



PRESS STATEMENT

UPDATES ON MASS VOTER REGISTRATION PHASE II – WEEEK TWO

NAIROBI: Tuesday, 31 January 2017

Mass Voter Registration

1. We have received the second week **preliminary data** from the field on the ongoing mass voter registration campaign. This is raw data that will be subjected to further cleaning and verification as required by law.

2. After 14 days of registering voters, preliminary data shows that a total of **1,539,879** Kenyans representing **53.94%** of the Week II cumulative target have applied to be registered as voters. This represents 25% of the upper target of 6 million voters and 38.50% of the lower limit target of 4 million voters. This means that much work still needs to be done.

The Top 10 Performing Counties against Target

COUNTY NAME	MVR II TARGET	WEEK TWO CUMMULATIVE	% ATTAINED
KAJIADO	33,282	30,766	92%
MANDERA	37,440	16,115	43%
KIRINYAGA	65,772	28,306	43%
KIAMBU	250,493	106,223	42%
MURANG'A	118,330	47,497	40%
NAROK	62,632	24,445	39%
NAKURU	210,002	77,970	37%
WAJIR	33,477	10,898	33%

TANA RIVER	28,027	8,858	32%
GARISSA	40,961	12,658	31%

The Top 10 Counties Accounting for Most Registration

COUNTY NAME	MVR II TARGET	WEEK TWO CUMMULATIVE	% ATTAINED
NAIROBI CITY	855,529	182,265.00	21%
KIAMBU	250,493	106,223.00	42%
NAKURU	210,002	77,970.00	37%
MERU	219,472	67,665.00	31%
MOMBASA	230,175	55,967.00	24%
KILIFI	229,759	54,692.00	24%
KAKAMEGA	279,412	49,876.00	18%
MURANG'A	118,330	47,497.00	40%
MACHAKOS	167,214	46,089.00	28%
KISUMU	183,216	38,739.00	21%

Concerns in the MVR II

- a. **Low registration in some counties:** We are concerned that some counties with highest potential voting population (100,000 and above) are below 20% of their total targets. These counties include Vihiga, Nyeri, Kisii, Kericho, Kakamega, Bungoma, Siaya, and Kitui. We are asking stakeholders in these counties to work closely with our officers to ensure that all eligible Kenyans are registered.
- b. **Drought in pastoral areas:** The Commission took note of the fact that voter registration services in pastoral areas have been affected by drought and difficult logistical challenges as a result of the vastness of these areas. The Commission resolved to allow Registration Officers in the affected counties to avail registration services within the electoral areas where potential voters could be settling at the moment. However, the movement of the BVR

kit shall still be confined within the constituency. In addition, the Registration Clerks in the affected counties have been directed to also accept transfer and change of particulars applications at their respective registration centres.

- c. **Transfer of voters:** The Commission has received complaints on transportation of voters from one electoral area to another. It is also alleged that such transfers involve some of form of inducement. Whereas Kenyans are allowed to register anywhere, the decision to transfer to a particular electoral area should not be done under undue influence or any form of bribery. Such conduct amounts to an electoral offence. We have deployed investigation officers on the ground to establish the veracity of these claims.

Registration of Students in Colleges and Universities

- 3. The Commission resolved to make special arrangements that would increase access to registration services by students in Colleges and Universities across the country. The Regional Election Coordinators have been directed to conduct a special outreach programme for voter registration in Universities and Colleges within their respective jurisdictions for a period of 7 days from **8th – 14th February 2017**. We call upon the support of University Administration to support this initiative.

Registration of Prisoners

4. In order to enhance the right of prisoners to participate in the electoral process and in compliance with the Supreme Court decision, the Commission resolved to gazette prisons as registration centres. The actual registration will commence from **20th –27th February 2017**.
5. The Commission resolved that when it comes to voting, prisoners will be allowed to vote for the presidential seat only. Accordingly, we are making proposals on regulations to govern the participation of prisoners in elections.

Registration of Kenyan Diaspora

6. The Commission also took note of the right of the Kenyan Diaspora to vote. Accordingly, the Commission will be hosting the Thematic Working Group on the Diaspora Participation in Elections tomorrow to deliberate the Commission's proposals on the matter.

Cleaning up of the Register of Voters

7. In our last briefing the Commission informed the public that it had found out that 128,926 records of voters had shared identification documents. We wish to state that 50,174 records of voters have been confirmed to be legitimate. The cleaning up of the register of voters is a continuous process.

8. The following measures will be taken to ensure that before the Election we have a complete and clean register of voters:
 - a. The Commission will publish all the names of persons appearing in the duplicate records per constituency to allow for public scrutiny at that level.
 - b. Persons appearing on the list of duplicate IDs shall be given an amnesty of 10 days (from the date we publish their names) to correct the details of their registration. In the event that no action is taken by the concerned persons, the Commission shall proceed to delete their names from the register of voters.
 - c. The Commission has commenced the configuration of the BVR system to ensure that just like the fingerprints, the ID numbers forms part of the unique identifiers of the voters. This means that at the time of preparing the final register of voters, the BVR system shall automatically identify duplicate IDs and separate them from the rest of the records.
 - d. After the Mass Voter Registration II and before the final certification of the Register of Voters, the Commission shall run the entire records of the register against the NRB database to confirm the authenticity of ownership of the ID numbers.
 - e. The Commission, in collaboration with the Registrar of Births and Deaths, has made arrangements for the removal of dead voters on a continuous basis.

9. Preliminary evidence shows that there are persons across the country who might have violated the law by registering more than once. We wish to remind them that it is an offence to register more than once. The Commission shall not hesitate to take action against such persons.

Conclusion

Let us, as a country, refocus our energies towards the direction of free, fair and credible elections. We call upon all stakeholders including political parties, state and non-state actors to ensure that credible elections are realised.

WAFULA CHEBUKATI
CHAIRPERSON

