

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.**

**ELOG'S PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON THE ON-GOING POLITICAL PARTY  
PRIMARIES**

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**NAIROBI**, 23<sup>RD</sup> April, 2017 – The Elections Observation group (ELOG) today released its report on the ongoing political party primaries.

**Introduction**

ELOG has deployed 85 observers to observe the on-going party primaries around the country focusing on three political parties namely; ODM, WIPER and Jubilee. This report speaks to ELOG's observation in all the counties that these parties have conducted primaries. This statement has covers the period between 13<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2017.

**Our findings**

**The Good**

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- Swift actions by security agents in parts of the country to avert escalation of chaos. The police were quick to respond to incidents of violence during ongoing party primaries. Most notable places like Kuresoi North, Ndaragwa and Migori where security agents were been able to contain the chaos.
- A level of responsiveness by party boards in addressing electoral malpractices and disputes leading to cancellations and postponements. For example, ODM cancelled results in Busia and Taita Taveta primaries while Jubilee Party cancelled nominations in all 21 counties to plan a fresh process.



*ODM National Appeals Tribunal Handling Conflict arising from Shinyalu Party primaries*

- **High unprecedented voter turnout in the polling stations**

Steering Committee Members

CGD CRECO ECJP IED SUPKEM UDPK FIDA YA CJPC NCKK

This has been witnessed in both ODM and Jubilee primaries where turnout exceeded the expected number of voters by the parties.

- **Noted accessibility of polling centers by PWDs.**

In most polling centers, ELOG observers reported accessibility of the polling stations by PWDs.



*PWD casting his ballot in Kabete High school in Kiambu County*

## **THE BAD**

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- **Lack of preparedness by Political parties**
  - **Unavailable voter registers**

This has been evident in all counties during this nomination period where queries with the voter register delayed or even led to cancellation of voting. In certain, Counties like Mvita (ODM), Lamu West (ODM) voting was disrupted due to disagreements over the register to be used for verification. Attempts by ELOG and other observer groups to get voter registers from the different parties failed despite the fact that these are public documents.

- **Inadequate voting materials, delayed delivery of voting materials, mix up in the voting materials**

ELOG observed that no party started its primaries at 6.00am as they had said they would. In several polling stations, voting materials delayed, in other cases like in Busia County, there was a mix up with some of the aspirant's names missing from the ballot papers. Both Jubilee and ODM polling stations suffered delays in the delivery of the election materials.



*Voters in Ruiru Constituency taking a nap while waiting for voting materials to arrive*

### **Inept polling officials**

Some of polling officials deployed were found not to have sufficient knowledge on their roles at the polling station thus creating room for intimidation and manipulation by aspirants and voters.

### **High incidence of assisted voters**

1 out of 5 voters were assisted to vote in Kiambu during the Jubilee Party nomination, while in Kilifi 8/10 women are assisted to vote. This brings out an underlying factor of insufficient voter education done by political parties to enlighten their party members on the voting process in the nominations.



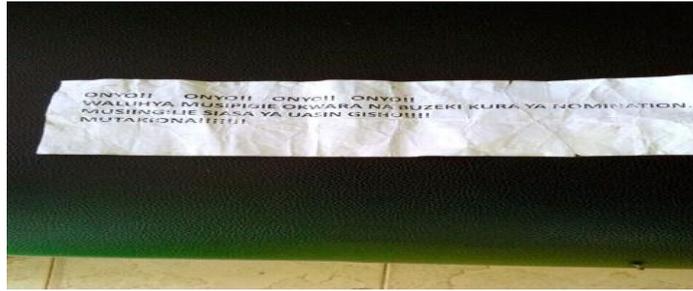
*Female voter being assisted as agents observe in Kilifi*

## **THE UGLY**

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### **Violence and Intimidation**

ELOG observers reported cases of violence and intimidation across the country; for example in Migori, Uasin Gishu, Kuresoi, Kiambu, Maragua, Ndaragwa and Lamu West, cases of violence were observed. In Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, for example, leaflets were circulated 'warning' a section of the residents not to cast their votes for particular people.



*Leaflets being circulated in Eldoret*

- **Fraudulent activities:**

ELOG observed several incidences of fraud and malpractices which include; pre-marked ballot papers in Laikipia, open party lists (use of un-updated IEBC register, Jubilee Party), ballot stuffing (Busia - ODM), missing aspirant names (Nakuru, Rongai), burning of voting materials as was witnessed in Kanyoni Nursery polling station in Lakipia East.



*Ballot papers being burnt in Laikipia North Constituency*

### **ELOG's position**

The role that political parties play in any democracy cannot be underestimated. Political party processes, including nominations, must be done in a manner that is transparent, accountable and within the rule of law.

The current state of affairs based on the above findings is totally unacceptable. The chaotic nature of the current nominations not only serves to disenfranchise Kenyans but also promises to usher in leaders through non-democratic and discredited political processes. This poses a risk of diminishing confidence in the general electoral environment.

ELOG fears that with the scenarios playing out, even the postponements may not be enough to avert the looming credibility crisis especially with the limited timelines given by IEBC.

*This is unacceptable!*

### **Recommendations**

ELOG therefore recommends the following:

- That political parties should keep and avail certified copies of membership lists/register during the nomination exercise.

- Political Party Election Boards and the leadership of the Parties should take quick and corrective action before the deadline i.e. 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.
- There is need for the adequate deployment of security personnel in all regions
- Timely interventions by the oversight authorities; IEBC and ORPP on the nomination process to ensure the process is conducted fairly and credibly
- Action by National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), the Office the Registrar of Political Parties and the IEBC over the commission of electoral offences and escalation of tensions in parts of the country.
- That the Internal Dispute Resolution mechanism within the parties as well as the political party dispute tribunal be ready to quickly and firmly deal with the disputes arising from these nominations.

### **Conclusion**

ELOG wishes to remind political parties that they play a critical role in determining the leadership of this great country and have a responsibility to ensure credible, peaceful, free and fair electoral processes. ELOG continues to monitor the remaining political party primaries and will issue a comprehensive report next week when the primaries are expected to end.

Similarly, ELOG will deploy 94 monitors both at the county and national levels to observe the dispute resolution processes arising out of the nomination processes and will issue a comprehensive report as these processes unfold.