



**CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE  
CEMS’ BRIEFING MEETING ON RE-STARTING CONTINUOUS VOTER  
REGISTRATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KPMG  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
MONDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> JULY 2018  
VENUE- UTALII COLLEGE**

Good morning colleagues Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all for this briefing session on re-starting the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise as well as the implementation of the KPMG Audit Report recommendations. As I have consistently observed, the Commission’s operations are best actualized at the field offices i.e. the County and Constituency elections offices. As such the success of both the CVR as well the implementation of the KPMG largely depends on you as the County Election Managers, and your teams.

As we are all aware, ours is a Constitutionally entrenched mandate; according to Article 88(4)(a)(b) of the Constitution, the Commission is responsible for the continuous registration of citizens as voters and the regular revision of the register of voters exercises. It is with this in mind that the Commission will commence Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) during the financial year 2018/2019.

I note that the voter registration exercise, including application for new registrations and changes in registration of voters in Kenya as well as for Kenyan citizens living outside the County was suspended from 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 via gazette notice No. 1813 of 2017 and was scheduled to be reopened on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. The period of the suspension was later revised and extended to 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 due to the preparation and conduct of Fresh Presidential Election (FPE) on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017.

This suspension was to enable the preparation and compilation of a revised register of voters in compliance with Section 8, Election Act, 2011.

Further the Commission was engaged in various election petitions across the across the Country, with most of the field team engaged as witnesses and thus the CVR could not commence. So far most of these petitions have been dispensed with and I must observe a majority of the petitions lodged have been dismissed. It is time we embark on our mandate of continuous voter registration and regular revision of the register of voters at constituency level.

The purpose of CVR is to provide an opportunity to register eligible voters, especially the youth and special interest groups; allow transfers from one electoral area to preferred electoral areas and update the register of voters by correcting any errors identified during KPMG audit. This work rests with Registration Officers and it is expected of you to put all your efforts in CVR. Ladies and gentlemen you will note that a credible register enhances the credibility of an election. Further Kenya being a democratic country, eligible citizens are entitled to be registered as voters and consequently participate in electing their leadership – mitigating disenfranchisement from governance.

The Commission expects an increase in the number of voters by at least 3% based on past trends on CVR; from the current 19.6 Million voters enrolled as at 2017 in the current certified register of voters to 20.1 Million by June, 2019. We also expect an improvement in the accuracy of the register of voters by implementing the KPMG recommendations so as to ensure an accurate, verifiable and comprehensive register of voters.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am informed that the Directorate of Voter Registration and Electoral Operation (DVREO) has disaggregated the KPMG data sets and will share the same with various registration officers (ROs) for action. CEMs as immediate supervisors, will be charged with the responsibilities of ensuring that ROs carry out their duties diligently and perform to expected levels.

As a Commission we will continue to engage all our stakeholders in an open, transparent, and meaningful manner on issues relating to the register of voters. Even as we assert our independence, the Commission will engage the Ministry of Interior and Coordination, and the various government agencies including the National Bureau of Registration (NRB); Civil Registry Births and Deaths (CRBD), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Service, to assist in getting verified registers of deceased voters for onward transmission to the respective ROs. The significance of data sharing under a coordinated and harmonious work relationship between these entities cannot be gainsaid. Indeed the success and accuracy of the revised register depends on the information provided by these government entities.

I will be remiss to conclude my remarks on matters CVR without acknowledging the proposed amendments to the Registration of Persons Act, CAP 107 through the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2018 to establish a National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS) which is intended to *inter alia* ‘create, manage, maintain and operate a national population register as single source of personal information for Kenyan citizens.’ The effect of this on our mandate is apparent and we must be able to interpret this proposed law to facilitate the maintenance of a credible register, which as I observed is a constitutional imperative on the Commission.

As I conclude my remarks ladies and gentlemen, I have visited a majority of your County offices, totaling about 20 and my message has been not only to congratulate you for the work undertaken in 7 major elections conducted last year - which allow me to congratulate you once more – but I have urged you to engage our stakeholders at your various regions with the view of demystifying the Commission and electoral management. As CEMs together with your ROs, you will similarly be expected to engage the public and key stakeholders to pass relevant voter and also civic education messages on CVR and mitigate any misinformation on CVR that may come as a result of information gaps.

Thank you for the good work in the field and be assured of my support as your Chairman and that of the Commission in fulfilling our constitutional mandate.

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