

A bulletin from Office of the Registrar of Political Parties

## Make your political choice early, Registrar call to aspirants

**T**he Registrar of Political Parties has advised aspirants intending to vie for the August 9th, 2022 general election to make their mind in good time on the political party choice or decide to be independents.

Speaking during a live studio interview on Citizen television's post 9 o'clock JKL show on Wednesday 9th February, 2022, Ann Nderitu noted that such early decision will enable the contenders to prepare and meet raft of aspirants requirements set out in the electoral calendar. "I urge aspirants to decide early their political parties of choice out of the 85 currently fully registered political parties or even as an independent candidates." the Registrar counselled. She underscored in view of the deadline for aspirants, party members or even party supporters to endeavour to have been registered as members of the parties of will by 26th March, 2022.

This is ORPP set deadline for certification of membership lists prior to submission to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) whose submission end date is 9th April, 2022.

On the matter of independent candidates, the Registrar guided that those that may wish to run as independent candidates are advised to disassociate from political parties and seek necessary clearance in good time ahead of the 2nd May, 2022 deadline of submission of their details including symbols to IEBC. "To live to the spirit contemplated under Article 85 of the Constitution, 2010, persons should decide right from the onset to be independent candidates and be mindful of the legal requirements and clearance timelines including not to have been in any political party at least three months before the date of the general election.

The Registrar also weighed in on a raft of other issues pertinent to the forthcoming general election and ORPP regulatory role. Such included highlights of the amend-

ments to the Political Parties Act, 2011; ICT upgrade; procedure of resignation from political parties for elected and nominated members as well as party nominations. "I wish to clarify that the Registrar does not conduct party primaries but rather provides a regulatory framework for support of political parties to conduct credible party primaries. We therefore urge parties to declare their preferred method of conducting primaries that their members are conversant with and sanctioned by relevant party organs", said Nderitu.

She also acknowledged the concerns by a few members of public regarding political parties membership. "The concerns we have received have on membership have informed progressive reforms in ICT such as enlisting membership services (checking membership status, resigning or application for registration to a party of choice) on eCitizen platform that is easy and convenience for all. We are also working on upgrading Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) by introducing mobile service (USSD) out of which membership services will be utilised via your own mobile phone", Registrar informed.

*continued pg 2....*

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Elected and nominated members that may wish to change parties were also guided on the procedure of resignation. This entails notification of the Clerk of the Parliament or county assembly they belong, upon which the received notice from the Clerk to the Registrar with required accompanying documentation, will be the basis of effecting resignation from a party of such an elected member.

She reiterated her earlier appeal to the citizenry to continue supporting political parties and actively participate in political processes included reasoned political discourse. "My clarion call to Kenyans is not to wholesomely demonize political parties and by extension politicians but instead raise areas of concern politics constructively for the growth of democracy. In any case, as a country we have made gain in multi-partism that we should be proud and ready to build on", she summed.

## The onus is on you as media to safeguard against misinformation

**V**arious provisions in the amendments to the Political Parties Act, 2011 are geared towards strengthening political parties manage their internal structures. Such include; avenues for cleaning and making publicly available the membership register of political parties; clarity on responsibilities of different players in the election processes; conduct of party primaries and provisions for coalition political party. The Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu remarked this on 19th February in her election expert address during Media Council of Kenya meeting with senior media editors.



Registrar makes her remarks to media editors during a meeting with Media Council of Kenya, Kajiado

"The onus is on you as media to safeguard against misinformation on varied aspects pertaining elections as misconceptions created have a lasting negative impact on electorates and detents the image of our country's nationally and internationally. We must be together to deliver a credible election",

she said. ORPP for instance, has embarked on training critical stakeholders in elections like the media fraternity; Chairpersons and party leaders; Election Boards, Internal Dispute Resolution Committees, being some of the key organs of political parties as well as members of the public to promote accurate information on varied electoral processes, the Registrar stated. She further called for continued seamless working collaboration amongst duty bearers through respective institutional mandates in elections that result to minimal disputes and restore public trust in management of elections as we near the 2022 general election.

She further debunked on misinformation on pertinent issues that relate to; ORPP undertaking of ICT reforms including availing membership register on eCitizen platform, mobile service through USSD code (accessible through \*509#); provisions for coalition political party; electoral timelines; party primaries modalities among other topical areas.



Chief Executive Officer Media Council of Kenya (MCK) David Omwoyo speaks during the forum

Chief Executive Officer Media Council of Kenya, David Omwoyo said, "The need for senior editors to interrogate electoral in discharge of their editorial judgments". He further pointed out training and mentorship; collaborative checking facts mechanisms; joint reporting centers; safety of journalists and collegiate planning of presidential debate framework as some of key pillars to enhance media reporting in 9th August, 2022 general election.

The meeting dubbed "reflections by editors" was convened Media Council of Kenya had representation from players that included Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Katiba Institute, Jomo Kenyatta University - JKUAT and media and freelance editors.

# Scribes urged for responsible reporting, a contributor to credible general election

The Office of the Registrar was part of Kenya Editors' Guild (KEG)-convened deliberations on the 15th of February, 2022 at Sarova Stanley Hotel to deliberate with senior editors on their contribution to a credible 9th August, 2022 election. Clarion call from participants present was for journalists as they play watchdog role in the run-up and during upcoming general election, to uphold highest level of professionalism and journalistic ethos.

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu urged for continued coordination of institutions related to electoral activities in order to build synergy and collegiately deliver quality and credible elections. " I am encouraged that politics is progressively shifting from unpleasant bearing such as personal attacks as was in the past to well-grounded strategies, ideologies and issue-based models", the Registrar noted. She assured of ORPP's continued partnership with media by providing timely and relevant information to aid its work in reporting the election-related processes. "Let us all continue educating the citizenry on pertinent issues on electoral timelines, varied requirements for aspirants and the need to adhere to Political Parties Code of Conduct and Elections Code of Conduct throughout the election period", said Nderitu.

umbrella for better elections coverage. "This training will ensure that all journalists are accountable of what they report and they will also be aware of the electoral offenses that affect credible elections", observed Amb.Muli.

The Kenya Commission on Human Rights Commission Chairperson Lucas Kimathi, called for fair media coverage during electioneering period which will help to maintain impartiality. He noted of the need for public entities to strive granting media appropriate information to enhance media freedom in elections coverage.

Civil Society representatives present such as Elections Observation Group (ELOG) called for adequate funding of independent institutions to effectively delivery on their respective mandates. Speakers in one accord reiterated the power of media in shaping opinion and hence the need to fashion their programming towards continuous political education to improve accountability and help citizenry make better political choices.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission(IEBC), Amnesty International, Election Observation Group (KENYA), CRAWN Trust, Kenya Union of Journalists among others inter-rogated various aspects of the meeting's discussion..



The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu as one of the panelist on 15th February 2022

"The media must raise the quality bar in its contribution to a free and fair election" said Churchill Otieno, the President of KEG speaking during the event. He urged the media to deploy their correspondents in all constituencies to have better on-ground coverage and relay verifiable information across from across the country especially on the voting day.

Amb. Koki Muli, a key note speaker at the event, called on the KEG to continue building capacity of journalists within its



Participants follow proceedings of a keynote speaker via an online link

# Parties top echelons sensitized on preparedness on 2022 main polls

**A** sensitization meeting on political parties preparedness for the 2022 general election was held on the 10th and 11th February, 2022 at Crowne Plaza, Nairobi, a session supported by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance International (IDEA). Top focus of deliberations were; amendments to the Political Parties Act, coalitions/ coalition political party; mergers guidelines and upgrade of Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) among others.

Political parties to keenly take note of applicable timelines on various processes and adhere for the same. For instance, submission of party lists should be done by 26th March, 2022, submission of coalition agreement for registration of a coalition political party by 9th April, 2022 while agreement for pre-coalition registration is by 8th May, 2022. Others pertinent to political parties request for certified register for nominations should be at least 21 days before the date of nominations whose deadline for conduct is 22nd April, 2022.

“The coalition party operations will be determined by the coalition agreement which include; parties in the coalition political party, overall and general organizational structure; nomination rules including electoral positions and electoral areas where a coalition political party intends to field candidates; sharing of funds and dispute resolution. Further, the agreements should be duly executed by authorized officials signed and commissioned vide statutory forms provided”, guided Wafula Wakoko ORPP legal officer.



ORPP Legal Officer, Wafula Wakoko makes his presentation to party leaders officials.

Participants were further guided on steps in managing political parties mergers in line with checklist developed. Requisite documentation that includes; rules and procedures of each of

the political party entering into a merger that include; a notice convening the meeting where the resolution was made; merger agreement should indicate name, abbreviation, symbol, colours and slogan of the new political parties or existing party that is merged into were highlighted. An ideology of the new party, procedure for the formulation of the governing body for the merged political parties, records, assets and liabilities, rights and obligations of all the dissolved political parties, of forming political party including their entitlement of the Political Parties Fund under section 25 of the Act were also spelt out.

Different modules of the Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS), a web-based that is ORPP-developed and used in managing political parties' records and providing a self-service avenue by authorized political parties' were appraised. Some latest functionality to upgrade the IPPMS is availing a public address ([ippms.orpp.or.ke](http://ippms.orpp.or.ke)) and enlisting bulk SMS service as notification to parties as well as sms alerts to individuals to grant consent on recruitment as members done through the system. “ These improvements are meant have IPPMS technologically responsive to emerging technologies, provide service convenience with minimum human intervention”, noted Robert Waithaka in his presentation.

Registrar assured of safety of database and commitment of ORPP openness on its operations including data held “The membership data is safe and secure and ORPP will continue to improve ICT systems for the benefit of political parties and all citizens based on valuable feedback received, ‘Registrar, Ann Nderitu noted. The Registrar also highlighted of Political Education Source Book that ORPP has developed which encapsulates processes and topical areas in managing political parties. The Source Book will be pivotal reference guide in conducting a series of public education that the Office will embark on.

Assistant Registrar in charge of Compliance and Regulation, Ali A.Surraw noted that ORPP will continue supporting political parties through its regulatory role. He called on the need for parties to ensure compliance with PPA on all aspects including clean-up of their membership register. Present during the fruitful deliberations, were over 75 party leaders.

## Regional briefing

Office of the Registrar of Political Parties, Nakuru Regional Office organized a consultative meeting on 27th January 2022 at Sierra Springs Hotel, with political parties' officials in Bomet county. The meeting aimed at providing an opportunity for political party county officials to dialogue on the role of political parties in promoting peace, countering political intolerance and violence in electoral processes.

Participants included officials from the office of the County Commissioner, The Independent and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), National Police Service (NPS,) Kenya Forest Service (KFS,) Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Media Houses, Civil Societies, Political Parties; (Chama Cha Mashinani, (CCM) United Democratic Alliance (UDA) KANU)



Senior Coast Regional Monitor, Ezekiel Obonyo speaking during a training forum for women aspirants in Mombasa organized by Sauti ya Wanawake-Pwani on 17th February 2022



Nakuru County Monitor, John Mwaura making a presentation at the Forum

will host the leaders. Waiguru was among the leaders who spoke at Bomas.

The officials said the preliminary engagements will mostly revolve around identifying their supporters why they had agreed to enter into a coalition and what agenda they are going to pursue together.

UDA Chairman Johnstone Muthama said their main interest was to unite all

his party's parliamentary group meeting where they resolved to push for partnerships with UDA and other parties.

The BIPs who attended the meeting said they had asked Madondo to make sure he was on the presidential ballot in August saying they encouraged him to find more partners to support his cause.

Emuhaya MP Omboko Mlemba said

Kimani Ngunjiri (Bihati), Oscar Sudi (Kapsere), the leaders hailed the duo's proposed economic model of Bottom Up Approach and *Pesa Mwanani* (wealth creation) as the best way to take the country to the next level.

"We came here to make sure everything is in order," she said.

### Registrar of Political Parties embarks on peace mission

by Felix Yegon  
@PesaDailyKe

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is meeting election stakeholders in counties as it seeks to promote peace during this electioneering period and ensure there is a free and fair poll in August.

The body, targeting regions branded as hotspots, is sensitising the aspirants on the need to

conduct peaceful campaigns while calling on the security agencies to be alert so as to detect and avert any incidences that may lead to breach of peace.

In a consultative meeting with security heads, party officials and IEBC officials in Bomet on Monday, the body said it was determined to see the forthcoming election is conducted in a credible manner devoid of the frequent incidents that have



characterised the process.

"We want to see this coming general election being one of the most peaceful one without any form of violence, political parties have a great role to play on this and that is why we want to work closely with them so that we can address any issue that arises at ease," said John Mwaura, a representative from the body.

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 / PEOPLE DAILY

## The Standard

### Registrar rolls out vetting of parties seeking registration in North Rift

RIFT VALLEY | By Lucas Ngasike | January 28th 2022



Registrar of Political Parties Ann Nderitu, November 2019. [Phillip Orwa, Standard]

Above: Some of the regional activities featured on media. A series of engagements spearheaded by respective regional offices in the course of the quarter

# Pictorial



A morning brief session on media information sensitization programme held by Media Council of Kenya (MCK) on 3rd February at Stanley Hotel, Nairobi



Training of Political Parties Elections Boards held from 13th to 15th February supported by UN Women and Reinvent Kenya.



CPA, Florence Biryra representing the Office at the Special Interest Group (SIGs) forum held by Kenya Schools of Government on 1st March, 2022



KANU Chairman, Gideon Moi during a courtesy call at the Registrar's office on 15th February



Justice, Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) of National Assembly, the Office presented on the state of preparedness to the 2022 general election on 3rd March at Parliament Building



IPPMS meeting with various parties' officials chaired by ICT Officer Mr. Nyogesa at the headquarter's boardroom

# All round activities

## Governance and Management training



Head of Human Resource, Jackline Kosgei doing her presentation during the training

Governance and Management training to ORPP management and Audit Committee happened from 22nd to 25th February, 2022 with support of OSLO Centre. Different governance principles and risk areas pertinent to the general election from inter-institutional perspectives were assessed and mitigation measures mapped.

"Risks and governance are important facets that we'll address in the ORPPKenya 2020/25 Strategic Plan", Ali Surraw, ARPP, said during the opening session.



Assistant Registrar, Ali Surraw makes his remarks

His counterpart CPA Florence Biry, noted that in the discharge of its mandate, different Office functional areas are bound to be confronted with risks, therefore, necessary with guidance of Audit Committee, for them to formulate responsive mitigation measures.

"Risks and governance is an important subject of support alongside other areas of lasting cooperation we have implemented", said OSLO centre Phoebe Mungai. Chair person, Audit Committee, Mary Njau-Kimani assured of the committee's commitment to continue helping ORPP continual improvement through audits and advisory of Office systems and processes.

## ORPP sensitization with media journalists

ORPP engaged with a section of reporters across national media outfits. "Media must continue educating Kenyans time and again over pertinent matters on general election such as; reforms in party nominations, effective infrastructure. The Office has put in place to enhance access to membership register, regulation of party primaries, registration of coalition political parties and electoral timelines. "New shift in law like use of closed and certified party registers; provision for formation of coalition political party that now can field candidate under its name in line with agreement deposited with Registrar are topical issues to highlight in your reporting", Registrar noted.



Registrar in a media interview at the sidelines of the meeting

Assurance was given to the Office continued cooperation with the media in line within established partnership protocols. Basis of fruitful deliberations were centres on; salient areas to the amendments of the Political Parties Act, 2011, registration & compliance requirements; records and procedures of access of information; ICT self-service solutions among others. A raft of ICT reforms than now gives citizens service options on eCitizen platform, USSD-\*509#, sms notification for recruitment consent were cited as some deliberate measures of ORPPKenya with support of stakeholders to optimise and automate services well aligned and responsive to relevant tech developments. During the session, additional service avenue via IPPMS link; [ippms.orpp.or.ke](http://ippms.orpp.or.ke) (now available) was revealed.

