



**Elections
Observation
Group**

CREDIBLE, PEACEFUL, FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, 11th November 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RE: VOTER APATHY IN THE CONCLUDED ECVR & OTHER CRITICAL ISSUES
PERTAINING TO THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

A. VOTER APATHY

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) rolled out the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration between 4th October 2021 to 5th November 2021, with an aim of enrolling 6 million new voters. However, by the end of the exercise, the Commission managed to register only **1,421,710** new voters. These low numbers point to an apparent voter apathy, which could be attributed to several factors.

B. POLITICAL VIOLENCE

The Elections Observation Group has noted with regret the rise in political intolerance and violence in certain parts of the country. Yesterday's unfortunate event in Kondele, during Deputy President William Ruto's tour of Kisumu points to a dangerous trend, which if left unchecked could spiral out of control. Political intolerance, destruction of property and loss of lives is totally unacceptable.

C. PENDING ELECTORAL REFORMS

With less than 10 months to the next general elections, there are still several pending electoral reforms which need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Parliament is yet to enact several bills, and with time running out fast, this may not be achieved before the next general elections.

D. POLITICAL PARTY PREPAREDNESS

The launch of e-citizen platform by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is commendable as it allows the public to register or de-register from political parties thus giving them the democratic right to be in political parties of their choice. We also note that political parties are yet to comply with submission of Political Party Nomination rules.

E. FUNDING OF IEBC

Insufficient and delayed funding of IEBC continues to hamper preparations for the general elections. For instance, IEBC had to halt the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration due to lack of funds. The Commission is yet to adequate voter education.

F. VOTER REGISTRATION



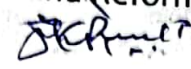
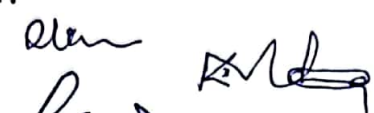


Once again there has been a low registration rate of People with Disabilities (PWDs). It is clear there is lack of targeted strategies to reach out to them, and this could end up disenfranchising them. We also note that Failure by most youth who have attained the voting age, to secure National Identification Cards, remains a big challenge. Observation reports from the Elections Observation Group (ELOG) indicate that the problem is still rampant in the North Eastern Region.

In light of the aforesaid, ELOG's Advisory and Peace Panel wishes to make the following commentaries:

I. VOTER APATHY

Every Kenyans has a right and civic duty to participate in the country's electoral processes. We especially urge all young people to participate in electoral processes if they're are to change the direction the country is taking. IEBC, CSOs and other stakeholders need to employ robust and innovative approaches to sensitize the youth on this patriotic duty.

SIGNED

1. Joyce Majiwa - Institute for Education in Democracy... 
2. Cornelius Oduor, Constitution and Reform Education Consortium... 
3. Joseph Rono (UPDK)... 
4. Rev Elias Otieno Agola (LRF)... 
5. Ruth Angwa(ECPJ)... 
6. Kennedy Masime (CGD)... 
7. Mwambi Mwasaru (CGD) ... 