



THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS CONFERENCE. CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Independent, Elections and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in partnership with Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), and Kura Yangu Sauti Yangu (KYSY); and in further collaboration with other institutions and development partners hosted a three day National Elections Conference under the theme: *“Working together towards a credible and peaceful general elections 2017”* from 12th -14th June 2017 at Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi. The objective of the conference was to critically evaluate the state preparedness among Kenya’s key electoral stakeholders to support and conduct the 2017 general elections; To synergize the efforts and roles of stakeholders in ensuring credible and peaceful 2017 elections; and finally, to rally Kenyans and key stakeholders to commit to credible and peaceful 2017 General Elections. At the end of the National Elections Conference, IEBC, EACC, Kura Yangu Sauti Yangu in conference stakeholders issued the following communique’.

Concerning National Elections 2017, the conference:

1. **Recalling** that the 2007 elections were characterised with strong ethno-political polarisation, elections mismanagement, and post-election violence that caused loss of more than 1,000 lives and property and the displacement of more than 600,000 people

2. **Whereas** the 2013 elections marked a significant improvement in the management and administration of peaceful elections, the electoral commission experienced crisis of confidence in delivering free and fair elections as several polling stations were marked with irregularities
3. **Noting** that the 2013 elections were characterised with massive Electronic Voting and Transmission System failure; delayed results tallying transmission, contested presidential results and unnecessary tension
4. **Recognises** the significant changes that have been put in place to manage the 2017 General Elections including re-constitution of the IEBC and its commissioners, the Elections Laws Amendment Act (2017) and introduction of the Kenya Integrated Elections Management System (KIEMS)
5. **Calls upon** all political party leaders, stakeholders, and Kenyan to commit to credible and peaceful elections. As such, the conference further resolves:

ON INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

- I. **THAT** IEBC needs to build public trust and confidence in the electoral process for free, fair elections and credible elections. Public engagement and communication should be open, honest and timely to all stakeholders and mandate holders

ACTION: *IEBC*
Stakeholders

- II. **THAT** IEBC should provide the public with an update on the status voters' register audit by KPMG. This update should include mechanisms to clean the register of dead voters, and

cleaning of erroneous voter details i.e. missing, shared, erroneous Identifications (IDs)

ACTION: IEBC

Stakeholders (Technical support)

- III. **THAT** in the short term, IEBC should develop guidelines on how to deal with PWDs during elections. This should include user friendly polling centers and booths for the elderly, physically handicapped, the deaf, blind (with ramps, brail & wheel chairs), while specifically targeting youth, women and other marginalised groups.

ACTION: IEBC

Stakeholders

Civil Societies

- IV. **THAT** there is need for Communications Authority of Kenya to provide assurance that there will be no undue restrictions to public to communications

ACTION: Communications Authority of Kenya

Stakeholders (Technical support)

ON ELECTING LEADERS OF INTEGRITY

- V. **THAT** mechanisms for enforcement of Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) on the Leadership and Integrity Act are weak and ineffective. This should include Monitoring electoral violence and disqualification of candidates engaged in such violence and hate speech.

ACTION: IEBC

DPP

Civil Society

ON ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY

VI. **THAT** IEBC should allow for independent testing of the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) to ensure it meets the highest standards of voter verification, speed, accuracy, credibility and data reliability and transmission of results in temper proof manner

ACTION: IEBC

Stakeholders (Technical support)

VII. **THAT** IEBC should ensure that the Security and Integrity of electoral technology can be seen through the entirety of electoral process (*registration, identification, voting, counting and tallying of votes*). AS such the process of procurement of electronic Kit including testing, training, deployment should be transparent

ACTION: IEBC

Stakeholders (Technical support)

VIII. **THAT** IEBC publicize the complementary mechanisms as back-up to the electoral technology it has put in place to ensure the continuity of credible election exercise in case of technology failure. This should include verifiable manual registers, results tallying and transmission

ACTION: IEBC

Stakeholders (Technical support)

ON PEACE AND SECURITY

IX. THAT IEBC should develop a mechanism for monitoring electoral violence and process of disqualifying leaders perpetuating hate speech and violence for elections

ACTION: *IEBC*
DPP
Civil Society
EACC

ON ELECTORAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

X. THAT IEBC should enforce Elections Act and other constitutional mechanisms to penalize politicians engaged in the use of public resources for political campaigns. Politicians in violation of the law should be penalized including disqualification from electoral process.

ACTION: *IEBC*
Legislature
Civil Society

XI. THAT IEBC should put proper preventive and reactive measures for crowd control, specific provision addressing violence against women; accountable policing operations during elections. There is need for IEBC to develop Early Warning mechanisms and collaborate with stakeholders on mitigation measures.

ACTION: *IEBC*
Religious institutions

Civil Society
EACC

ON ELECTORAL CONFLICT MITIGATION

XII. THAT IEBC should develop Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in collaboration with key stakeholders, religious institutions, and Dispute Tribunals pre-election and Post-Election to ensure simple disputes do not result into violence.

ACTION: *IEBC*
Religious institutions
Civil Society
EACC

ON THE ROLE OF MEDIA

XIII. THAT Media houses are responsible for scrutinizing electoral process management, evaluate the fairness of the process, efficiency, and probity while reporting on development of electoral campaigns

ACTION: *Media Houses*
Communication Authority
Media Owners Association

XIV. THAT Media houses should provide a platform for the public to communicate their concerns, opinions, and needs, to the parties/candidates and to the electoral body in a free and fair manner.

ACTION: *Media Houses*

*Communication Authority
Media Owners Association*

XV. THAT Media houses should educate voters on their democratic rights to vote; provide platforms for political parties and candidates to communicate their message to the electorate in a fair manner without bias, and prejudice

ACTION: *Media Houses
Communication Authority
Media Owners Association*

XVI. THAT Media houses should censure use of inflammatory language/hate speech by candidates and or citizens; and thus, help to prevent election-related violence.

ACTION: *Media Houses
Communication Authority
Media Owners Association*