



INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

**CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS AT THE
NATIONAL POST ELECTION EVALUATION WORKSHOP
AT LEISURE LODGE HOTEL ON THE 24TH MARCH, 2014
IN MOMBASA**

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Observe protocol

Allow me to start with a quote from **John Stalin** in his famous memoir the Private Secretary where he says:

“It is enough that the people know there was an election. The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything.”

Ladies and Gentlemen I take this earliest opportunity to thank you all in a special way for your undivided dedication and commitment thus far to the work of the Commission and more so during the election period. The spirit of team work and selflessness exhibited by all of you during and after the election

has never been witnessed before. As a result we have become the envy of many including our neighbor States and States across the globe, evidenced by the numerous bench marking study tours we have been hosting recently from countries like Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, and Nigeria not to mention but a few.

We pride ourselves in so many untold election successes and victories, recently I was awarded an International award by the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies for outstanding achievement in election management and conflict prevention. I am also now the chairperson of the Commonwealth Election Network and a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of World Election Bodies. All this in recognition of the effort and professionalism of the electoral body, both before and after the general election.

Fellow colleagues its one year and few days this month since the March 4th 2013 most complex and closely contested election in the history of this Nation. We had a mandate to fulfil under the Constitution and we did. We put our best foot forward despite the challenges and as referees we bore the blunt of the

losers with the Prime Minister moving to court contesting lack of closure. This would later create a perception of a rigged elections in the minds of the 50.3 percent of his voters and further sway southwards the wave of over 90 percent public confidence we enjoyed prior to the election.

You will all agree with me the challenges faced and lessons learned during this period were and still are invaluable. We are left with an even greater task of interrogating this lessons in an effort to regain the once enjoyed public confidence.

Today **ladies and gentlemen** we are presented with yet another integral electoral process. The Post-election evaluation Process. This process like any other electoral process is very important because it allows us to interrogate the what, the why, the who, the how, the errors and way forward in readiness of the next general election. Your best teacher is you last mistake. We are not perfect but we can learn from our past experiences. That is why we are here today.

Managing the March 4, General Election was both a test and a triumph. We conducted six elections in one day, under the new constitutional dispensation for the first time. This would stretch

us to the limits- in terms logistics, personnel, resources and technological systems. Preparing for such a congested electoral calendar was a race against time with our greatest set back being last minute changes to the election laws by Parliament and technological glitches. We were however determined to deliver credible elections.

The success of recent by election is proof that the election carried out on March 4th 2013 under extremely strenuous timeliness, was free, fair and peaceful. More than enough times I have said that were it under different circumstances with consideration of ample time and resources the election would not have been challenged in the Supreme Court I am that confident. People should not read mischief in technical challenges. The Supreme Court Judgment on the Presidential Elections petitions vindicated the work of the IEBC and confirmed the election was conducted in accordance with the Constitution and so did the independent observers.

There has been great lessons of diffusion and innovation and we continue to learn more. We should have had more time; to test our technology, review the laws and parliament to pass election

legislation on time. There is need to manage public expectations and preempt their concerns before they become matters of public debate. To do this I encourage that all staff of the electoral body embrace such Continuous Professional Development networks available online and the social media pages and learn from other jurisdictions and enhance your career.

Thank You