



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE;**

**Nairobi, Kenya: July 18, 2021**

### **SUBJECT: HACKING OF IEBC DATABASE TO ACQUIRE REGISTERED VOTERS' PERSONAL DETAILS**

The Commission's attention has been drawn to information circulating in the media to the effect that a suspect has hacked into the IEBC database and acquired personal details of registered voters from a county in western Kenya. The Commission would like to clarify that this information is not factual. The Commission's register of voters is kept in a Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system which is hosted on several servers. The BVR system has been designed to have its own isolated network, set of servers as well as user account directory to ensure integrity, confidentiality and high availability. Since installation and commissioning of the system 8 years ago the BVR system that hosts the register of voters used during elections has never been hacked because the servers are not connected to the open internet. In addition, the rest of the Commission's entire internal network is behind a high security firewall system.

In accordance with access to information as provided for by the Constitution, the Commission services numerous requests by various entities requiring register of voters for specific electoral areas. These requests are serviced upon payment of certain fees and in accordance with privacy laws requiring personally identifiable information to be kept confidential. What is currently being reported in the media is not data obtained through hacking of the BVR system but possibly from entities that may have legitimately obtained from the Commission through formal request and upon payment of requisite fees.

The Commission invests highly in security of its information assets, including the electoral technologies, and would like to assure all Kenyans that it is committed to protecting the same by ensuring their confidentiality, integrity and availability at all times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. W. Chebukati', written on a light-colored rectangular background.

**W. W. CHEBUKATI**

**CHAIRMAN**