



To all Media Houses

10th August 2022

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF ELECTORAL SECURITY

Kenya's highly anticipated and the contested general election took place on August 9th, 2022, with voting taking place peacefully across the country despite logistical delays and a failure of the identification kits that marred some parts of the country. We commend the National Police Service for the effective deployment of security agencies in all polling stations. Notably, the presence of the ancillary forces comprising the Kenya Prison Service, the National Youth Service, and the Kenya Wildlife accompanied by the NPS officers was creditable.

However, there were security incidents reported in some parts of the country. In Wajir County, there was gunfire at Eldas Constituency election office where ballot boxes were stored. There was a battlefield between armed security officers and unknown people with bullets being exchanged. There has been no information of any injuries. The incident resulted in the IEBC postponing voting in the Constituency. Security concerns were also raised in Daabab Constituency resulting in delays in the opening of the polling stations. Similarly, following a mix-up in ballot papers of Rongai Constituency with those of Kuresoi South, in Nakuru County, voting on the Parliamentary seat category was suspended indefinitely. This resulted in chaos with youths barricading the Rongai-Nakuru road. Police responded adequately and arrested the Nakuru Town MP for propagating violence and dispersed the youth allowing movement of traffic on the normally busy highway.

In Bumula constituency, Bungoma County there was an incident of shooting where the UDA MP candidate shot seven times and injured a DAP-K candidate, in Mt Elgon, the UDA Candidate MP John Kapondi, his wife and bodyguards, are reported to have assaulted a voter. Incumbent MP, Nakuru Town East, was arrested for causing chaos and assaulting other MP aspirants in two different polling stations (Lanet and Naka). It is alleged that he had hired youths intending to cause chaos. Lastly, in Khwisero constituency, Kakamega County ANC parliamentary candidate Godfrey Kanoti with two others allegedly invaded a polling station, beating an IEBC official at Shibinga polling station. The police are looking for him.

In addition, we condemn the shooting of Brian Olunga, the aide to the DAP-K candidate Brian Khaemba alleged by the incumbent Kimilili MP Didmus Barasa. We urge the police to move with speed to arrest the politician and investigations conducted to ensure that he is brought to book.

Our preliminary observation from the monitoring exercise is as follows:

1. There were delays in the opening of the polling stations that resulted in many residents in Mombasa going back home, without exercising their civic rights.
2. There were incidents of alleged incidents of voter bribery
3. There were delays in the delivery of polling materials in
4. Unorganized queuing in several polling stations due to the mix-up of the voter listing and this was experienced in many polling stations.
5. KIEMs kits failing to identify some voters, especially the elderly and manual labourers and consequently voters being turned away following missing names, denying their democratic right
6. Postponement of voting for the governors' positions in Mombasa and Kakamega and MP seats in Rongai, Nakuru and Kitui Rural due to mix-up of ballots information.

With tallying ongoing and Kenyans waiting for the results:

1. **We call upon the IEBC to provide timely updates on the progress of the tallying exercise to reduce tension and misinformation that is being peddled on all social media platforms.**
2. **We call upon the National Police Service to be vigilant, collaborate with the public to mitigate violence and respond effectively to security incidents/concerns with respect to the rule of the law.**
3. **We urge Kenyans to remain calm and peaceful and allow the Constitutional bodies that have been mandated to manage the elections, to do so.**

We continue to monitor police conduct, public order management and human rights violations in the country and call Kenyans to be on the lookout and report any violations/incidents through our toll-free number 0800721401.

For more enquiries/interviews please reach Ms Sarah Nyakio at smwangi@imlu.org or 0718097128

Signed By



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