



## CALLS FOR URGENT RECONSTITUTION OF IEBC AND OTHER PRESSING ELECTORAL RELATED ISSUES.

### FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

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Actively monitoring the political and electoral environment in Kenya, members of the Uchaguzi Platform released a statement regarding outstanding and emerging issues that are likely to impede gains that the country has made as well likely to affect integrity of the electoral processes as the country gears towards 2027 General Election. In this regard, therefore, Uchaguzi makes the following observations and recommendations.

#### 1. Reconstitution of the IEBC.

The recruitment of IEBC Commissioners has been a protracted and contentious process following the expiry of the term of the 3 IEBC commissioners including the chairperson, resignation of 3 others and dismissal of one in 2023 consequently the electoral body has remained without commissioners for over 2 years now. **Following the gazettelement and swearing in of the new selection panel; and cognizant of the workload awaiting the new commission, we advise as follows:**

- a) The Selection Panel to conduct its work with utmost independence, impartiality, transparency, inclusivity as well as commitment to all stages of the recruitment process until its logical conclusion to boost public confidence and thus increase acceptance of the relevant processes.
- b) All stakeholders particularly the political class to respect the process and afford the selection panel ample opportunity to complete its legal mandate so as to safeguard the integrity of the process.
- c) All relevant state entities, including Parliament and the Presidency, should expedite their roles in the recruitment and appointment process. Given the approximately 132-day timeline, it is crucial to ensure timely and efficient execution, with efforts to shorten the timeline where possible.
- d) The media agencies and civil society organizations should actively monitor and share updates on the recruitment process, to ensure sustained transparency and compliance with the law.
- e) The Judiciary should prioritize and expedite any legal matters related to the recruitment process to avoid delays and ensure the timely completion of the task.
- f) Uchaguzi members encourage all applicants who qualify under the law, meeting the constitutional and legal requirements, and who demonstrate aptitude,

integrity, and commitment, to apply for the IEBC Commissioner roles upon advertisement. This will greatly contribute to the procurement of a competent commission.

**We further observe that:**

Whereas the appointment of the IEBC Selection Panel is a positive step forward in breaking the impasse and resetting the electoral roadmap to 2027, the challenges ahead remain formidable and require urgent action. The agenda that awaits the new IEBC is quite pressing and daunting. This includes:

- I. Conducting Pending By-Elections: Some constituencies and wards remain without representation, and further delays risk disenfranchising affected citizens.
- II. Boundary Delimitation: The constitutionally mandated boundary review, now overdue, must be expedited to align with the legal timeline and avert potential litigation.
- III. Voter Registration and Audit of the Register: With new voters expected to vote in 2027 and the need for an independent audit on the register of voters to enhance trust, the process of registration must begin promptly to avoid last-minute rushes.
- IV. Budgetary Allocation: Significant budgetary constraints risk undermining the IEBC's ability to fulfill its mandate. Timely allocation of sufficient resources is crucial for successful electoral planning and execution.

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**2. Electoral Reforms & NADCO Bills**

The Uchaguzi Platform stands for complete, timely and effective electoral reforms ahead of the 2027 general elections and therefore besides the consolidated critical reform areas which it has been pushing for, it also appreciates the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO)'s nine legislative proposals some of which have been passed into law while others are at different stages in the legislative process.

The proposed legislative package, encompassing critical bills such as the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (Amendment) Bill 2024 and the Political Parties (Amendment) Act 2024, presents a multifaceted challenge to Kenya's democratic foundations. These proposals aim to address long-standing institutional challenges,

In order to have responsive electoral reforms, our platform calls for a robust and meaningful public participation on electoral reform processes that goes beyond perfunctory consultations. We demand a comprehensive approach that:

- Ensures genuine citizen input in the legislative process
- Critically examines the financial implications of proposed amendments
- Prioritizes economic relief alongside institutional reforms

- Maintains transparency and accountability in governance restructuring  
The forty-five-day window for these bills represents a crucial moment of democratic deliberation. It is an opportunity for parliamentarians to demonstrate their commitment to truly representative governance—not just in structure, but in substantive impact on citizens' lives.

**Further,**

Uchaguzi members call upon Parliament to move with speed to finalize existing electoral legislations. For example, the ECF Bill, needs to be processed to guide the ECF regulations. Also, there is need for campaign financing regulation in 2027 to curb the use of illicitly gained or unexplained wealth in the campaigns, and curb the use of public resources,

We also call upon all stakeholders working on electoral reforms, including members of the CSOs, IEBC, Parliament and other electoral management bodies like the political parties, the national police service to spearhead consensus building around the necessary electoral reforms.

### *Alinda* **3. Issuance of National Identification Cards and Voter Registration**

Uchaguzi notes that the issuances of national ID cards for those who have turned 18 years old have significantly improved, with students in form 4 who have attained the legal age, immediately registered for IDs. This is impressive and we laud the relevant authorities. However, we have observed problems persisting when it is replacement of IDs, and border counties and collection.

In order to improve the process, Uchaguzi urges as following:

- a) The National Registration Bureau must establish an expedited process for ID issuance targeting youth aged 18-25 years, with clear timelines and simplified procedures.
- b) County governments, in collaboration with national government administration, should initiate regular mobile ID registration drives targeting learning institutions and youth centers.
- c) The government should establish integrated service centers combining ID registration and voter registration services at ward levels to reduce the registration timeline.
- d) Reform the current ID application process by:
  - o Reducing documentation requirements while maintaining necessary security measures
  - o Digitalizing the application process
  - o Introducing tracking systems for applications

- o Decentralizing printing and collection points
- o Reduce fees for replacement of IDs.

Further, we urge members of the public who have attained 18 years and above and who still do not have IDs to register for the same. We also urge those members who have already applied for their IDs to move with speed and collect them. Not only will this important while registering as a voter, but also it will allow Kenyans to access essential government services.

### Conclusion

The consolidation of Kenya's democratic gains depends on our collective ability to transform and respond to the needs of our times. The time to have a fully functioning EMB is now and the time to enact the necessary legislative reforms is now. We urge all stakeholders to unite and support these initiatives in earnest.

### Signed by

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