



**Press Statement**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

### **Raising the Red Flag: Political Party Nominations**

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The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights is monitoring the 2017 electioneering process as per its mandate of securing the constitutional guaranteed right to participate in political processes and further safeguard the right to vote. As a Country, we continue to experience upheavals where during the electioneering period, Kenyans suffer a multitude of human rights violations arising from the process.

To ensure that we safeguard the integrity of the right to vote and to participate in the electoral processes that are in line with the relevant laws, the Commission deployed 84 monitors in 29 counties; Bungoma, Kakamega, Kisii, Migori, Siaya, Tana River, Lamu, Kwale, Garrissa, Marsabit, Turkana, Mandera, Isiolo, Samburu, Baringo, Nakuru, Kirinyaga, Meru, Laikipia, Elgeyo Market, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Kericho, Bomet, Narok, Nairobi, Kiambu, Muranga and Kisumu. Following an intense training on election processes, they will be engaged not only in monitoring the ongoing party nominations but also the run up to elections and the post election period.

The role of the KNCHR monitors is to check compliance and adherence to election rules and regulations and further report on electoral malpractices and related human rights violations.

From the reports received from our monitors in the respective counties, preliminary findings points to a worrying trend that has an effect of compromising the principles and integrity of the voting process meant to deliver a peaceful, free, fair and credible election on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Preliminary findings from our monitors on the ongoing process of political party nominations points to the following areas of concern:

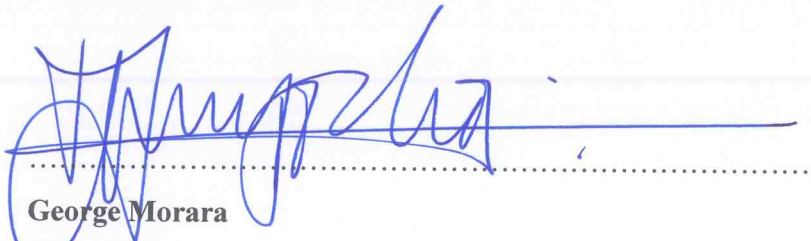
#### **1. Increasing Levels of Politically Motivated Violence**

There are laid down rules of engagement on election conduct as enshrined in Section 11 of the Elections Offences Act which prohibit the deployment of any form of violence and which further give sanctions that include fines and imprisonment for anyone found guilty. So far, KNCHR has received information on incidences of violence meted out on aspirants and their supporters. We are concerned that if this is not tamed, it may have a spiral effect on the ongoing process leading to higher magnitudes of violence. Further KNCHR is taking cognizance of cases of alleged kidnapping and murder threats on aspirants. The Inspector General should carry out speedy investigations and ensure that relevant action is taken on anyone found culpable.

Political Parties Act (2011) and where violation of the law has occurred take the prescribed actions.

2. That the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) takes immediate action including arrest and prosecutions in line with Section 3 and 4 of the Elections Offences act in accordance with powers vested on his office under Section 21 of the same act.
3. That police increase the efforts to secure the environment for the party primaries environment. Specifically, we urge the Inspector General to expedite investigations on the reported cases of abduction, violence and threats especially on women aspirants.

KNCHR continues to monitor the nomination process and will issue a final report with recommendations to the respective agencies. Where it is in line with our mandate, KNCHR shall take the necessary action including issuing advisories, litigation and liaising with respecting agencies.



George Morara  
Vice - Chair  
KNCHR