



PRESS RELEASE

ANGAZA STATEMENT ON THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS

10TH AUGUST 2022

WE The Angaza Movement take this opportunity to thank Kenyans for turning out to exercise their democratic right in voting for the candidates of their choice. It remains every Kenyan's aspiration that the sanctity of their vote and the choices they have made will be protected; that this election will be credible and, most importantly, respectful of a just outcome. We urge fellow Kenyans to maintain peace even as we head to the culmination of the elections – the final tally of results by IEBC.

The Angaza Movement recognizes that there have been some positive changes in the management of this election, including the availability of adequate and co-ordinated staff to supervise and guide the polling. In terms of the Commission's performance, we begin by giving credit to an attempt to ensure a largely smooth process for voters in casting their ballots. We recognize the transmission of results through form 34A from almost all polling stations

PUBLIC SCORE CARD ON ELECTION - LOW VOTER TURN-OUT

In 2013 Kenya had a voter turn-out of 86%, and in the subsequent general elections held in 2017, there was a voter turn-out of 78%¹. In contrast, this election has been characterised by a very low voter turn-out. IEBC intimates that 12.065 million Kenyans had voted by 4 pm, with only one hour left to the official polling stations' closing time of 5 pm. This figure from IEBC represents a 56.17 percent voter turn-out, not considering the number of voters identified through the manual register and those who were still in queues as at 4 pm². IEBC finally concluded that the estimated voter turn-out was at around 65.4%, according to the figures of the voters captured by the KIEMS kits.

This turn-out cannot only be blamed on the voter; it is an indictment of the performance of the IEBC throughout the electoral cycle. It is also a condemnation of the state of leadership and its unresponsiveness to Kenyans' wellbeing. The 35% who didn't turn up to vote are sending a strong message that elections cannot be a cycle Kenyans just walk through, it should be a momentous period where they decide the future direction of their country and to choose the leaders they feel best address their issues.

Those who will be successful in this election will need to work hard to restore the confidence of Kenyans and offer them the ever-elusive value-based leadership, as required by the constitution.

SOVEREIGNTY OF THE CITIZENS, RESPECT OF VOTERS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF A CREDIBLE VOTERS' REGISTER

The voting process had a rocky start characterized by delayed opening of polling stations, failing KIEMS Kits, delayed voting, lack of election materials to enable voting to start, mix-ups in ballot

¹ IEBC-Data-Report-of-2017-Elections-April-2020, pg. 4

² <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/iebc-only-30-percent-of-kenyan-voters-cast-ballots-by-midday-3908588>



boxes and papers, allegations of voter bribery, uncertainty and lack of consistency in procedures, lack of standards for handling voter concerns and challenges in administrative support and decision-making especially on the handling of voters missing details. The question arises as to why the details of registered voters were missing from the KIEMS Kit, as has happened in past elections.

There were many reported instances where the KIEMS Kits failed in the identification of voters and cases where the names of voters who had registered were missing from the registers. The problem was worsened by contradictory directives from the IEBC on how these cases were to be handled, particularly in connection with the use of manual registers. This is very unfortunate, as voters were disenfranchised and had to go back home without voting. This should not have been allowed to happen. This was a betrayal and denial of the rights of many voters who had turned up to perform their civic duty. Some stations were able to use the alphanumeric identification, or a manual register, others were completely denied this opportunity. In certain stations, the IEBC agents seemed unsure about the existing alternatives, seeking authority to proceed and in the process losing much time in settling each case.

KIEMS KITS, RESPECT OF VOTERS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF A CREDIBLE VOTERS' REGISTER

The transmission of results appears to be an improvement from previous elections. The transmitted Forms 34A continue being updated on the IEBC public portal which is available to the public on its website. We laud the transparency in the transmission of results and especially the long overdue move to allow media to take images of the original Forms 34A. IEBC has promised to ensure that the results announced at the polling station remain final as settled in law³. However, not all polling stations complied with the law to affix Forms 34A to their doors, for public scrutiny. We believe that a transparent process will inspire confidence in the outcome.

The availability of transmitted results and the promise to ensure the results announced at the polling station remain final as settled in law⁴, will hopefully protect the interests and choices of citizens.

However, an assessment of the true performance of the results transmission system will have to await a thorough evaluation. We recall that the KPMG audit report identified serious vulnerabilities in the management and handling of data security.

On the voters' register, it is regrettable that the IEBC deliberately failed to publish the voters register within the statutory period for Kenyans to inspect it in totality. As decided by the courts, verification and publication of the register are two different processes. To date, the IEBC has not published the final voters' register.

The IEBC also failed to adequately communicate on the changes of polling stations. The extracts of the register posted at polling stations were formatted in a confusing manner. The frustration witnessed at polling stations by voters trying to identify which polling stations they were assigned to vote at, also led to some voters giving up and walking away.

³ <https://twitter.com/IEBCKenya/status/1557094236083949570/photo/1>

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PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, SAFETY AND SECURITY

While we continue to document instances of violence, we also note that the security agencies have been responsive and, in most instances, dealt with arising incidents swiftly. Cases of citizens forcefully entering polling stations and centres, beating up IEBC officials and other people present, and destroying election materials were reported. We are saddened we have had to read about the death of at least two Kenyans due to intolerance over political differences. We call on the public to continue to document and report any human rights violations and call out the relevant government agencies to strengthen safety and protection for all citizens.

In conclusion, as the courts have pointed out, elections are not a single event such as election day, but a process. The IEBC's preparations for these elections were characterised by the failure to learn lessons from past errors, and to communicate effectively despite numerous representations from organizations like The Angaza Movement. We hold that the 2022 general elections have been impacted by widespread errors and mismanagement which undermined the trust of significant sections of the public in the IEBC, increased voter apathy and raises the question of the commission's competence as Kenyans assess the outcome of these elections.

To the people of Kenya, we note the alarming creation and circulation of misinformation and disinformation, or so-called "fake news", around election results at all levels. This is creating anxiety and arousing unwarranted expectations, which may lay the ground for tensions that can lead to violence. We therefore call on Kenyans to be diligent, critical, and cautious in their consumption of information and news.

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