

SPEECH BY THE CHAIRMAN, INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION DURING THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF I.E.D ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL VOTERS REGISTER USED ON 4TH MARCH 2013 (20TH JUNE 2013)

EMAIL: ahmedissack786@yahoo.com/ahmedissack786@gmail.com

The Board and Executive Director I.E.D, Board members of ELOG present, Political Parties Officials and Members, Members of the Civil Societies, Members of the National Assembly, Development Partners, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I want to thank I.E.D for the initiative they have undertaken to ensure that a meeting to launch a report of this nature takes place at such an appropriate time within the Electoral cycle. **I** do underscore that this is a right step towards developing democratic tenets and ideals in any democratic electoral system. **S**econdly, I take this opportunity to thank all the organizations represented here and individuals who have seen the importance of such a launch, and indeed, there are here today.

I am indeed glad to be here during the launch of the Assessment Report of the Principal Register of the Voters that was used on the 4th March, 2013 General Elections. **T**his report is not only important to the Kenyans but also the Commission (IEBC) that is mandated with the responsibility of the registration of voters among other mandates.

As you are all aware, in 2013, we went through the General election in which we experienced some challenges despite having put in a lot of efforts in the preparations. **I**t should be noted that a few challenges were

linked to the Voter Registration period and time-limitations put in place in the preparation and finalization of the Principal Register. **S**uch challenges can be minimized in future activities if we embrace the findings and recommendations that we anticipate I.E.D will present in this forum. **T**hus, to I.E.D, this kind of a gathering is quite important especially in an endeavor to build and strengthen institutions like IEBC and others. **I**EBC is a very young institution that cannot be compared to the EMBs of India, South Africa among others. **I**t should be given time, resources and encouragement to make a mark in the electoral history of this country.

As a Commission mandated to run elections in the country, there is need to re-evaluate ourselves from all fronts to ascertain where we excelled and where we did not. **M**eetings like this one can to an extent provide a forum on re-evaluation. **I**n this vein, therefore, meetings of this type can be very important and can help an institution like IEBC to reflect back to the activities it undertook and assessment of its outputs. **A**s the Swahili's say "UKIONA VYAELEA VIMEUNDWA", the status of "KUELEA" can only be achieved if all stakeholders can entice objective and positive assessment of the Commission's activities and outputs.

I am not saying that what you have done is not objective or positive. **I** have had a glimpse of what is in your presentation and I am happy that your objectivity in looking at the Principal Voters Register can enable the Commission to go a mile in ensuring that the guiding principles for any Voters Register in an electoral Democracy:- (1) Completeness; (2) Current; and (3) Accuracy , are met. **I**t is on this basis that the IEBC developed its

Principal Voters Register. **T**hus, if there are any short falls in the Principal Voters Register, then, I need to reiterate here that, these can be technical challenges that camouflage themselves in different forms. But I assure you that such challenges cannot be allowed to re-occur again.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we congregate here to launch this Principal Voters Register Assessment Report, I am encouraged to note that IEBC is making commendable progress as regards to putting in place essential structures and systems meant to strengthen the electoral processes. **T**his structures and systems cannot run devoid of the stake-holders assessments and evaluations. **T**hus, everything we are undertaking will be shared with all stake-holders at an appointed time that is convenient to all. **S**imilarly, an internal evaluation report is underway and will be given to all the stake-holders to analyze and critique it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To the I.E.D and the participants that are here today, I want to urge you to amicably look at issues under discussion from a broad perspective, reflect over them in relation to the Commission's daily undertakings, the legal framework and the political atmosphere. **I** also urge you to share the findings and recommendations that are in the report with other stakeholders that have not find time to be here. **O**n our part as a Commission, the report will be analyzed page to page and each of the

findings and recommendations be looked at the back-drop of the activities we undertook prior to the 4th March 2013 General Elections.

Finally, to all our stakeholders, you will always make a mark on the performance of IEBC by assessing our plans and activities, giving independent, objective and positive criticisms that will make IEBC an outstanding institution among others. **And** as IEBC we will be very proud to have stakeholders that we can rely on in terms of evaluation and objective criticism.

I do promise that we will continue to cultivate these partnerships with all other stakeholders in the Electoral reforms and processes for the purposes of creating mutual understanding and upholding transparency and accountability.

With these few remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the launch of the Assessment Report on Principal Register of Voters used on 4th March 2013.

Thank you and God bless you all