

PRESS RELEASE ON IEBC AND THE GENERAL ELECTIONS 2017

Narc Kenya lauds IEBC for announcing the date of the next General Election which enables all players to have adequate time to prepare. This also gives us time as a Nation to reflect on the necessary reforms needed for our systems and laws.

NARC Kenya has the following suggestions:-

1. **That:** IEBC should work on rebuilding of confidence of the citizens in IEBC which is at a dangerously low ebb. We appreciate its move to engage all stakeholders key among them the Political Parties and especially the minority parties. This will dispel the perception that IEBC exclusively engages the ruling Jubilee Coalition while ignoring the Minority Parties. This will enable IEBC to carry on board stakeholder concerns in the preparation of the electoral process while building trust as well as ownership of the process.
2. **That:** IEBC announcement of intention to procure new electronic voter kits in our view comes rather late in the day. IEBC therefore must move with speed and transparency to avoid a last minute hurried procurement as was the case in the 2013 elections. The Commission should consider conducting a demonstration of the electronic kits before the elections to build confidence in the system.
3. **That:** IEBC should address emerging concerns with regard to registration of voters including Diaspora registration and voting, as well as the maintenance of the voter Register.
4. **That:** IEBC should share information with and engage stakeholders on the reforms they have identified as critical before the next general elections and the exact measures they intend to institute to ensure compliance.
5. **That:** IEBC should work with Parliament and other stakeholders to identify necessary legislation and have it enacted within the first half of 2016 noting that campaign temperature rises as we draw nearer to the election date which undermines the sobriety of political players.
6. **That:** We seek for the enforcement of the existing electoral laws.

7. **That:** We believe adequate funding is necessary for a successful electoral process. However, the integrity of the process is not determined by how much money IEBC spends but by good planning and execution. A value for money audit which includes comparative analysis of other jurisdictions should be carried out in order to validate their proposed budget. We must guard against exaggerated costs which are a manifestation of corruption, thus a threat to free and fair elections.
8. **That:** A life style audit of all commissioners as well as key employees of the Commission ought to be carried out. This would provide a good start for confidence building.
9. **That:** Democracy is expensive hence the need for credibility and integrity of the entire electoral process. Narc Kenya proposes that the Commission recruits and trains electoral officials who shall only serve at a given election and should not be deployed in their respective Constituencies.
10. **That:** Discussions on implementation of advance voting for the electoral officials and the security personnel should be started in earnest so that they exercise their right to elect their leaders.
11. **Last but not least,** the integrity of the electoral process is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders and cannot be achieved by IEBC on its own. Participation and/or collaboration with stakeholders, is not only a constitutional requirement but also of utmost necessity.

Let us individually and collectively work to restore confidence in our Electoral Process.

Thank you.

Hon. Martha Karua

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON