



INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS AT THE PPLC MEETING AT ELEMENTAITA LODGE 30TH NOVEMBER, 2013 IN NAIVASHA

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Observe protocol

Ladies and gentlemen with the passing of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 came specific national values and principles of governance that include the participation of the people of Kenya. Participation of which is inculcated in the political parties. The constitution has also clearly stated the political rights that are to be enjoyed by all Kenyans; Articles 38 speaks to Political Rights and Art 91(1) gives the basic requirements for political parties.

These provisions have been brought to life through key statute such as the Political Parties Act, No. 11 of 2011 and Elections Act, No. 24

of 2011. This was in an effort to mitigate reforms after the post poll election violence witnessed in 2007.

In the spirit to enforce the electoral reforms as were recommended by the Independent Review Commission famously known as the Kriegler Commission, the Commission called for a structured and continuous dialoged between the election stake holders. In its recommendation it said

“A standing liaison committee should be set up comprising the ECK (as it then was) and political parties as a first step towards the enactment of nomination rules which must be adhered to”

The then 47 registered political parties agreed to formally establish political Parties Liaison Committee. This informed the purpose of a meeting between the political parties to find the way forward. For that matter a meeting was called in Nakuru in 2010 hence the development of the Nakuru Resolution as the guiding instrument between the parties.

Political Parties Liaison Committee herein referred to as (PPLC) is now established under Section 38 of the Political Parties Act 2011.

Where the Act stipulates that there shall be PPLC both at the National and County levels. I am glad to note that County PPLCs have been launched in all the 47 Counties across the Country.

Apart from the core principal function provided under the Act, the PPLC can borrow its principal values, purpose and objectives from the Nakuru Resolution which includes: To advance and champion free, fair and peacefully elections; to eliminate mistrust and suspicion between political parties; to build trust between the election management body (IEBC) and the Political parties; and to discuss and make recommendations on issues affecting the electoral system.

Ladies and Gentlemen the basis of PPLC draws its inspiration from the Constitution which recognizes the Political Parties as the key actors in electoral process. For that matter PPLC, consequently, provides a structured avenue for engagement between political parties, the Commission and the Registrar with a view to enhancing the legal regime and operating environment for conduct of elections in Kenya.

Today's objectives opportune us to interrogate and evaluate the PPLC engagement during the last general election and the by – elections; take an overview of the drafted regulations; and agree on the way forward with regards to how PPLC will grow.

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is now autonomous and this means therefore that the entrenched relationships between the Commission and political parties need be cultivated and the best way forward needs to be discussed.

Ladies and gentlemen allow me to conclude and note that relationships between the electoral body and political parties need to be enhanced. The link is important as it enhances the electoral process and reduces a great deal of electoral anomalies as experienced before and after the March 4th 2013 elections.

Let me also take this time to acknowledge and thank the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for being a longstanding and invaluable partner of the Commission. Their continued support especially on the PPLC forums is greatly appreciated we are truly indebted to you for your support.

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

Thank you. God Bless you