



9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017

## **PRESS STATEMENT ON THE VOTING AND COUNTING PROCESSES**

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Over the last 17 hours, Kenyans across the country have had the opportunity to cast their votes. By this morning, counting had concluded in many polling stations across the country. ELOG through its elaborate network of over 8000 stationary observers has kept close vigil over the entire voting, closing and counting processes in all of the 47 counties and 290 constituencies. Yesterday, ELOG shared its findings on the opening of the polling stations process. We now wish to share with Kenya our findings on the voting, closing and counting processes based on reports from ELOG's Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) observers.

### **Deployment and Observation Methodology**

The Elections Observation Group (ELOG) has deployed over 8000 observers across all 47 counties and 290 constituencies. Out of these 1700 Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) observers were specially trained and deployed to a nationally representative random sample of polling stations. The rest are deployed to county representative samples in Busia, Meru and Nairobi counties. PVT is an advanced Election Day observation methodology which allows ELOG to confidently comment on the Election Day and tabulation processes. ELOG's PVT will also provide an independent verification of the presidential results as well as the gubernatorial results in Busia, Meru, and Nairobi as announced by the IEBC.

### **Findings**

#### **Voting Process**

The following are ELOG's findings on the **voting** process:

- In 99.3% polling stations, ballot papers were stamped with the IEBC official stamp before being issued. This is consistent with 2013 when ballots were stamped in 99.5% of stations.

- Voters' fingers were marked with ink in almost all of the polling stations (99.3 %). This is consistent with 2013 where fingers were marked in 99.9% of stations.
- In 7.6% of the stations, the Kenya Integrated Elections Management System (KIEMS) failed to function properly. This is an improvement from 2013 when electronic poll books malfunctioned in 54% of stations.
- In 49.2% of polling stations nationwide, some people (1 to 25 people) or many people (greater than 25) were not permitted to vote. Many of these cases were as a result of voters going to the wrong polling station or voter not verified in the KIEMS or voters not carrying IDs used at registration. This is consistent<sup>1</sup> with 45.4% in 2013.
- In 41.2% of polling stations, many people (i.e. more than 25 per polling station) were assisted to vote. A majority of those assisted were women. This marks an improvement from 2013 when many people were assisted to vote in 54.5% of stations.
- Of these stations where people were assisted in 2017, the assisted voters were **not** allowed to have a person of their choice helping them in 11.5% of the polling stations. This is a small deterioration from 2013 when, assisted voters were not allowed to have a person of their choice in 9.3% of polling stations.
- The secrecy of the ballot was **not** violated in 91.7% of the polling stations (not including those assisted to vote). This is an improvement from 2013, when secrecy was not violated in 82.7%
- There was a queue at 5:00pm in 68.9% of polling stations. Of those stations with a queue at 5:00pm, 95.3% were properly permitted to vote.

## Counting Process

We have also concluded our analysis on the counting process. The following are ELOG's findings on the **closing and counting** process:

- In 99.6% of stations, the ballot box seals were intact before counting begun.
- In 4.9% of stations, one or more political party agents requested a recount of the presidential ballots. This is a deterioration from 2013 when a recount was requested in only 2.8% of the polling stations.
- For the closing and counting process, an ODM, WIPER or ANC party agent (representing the NASA coalition) were present in 84% of all the polling stations. In stations where they were present, the NASA agent signed the declaration of results for the presidential elections in 93.8% of these polling stations (as compared to 94.9% in 2013).

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<sup>1</sup> These figures are not statistically significantly different from one another due to margins of error.

- For the closing and counting process, A Jubilee party agent was present in 92.3% of all the polling stations. In stations where they were present, the Jubilee agent signed the declaration of results for the presidential elections in 95.8% of these polling stations (as compared to 95.6% in 2013).
- Agents for independent candidates were present in 78.7% of all the polling stations. In stations where they were present, the agent signed the declaration of results for the presidential elections in 88.7% of these polling stations.
- In 86.5% of the polling stations, a copy of the Presidential Results Form (Form 34A) was publicly affixed outside (as compared to 89% in 2013)

### **Critical Incidents**

A total of 306 incidents were filed by ELOG observers throughout the course of the day of which 229 were confirmed. The most frequently reported incident was malfunctioning of the KIEMS, although many cases of malfunctioning were resolved by the IEBC in the course of the day, shortage and mix up of ballot papers, requests for recounts, postponement of counting to the following day. However, all of these were isolated incidents and none of them occurred in large numbers.

### **In summary**

From our observations of the voting process it is clear that more effort needed to be put into voter education and provision of information to the public.

We remain committed to our mandate and will continue to be vigilant in accurately recording and reporting the tabulation process. As such, we would like to reassure Kenyans that through our work on the Parallel Vote Tabulation, we shall be in a position to speak to the final presidential election results and the three gubernatorial results, that is, Nairobi, Busia and Meru as soon as the IEBC officially announces/declares the final results.

### **Thank You and May God Bless Kenya**

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