

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mombasa, Kenya: Saturday, 19th July 2025

SUBJECT: Status Update On Commission's Priority Areas

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is pleased to inform the public and stakeholders that following the assumption of office by the Chairperson and Members of the Commission on Friday, 11th July 2025, the Commission is now fully constituted and operational.

In the last one week, the Chairperson and Members of the Commission have undergone a comprehensive induction retreat and have been appraised on the Commission's activities as well as planned preparations in the run-up to the 10th August 2027 General Election including: legal reforms; review of the Strategic Plan (2024-2029); preparation of Election Operations Plan (2025-2027); pending by elections; as well as review of policies and standard operating procedures.

The Commission, in the short term, wishes to brief the country on its priority activities as follows:

1. By-Elections

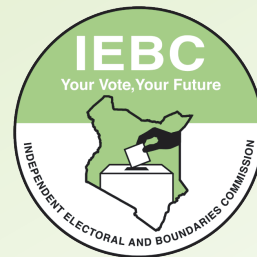
For over two and a half years, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has operated without a Chairperson and members—a constitutional crisis that has left many Kenyans without representation following deaths, resignations and judicial rulings affecting those who were elected to represent the respective electoral areas.

IEBC will work with parliament and political parties to address the issues of pending by-elections in the coming days. This is our first priority given the fact that the people in those affected areas must have their elected representatives within the shortest time possible.

Currently, there are 23 pending by-elections in various electoral areas in the country. These by-elections include Senate (1), National Assembly (6) and Member for County Assemblies (16). The Commission sympathises with the electorates of all the affected areas and assures expedient recourse to address this matter in the few days to come.

In the case of the by-elections to the National Assembly and Senate, the speakers of the respective houses are expected to issue writs declaring the positions vacant. We note that the writs that were issued have since expired. We will discuss this matter with speakers of the respective Houses of Parliament. Once we

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission



receive the respective writs, IEBC will expeditiously hold by elections in those areas. We note that the secretariat has been liaising with Parliament and National Treasury to secure the necessary budgetary allocations, before appointment of the Chairperson and members. We assure citizens in those respective areas that the Commission is committed to ensuring that their right of representation is realized in the shortest time possible. We shall update the country on the anticipated details including timelines.

2. Voter Registration and Update of the Register of Voters

Over the past two years, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has taken note of the sustained demand, particularly from Kenya's youth and the political class on the resumption of voter registration and updating of the register of voters. These calls, driven by a new generation of voters eager to participate in the democratic process, reflect a powerful civic momentum that we deliberately intend to partner with.

Indeed, we hear the voices of young Kenyans demanding the opportunity to be counted and to be actively involved in the democratic processes of rebuilding our country, Kenya. IEBC is actively laying the groundwork for the resumption of voter registration to ensure that no voice is left out. In line with our constitutional mandate, we reaffirm that the credibility of any election depends heavily on the accuracy and integrity of the voter register. A clean and inclusive register is not merely administrative; it is the foundation of free, fair and transparent elections.

The Constitution under article 88 (4) (a) & (b) provides for continuous voter registration of all eligible Kenyans and regular revision of the Register of Voters. The public and stakeholders are requested to note that the registration process, as provided for in law, was temporarily suspended through a gazette notice to pave way for the compilation of the Register of Voters and conduct of the 2022 General Election. Afterwards, it became legally inappropriate to resume the voter registration process owing to the absence of a Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

The IEBC is currently finalizing internal processes and will, in the month of August 2025, announce via a gazette notice the timelines for resumption of Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) to allow eligible citizens of Kenya to register as voters. The Commission encourages continued civic engagement and pledges to keep all stakeholders informed as developments unfold.

3. Targeted Voter Education and Structured Stakeholder Engagements

One key lesson from the 2022 General Election is that voters and stakeholders yearn for more

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission



education and continued engagements in the entire electoral cycle. Additionally, most observer mission reports of the 2022 General Election recommended that the IEBC needs to ensure electoral information is readily available to the voters in all available formats and spaces. What this means is that when our voters are adequately informed, they will make informed choices at the booth when marking the ballot.

Article 88(4)(g) of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 mandates the Commission to conduct voter education. As a matter of priority and in a bid to enhance transparency in our processes, the Commission will amplify stakeholder engagements to appraise the public on our programs, plans and activities. Furthermore, the Commission will proactively conduct targeted voter education on all electoral activities.

4. Boundary Delimitation

Taking into account the constitutional obligations pertaining to the review of electoral boundaries, the IEBC wishes to update the public on the status of the delimitation process for constituencies and wards. Following a mandated timeline outlined in Articles 88(4)(c) and 89 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, the Commission acknowledges a delay in the second boundary review, which was due by 6th March 2024. This unfortunate delay occurred due to the prolonged absence of a substantive Chairperson and Commission Members.

Article 88(4)(c) of the Constitution mandates the Commission to delimit constituency and wards. Article 89 provides the Constitutional timelines for review of the names and boundaries of constituencies at intervals of not less than 8 years and not more than 12 years. It also provides for the review of the number, names and boundary of wards periodically.

The first boundary review under the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, was concluded on 5th March 2012, therefore, the second review ought to have been concluded by 6th March 2024. Nevertheless, the process was stalled due to the absence of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission.

Prior to the recent full constitution of the IEBC, the Commission sought legal advice from the Office of the Attorney General on the following:

- i. Whether the Commission could proceed with the delimitation of Constituency and Wards in the absence of a Chairperson and Members of the Commission.
- ii. Whether the IEBC could conduct the boundaries delimitation despite the lapse of constitutional timelines.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission



iii. Whether the lapsed timelines could be extended, and if YES, by who?

The Office of the Attorney General advised the Commission to seek an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court on the framed issues. The Commission consequently filed an advisory reference at the Supreme Court, which has since been heard and is awaiting determination.

Once the Court renders the advisory, the Commission will engage stakeholders as appropriate.

5. Legal Reforms on Elections

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) underscores the pivotal role of a sound legal and regulatory environment in safeguarding the credibility, transparency and efficiency of Kenya's electoral processes. In fulfilment of its constitutional mandate and strategic objectives, the Commission has overtime undertaken a comprehensive review of the constitutional, statutory and regulatory frameworks governing elections.

Following this rigorous exercise, the IEBC has formulated a set of draft Bills and Regulations aimed at enhancing the legal architecture of elections in Kenya. These proposals have already been submitted to the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Assembly and the Senate Standing Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights for further consideration and legislative action.

The proposals are contained in:

1. The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024
2. The Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, 2024
3. The Election Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024
4. The County Governments (Amendment) Bill, 2024
5. The Election Campaign Financing (Amendment) Bill, 2024
6. The Referendum Bill, 2024

In addition, the draft reviewed Regulations are in respect of:

1. The Elections (General) Regulations, 2012
2. The Elections (Voter registration) Regulations, 2012
3. The Elections (Voter education) Regulations, 2012
4. Elections (Party list and Party Primaries) Regulations, 2017

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission



5. Elections (Technology) Regulations, 2017.
6. Election Campaign Financing Regulations, 2024

In obedience to the judgement of the High Court on the exercise of the Commission's mandate to enforce the Election Campaign Financing Act, the IEBC intends to subject the draft Regulations to comprehensive public participation. Thereafter, the Commission will incorporate stakeholders' contributions to improve the Regulations ahead of implementation.

Conclusion

As the Commission embarks on its roadmap for 10th August 2027 General Election, the Commission assures the public of its preparedness to deliver inclusive, credible and transparent electoral outcomes in strict adherence to the rule of law.

Noteworthy is the fact that the successful execution of planned activities depends on timely and adequate funding. IEBC will engage the National Treasury and Parliament to secure the necessary resources across the electoral cycle.

A robust democracy relies on institutional integrity and the active participation of the public. The Commission invites citizens, parliament, civil society, media and development partners to collaborate as it executes priority tasks from overdue by-elections, voter registration, stakeholder engagement, boundary delimitation and legal reform on elections.

God bless Kenya. God bless IEBC. God bless us all.

ERASTUS EDUNG ETHEKON, HSC

CHAIRPERSON, INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC)

For more information, contact:

Communications and Corporate Affairs

www.iebc.or.ke | info@iebc.or.ke

     | **@IEBCKenya**

te
Your  **Future**