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Press Release

Exercise for the Countrywide Re-organisation of Polling Stations in Preparation for the 2010-2011 General Elections

The Electoral Commission, in accordance with Section 12(1) (d) of the Electoral Commission Act, 1997 (Cap 140) is mandated to establish and operate polling stations for purpose of elections.

In preparation for the 2011 General Elections, the Commission has undertaken to re-organise polling stations countrywide to enable voters to conveniently cast their votes.

The re-organisation exercise will also aim at ensuring adequate space at polling stations as well as manageable number of voters per polling station.

The re-organization exercise will be conducted for a period of 15 days, from 18th January 2010 till 1st February 2010.

During the exercise, the following will be undertaken:

Merging:

Polling stations that have far less than 200 voters without justification, shall be merged, taking into consideration proximity of the villages and distances traveled by voters to the polling station.

Splitting:

Polling stations with more than 700 voters, the optimum number of voters, shall be split into one or more polling stations.

Rationalising polling stations:

Polling stations which were large and had earlier been split on the basis of the alphabet, e.g. ABC Primary School A-M and ABC Primary School N-Z shall be split on the basis of villages and/or cells where practical.

Re-location:

The following categories of polling stations will be re-located:

1. Stations that are congested or located in contestable areas, e.g. near bars and private premises like people's compounds;
2. Stations clustered in polling centers where there is inadequate space for polling activities;
3. Stations where proximity to voters is not well-observed resulting in voters traveling long distances to vote; and,
4. Stations where new infrastructure developments have taken place, e.g. new buildings, roads, factories, etc.

Re-naming:

The following polling stations shall be re-named during the exercise:

1. Polling stations whose names have changed due to re-location,
2. Polling stations that do not portray the area where they are situated.

The exercise shall also involve harmonisation of parish and village names with the corresponding polling stations.

Polling stations formerly located in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) shall be transferred to areas where people are currently settled, taking into account their parishes and villages

Where some people have remained in those areas, the affected individuals will transfer to the nearest polling station in those areas of residence within the parish.

Creation of new polling stations:

The Commission shall create a polling station for any electoral area or new Parish with no polling station, or where a new polling station has been legitimately requested.

The Commission has drawn a programme to sensitise all stakeholders, namely the electorate, political parties, local leaders, opinion leaders and the media, on the re-organisation exercise.

The Commission, therefore, appeals to all members of the public to co-operate with us in this matter and participate effectively for a better electoral process.

Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu
Chairperson, Electoral Commission