



FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Changes to Electoral Amendments Law (2016)

Today, 23RD December, NAIROBI, Kenya.

ELOG is deeply concerned about the state of preparedness in the lead up to the August, 2017 general election. A crisis is looming if urgent steps are not taken to bring the country on course for credible, free and fair elections. Our progressive Constitution sets the standard for Kenya's elections, democracy and governance aspirations.

Elections are a celebration of fundamental rights and freedoms of every Kenyan to decide not only who should govern but also how they should be governed. We are particularly concerned about today's changes to the electoral laws and wishes to state the following:

1. ELOG wishes to remind all the political players that elections and electoral processes are about public perception thus building trust in the electoral processes is crucial in the ownership of outcome of the processes
2. The Elections Amendment Law (2016) was a product of a negotiated process that brought together members of Parliament, citizens and electoral stakeholders. ELOG, while taking cognizance of the matters being raised by those proposing these changes, advises that a similar approach should be employed in making any amendments to said laws. Any changes therefore must reflect the people's wishes of a transparent, inclusive, predictable and efficient process.
3. The right to information is critical to any credible and peaceful elections. The Constitution protects this right of every citizen to information and therefore ELOG condemns any attempt to scuttle this right and other fundamental freedoms as was witnessed yesterday.
4. The opposition has called for street protests from the 4th January, 2017. ELOG calls upon CORD and Jubilee lawmakers to sit down and reason out together as Kenyans and leaders of a unified country. ELOG urges the way of dialogue and consensus as key to gaining trust in the electoral processes and ownership of the same.
5. We urge our leaders to also exercise restraint and demonstrate maturity in their language and behaviour. Violence is unacceptable, whether physical, or verbal including on social media. Kenyans are looking towards you as an example and

as ELOG we have noticed spikes in violent rhetoric amongst the public when leaders do the same.

6. Finally, ELOG calls on the President to refer the passed bill to a bi-partisan parliamentary committee for discussion and consensus before assenting into law any proposed changes.

Thank you.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Regina", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Regina Opondo
Chairperson, ELOG Steering Committee