



INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL POST ELECTION EVALUATION WORKSHOP HELD ON THE 12TH-16TH MAY 2014 AT KASKAZI BEACH HOTEL IN MOMBASA

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Observe protocol

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the close of a very important exercise in the electoral cycle. I wish to thank each and every one of you in a very special way for your undivided participation. The entire family of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission does not meet too often as they should. This is because it is logistically and financially demanding but when we meet we discuss serious business like we have just done. We realign our programs and our strategies. We redefine the standards for elections. In short, we allow tested experience to speak to plans and aspirations for the good of this great Nation.

We had a similar workshop a year ago, just before we conducted the 4th March General Elections. In retrospect, without that planning meeting the challenges we faced would probably have been insurmountable. We did a splendid job because of the meticulous planning and the involvement and contribution of everyone. The 800 page election data document is evidence of our efforts and commitment.

This is the first publication of detailed election results. It is the compilation of the same results we posted copies at the doors of polling stations and acknowledged by observers and party agents. But unfortunately it is a document overrun by those in a hurry to unfairly criticize us.

Despite the challenges, you delivered a credible, free and fair election. Some people say IEBC did not do the right thing but they cannot figure out what wrong we did. Even the number of elections nullified by the courts is not good enough a reason to castigating us.

With barely 10% of the elective positions going to by-elections and 95% of those all returning the initial choices of the people, the repeat elections essentially vindicates rather than vilify us.

Having swum through turbulent waters, we believe we are wiser and better swimmers now. I have listened and participated in the discussions among the Commissioners and the Secretariat and I thought it was candid and re-energizing.

We came here to interrogate our processes, logistics, coordination and everything else in the electoral process. We needed to understand what worked as planned, what did not work, the gaps and the way forward. We have achieved our goals. What we must ask ourselves is, how we are going to work hard to ensure that the deliberations translate into invaluable experiences for the voter and the Nation at large. Identifying the gaps and inadequacies is one thing.

Implementing them in good time is another. As seasoned election managers, you all know that it is never too early to plan for an election. There have been brilliant ideas on all aspects of elections. There have been proposals on election regulations, procedures and laws. We now have a clear roadmap and clear interventions for the 2017 polls. We must move with speed to

revise our Strategic Plan in order to implement the good ideas that we have discussed.

Ladies and Gentlemen, elections are made up of two critical ingredients: People and Processes and we have them all. We have great human resources and a tremendous investment on the processes.

Our returning officers are now at the peak of their careers, energized by experience and professionalism. But there is room for improvement. I urge all of us to take the invaluable lessons back to your respective Regional and Constituency offices. There is much to accomplish before we can truly say we have achieved our mandate.

As the Commission we have heard you and I want to assure you that nothing said here of practical importance will be thrown to the gutters. Let us leave an admirable legacy in the electoral process in Kenya and world over. To achieve this, we must be willing to share information and support each other.

Hold each other's hand to cross the bridge. With proper communication a lot and issues can be mitigated at the very initial stages before they escalate to complicated stages. Our true story has not been told and even those who have attempted to tell have told it badly. It could be because elections are by nature a process of complex logistics. People still say BVR did not work even though it was the only system we had for registering people. Had it not worked, we would not have had a register of 14.3M voters and subsequently NO election.

I wish to emphasize the need for all of us to step up voter education and dissemination of information. The people must know that voter registration is going on for those who did not have the chance to register as voters before the 2013 general elections. We are updating our register.

Moving forward, **ladies and gentlemen**, we plan to share the outcomes of this exercise with our key stakeholders, to also get their feedback, input and ownership. The proposed amendments shall be incorporated in the final report. This will

further inform amendments to our Strategic plan for next financial year 2014-2015. We are moving from reforms to transformation. There is no better time to be an election official.

Fellow colleagues to our esteemed partners I wish to thank you all, the UNDP and all other Development Partners in the Basket Fund. We could not have done this without you. The County Governor and County Commissioner who ensured adequate security and made us feel very secure and at home.

Finally, we all have to commit ourselves to the processes for the next General Election. Nothing must distract us from this important national duty.

With those few remarks I wish to declare this meeting officially closed.

GOD BLESS YOU AND THANK YOU