

## **IEBC promises credible, free and fair elections.**

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With only a six weeks to the general elections in Kenya, the IEBC Chairman, Wafula Chebukati has assured the country of free, fair and credible elections on August, 8, 2017.

Speaking during the second edition of Nation Leadership Forum, IEBC Chairman observed that the commission is 70% technically prepared and politically prepared to conduct the general elections on August, 8, 2017.

Elections in Kenya have become a high stakes affair, it is a do or die hence the credibility and preparedness of the electoral commission have been put to test. The commission has been dealing with issues regarding cleaning of the voters register to ensure integrity of the process. American leading audit firm, KMPG had carried out the audit of the voters register and found that close to one million Kenyans who have since passed on are still on the register hence the need for clean-up. The credibility of IEBC have also been brought into limelight following the complaint by the opposition regarding the ballot printing tender.

University of Nairobi Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi, noted that Nation Leadership Forum, should result in positive dialogue and actions that will enhance the credibility of the electoral process. Prof. Mbithi was represented by Prof. Stephen Kiama, Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences.

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Azzure Kenya Managing Director Sumayya Hassan-Athman, who was one of the panelists observed that the business community are cutting back on their operations, retrenching employees due to the fear of the forth-coming elections. She urged the commission to actively engage all stakeholders and inspire confidence that there will be peaceful elections come August 2017.

Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, from Institute of Development Studies, IDS, University of Nairobi observed that elections in Kenya have become a high stakes affair because the politicians are fighting for themselves, for their own cause.

Inspector General of Police, Joshua Boinett, gave an assurance that the police will provide a peaceful environment for democratic elections.

The two hour lively debate, was moderated by NTV Managing Director, Mr. Linus Kaikai and was held at the state of the art Chandaria Auditorium, University of Nairobi. The debate was attended by members of the public, private sector, media owners, religious community and the civil society voiced the need to have the elections focused on voters needs. "The voters need to be rewarded", observed Peter Kenneth, who is an aspirant for Nairobi Governor.

Going forward, the University of Nairobi in partnership with Nation Media Group will hold several leadership forums and engage leaders on issues affecting the country. The last leadership forum was about water and food security in the country and since then, serious actions hasvebeen taken to remedy the situation.

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