lack of National Identity Cards by a population that have reached the age of 18 years above have not received their ID cards for various reasons.
- The culture of last-minute rush where Kenyans go for exercises when deadlines approach.

The Commission shall continue to explore solutions to these identified challenges in collaboration with all stakeholders in the electoral process.

vii. **Conclusion**

In 2017, the Commission took note that Kenyans did not optimally utilize the early days to register. The consequence was a mad rush and long queues in the last days to the close of the registration drive. Let us reverse this trend by shedding off the tag of 'last-minute Kenyan rush'

The Commission calls upon all Kenyan leaders across the board; both State and Non-State actors to go out of their way in assisting the Commission mobilize eligible citizens to register as voters.

The Commission will continue sharing updates and progress reports of the voter registration exercise on a weekly basis.



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