

## Registrar of Political Parties feted with state commendation

The Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu has been awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> class Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear (C.B.S) in the Order of Burning Spear category by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. This was in recognition of her outstanding public service spanning years in different responsibilities.

In a *Kenya Gazette Vol. CXXIV No. 134 of 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2022*, Ann Nderitu was among the 180 listed persons awarded different honours and honours. The award is “In recognition of distinguished and outstanding service rendered to the nation in various capacities”... reads the Gazette’s conferment in part. The award build on a host of other accolades of the Registrar including previous Moran of the Order of the Burning Spear (M.B.S).

Staff outpoured their congratulatory messages to the Registrar on the award, noting her strategic guidance that has resulted to building ORPP to become an institution of international repute. “Hearty congratulation to our very own...for the award. The ORPP is glad to have an election management expert of international repute in our fold and as our leader”, read the corporate congratulatory message shared to staff and stakeholders.

In her appreciation to staff, Registrar recognized the collective efforts and contribution of staff members to the gains made. “Thanks team members for the warm compliments. The award is for all of us as a team. We have delivered our

mandate with diligence and commitment. I appreciate each one of your for the commitment”, treasured the Registrar.



**Registrar of Political Parties, Ann N. Nderitu, MBS, CBS in a pic forum, gesturing appreciation**

The award asserts the Registrar’s leadership acumen and mark especially in lead advocacy for good governance, inclusion in political parties and vision for democratically run political parties that uphold national values and principles of good governance.

“We had only the Political Parties Act when I came on board in 2018. We had to develop regulations and policies around the Act to strengthen the institution. We have since digitized the party register which used to be a big problem. The system allows one to be a member of only one political party at a time and rejects wrong data. The system can be queried through integration with other national databases such as the National Registration Bureau and the IEBC.

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This way, we have been able to clean up the register and create openness,” said the Registrar in an exclusive feature titled **“The Woman out to sanitize Kenya Politics** with the Business Daily published on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

The award comes hot in the heels of varied milestones undertaken by the Office ahead of the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 General Election as contained in its Election Master Plan. Some of the gains include; spearheading the Amendments to the Political Parties Act, 2011 and related legal reforms; development and roll-out of digital platforms for ease and efficiency in accessing and management of political parties’ membership register; capacity-building for various organs of political parties; deployment of Monitors across

the country to monitor political campaigns and other political activities; formulating and unveiling of Kenya's Political Education Source Book and party Agents manuals; countrywide training for various targeted groups including Special Interest Groups; sustained collaborations with stakeholders; roll out of peace caravans in mapped out hotspots; training of Political Parties Chief Agents; formulation of varied policies and guidelines among other milestones.

Presidential awards are conferred in recognition of one’s efforts in serving the country. The National Honors and Awards Committee advises the Head of State on who to award the decorations and medals.

## Chief party Agents set for the polls on ORPP two-tier training

ORPP spearheaded a three day training of the political parties’ Agents in 15 clustered counties across the country from 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. The training was aimed at building knowledge capacity for the Agents theoretical and practical grasp of their roles and responsibilities on the poll day.



Tana River County chief party agents during the training session in Tana river on 29th July 2022

In the sessions, issues of one agent, one party representation and Agents accreditation by Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) were among other topical issues were deliberated and clarified by ORPP officers.

Through these trainings the office seeks to help Agents

effectively participate in the polling process that will enhance credibility and transparency of the election.

"As party agents, you need to understand qualities and scope of responsibility, key in promoting a bit free, fair and credible election as Constitution of Kenya, 2010 so demands", it was noted in one of the sessions.

The trainers are expected to train further the Constituency and Polling station Agents within their party structures.

Agents were also supplied and guided on the use of; Elections Agents' Manual, 2022; The Quick Guide for Party/Candidates; Agents/Candidates Checklist and the Political Parties Source Book developed by the office as some vital information reference materials.



IEBC Voter educator, Ms. Jackline Saleyian makes her presentation to Kajiado chief political party agents in Ongata Rongai, Kajiado

## ORPP unveils Kenya's Political Educational Source Book and assorted parties' Agents training resources

The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) on July 19, 2022 launched the one of its kind Kenya's Political Educational Source Book and other a cache of election political parties Agents training manuals at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. The manuals included; *Election Agents' Manual, 2022 edition, Quick Guide for Party/Candidates Agents and Checklist for Election Agents* that was with the support of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF).



In the launch, officiated Chief Justice Emeritus, Prof. Githu Muigai provided an opportunity for stakeholders to receive highlights of the publications and interrogate ORPP's 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 election plan and its preparedness.

Varied speakers and stakeholders in the forum commended coming to being of the publications and recognizable efforts ORPP had made in supporting political parties and targeted Special Interest Groups to actively participate in the 2022 polls. "We seek to sensitize and educate, political actors, its members and Kenyans on the roles of political parties, candidates and political party members so as to demystify proclivities surrounding political parties and po-

litical parties. This book has synthesized entire Kenyan political landscape political, political party registration and regulation processes as well life-wellness topics to guide persons in politics including managing political outcomes", said the Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu.



The Chief Guest, Prof. Githu Muigai, Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, C.B.S., a section of ORPP officials, political parties representatives and invited guests witness the launch of the publications at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi

The Registrar further noted that the Source Book was modeled to promoting issue-based politics and strengthen political parties as institutions of democratic governance in Kenya.

The Chief Guest Prof. Githu Muigai noted that we have made tremendous progress in managing political parties and conducting elections and therefore there was need to exercise vigilance from all the political party actors and stakeholders so that we do not slide back and loose the gains and institutions we have created as a country.

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“I am privileged to join you in the launch of Kenya’s Political Educational Source Book and other Agents manuals because this is one way to continue the struggle of strengthening political parties. I call on Kenyans especially the youth to support our institutions to continue building the political system in our country,” said the former Chief Justice.

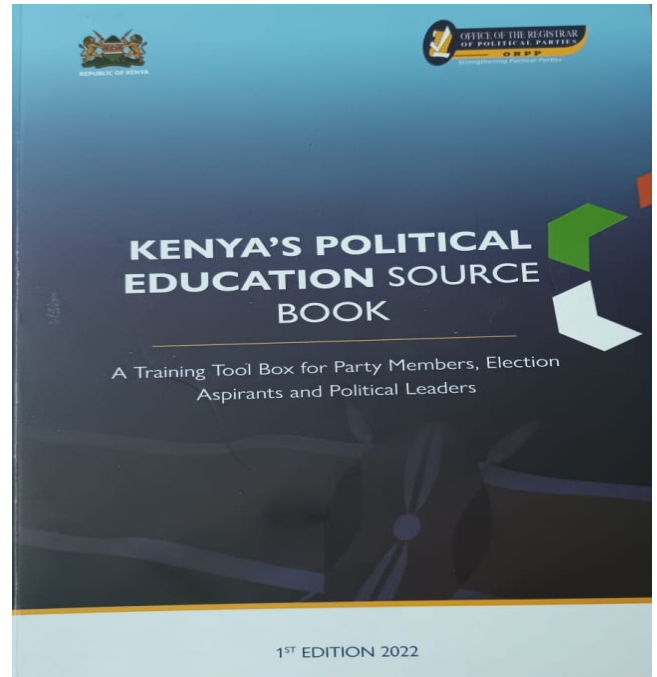


Former Chief Justice, Prof. Githu Muigai address the guests during the launch of the source book

While highlighting on the Source book, Assistant Registrar, Ali Surraw, said that the Source Book was a very detailed and critical source of information that has been standardized to address diverse issues related to political parties and strategies for effective participation in the political and electoral process.

Key focus areas in the Source Books include legal framework governing political and Electoral processes, registration of political parties, membership of political parties, political party organization and management, political parties fund administration, political party coalitions and mergers, political party primaries and nominations, management of political party conflicts and managing political and election outcomes among others.

The Agents training materials seek to provide a common reference training reference and information source for Agents across the levels from national to polling station agents. This seeks to equip them with necessary grasp of their roles and responsibilities, legal framework as well as election activities.



Cover look of the publications launched, used for Agents training and disseminated during a countrywide training of party Agents

The launch came just days to the ORPP-led training of Presidential Chief Party Candidates Chief Agents and subsequent country-wide parties’ Agents held between 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

Additional story by Silas Keter

## OTHER ORPP MOMENTS OF THE MONTH IN BRIEF

### Peaceful elections at the center of prayer conference

Assessment of electoral state of preparedness remain focal to varied actors days to the 9th August,2022.

In this front, ORPP joined in panel discussion at a National Council of Churches of Kenya - NCKK convened forum dubbed, Religious Leaders' National Elections Conference. Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu as a discussant in the forum urged for strict observance of the Political Parties Code of Conduct that prohibits among other, electoral violence, intimidation of opponents, bribery, ethnic incitement and illicit money in campaigns that ORPP monitors through monitors already present across counties and constituencies in the country.

"We have made headway in educating parties and citizenry; for instance, recently publishing and unveiling the first ever Political Education Source Book. The Source Book is a useful informational reference to be used beyond the General Election for political parties officials, members, election aspirants and candidates, political leaders as well as public," the Registrar informed.

Key topics of discussions in the forum was attended by Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Election Observation Group (KENYA), USAID Kenya, Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops(KCCB), Independent Medico Legal Unit IMLU, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and Electoral Law and Governance Institute for Africa (ELGIA).



Registrar of Political Parties (third from left) speaking during the panelist discussion of Religious leaders' national election conference on 28th July 2022 at Ufangano house, Nairobi

### Tough warning called upon on political intolerance at brief press statement

ORPP as part of Uwiano Platform for Peace issued a joint statement on the State of Peace and Political Decency in the run up to the 2022 General Elections.

Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, outlined contributions by the office towards peaceful 2022 General Elections. They included: ORPP Peace engagement fora, media sensitisation events, staging of Peace Caravan, monitoring of electoral campaigns across the country, engagement programs for various target groups, reviewed Political Parties' Agents Training Manual and scheduled national and county level Agents training between 23rd to 31st July 2022.



Registrar of Political Parties together with officials of Uwiano stakeholders at a joint presser issue a statement at Serena Hotel on 26th July 2022, Nairobi

On his part, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) Chairperson Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, urged political leaders and their followers to exercise tolerance in the last stretch of campaigns, respect the integrity of Institutions mandated to conduct elections and a section of political analysts desist from posting inciteful messages on social media.

Key stakeholders during the presser underscored the importance of a peaceful environment that economic, social and political development thrives, urging Kenyans to embrace a violence free elections.

## Election duty bearing stakeholders roundtable

ORPP was part of elections duty-bearing stakeholders' roundtable discussions to deliberate on ways to mitigate electoral conflict before and after the elections.

Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, who was among the lead speakers, highlighted various strides ORPP has taken to promote peace. Some of recent ones she enumerated included, a stakeholder partnership culminating in signing of Decency Charters to signify their commitment to uphold peace in elections; targeted capacity building; staged countrywide peace caravan; deployment of Monitors in all counties and constituencies to monitor political campaigns and other political activities; recent unveiling of Kenya's Political Education Sourcebook, as a training/reference information tool for political parties, agents, candidates among others.

The Registrar also informed of ORPP scheduled political parties' Chief Agents training to begin on 23rd July at national level and subsequent second level training to be conducted across clustered counties.



Registrar with some of the officials for African Union election observation mission on 21st July

Most of the speakers present, urged for the public to accord trust and support to institutions managing or aligned to electoral process in the country for a credible 9th August, 2022 general election.

## EU election observation mission

Chief observer and European Member of parliament Mr. Ivan Stefanec and other members of European Union Election Observation Mission paid a courtesy call to the Registrar ORPP headquarters. Discussions were on a wide range of ORPP's milestones towards election prepared-

ness. They included; support and engagement of political parties participating in 2022 election; undertaken country-wide targeted capacity building programmes; actualized amendments to Political Parties Act, 2011; planned parties' /candidates chief agents training among others.

The visit by the European Union Observer Mission to ORPP and other institutions is a build-up to its mission ahead of 9th August, 2022 General election, to which it will be part of the International election observation.



Registrar hosts officials of European Union Election Observation mission at ORPP headquarters boardroom on 15th July, 2022.

## Badili grassroots women forum

Political parties provide apt structures for women to earn, contribute and shape the country's political leadership. Speaking in Nairobi on 12th July at a Badili Grassroot Women engagement forum, Registrar of Political Parties, Ann Nderitu, outlined measures ORPP prides itself in empowering women in political parties and politics.



Registrar of Political Party address participants during Badili grassroots women forum at Radisson blue hotel, Nairobi

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Championing for amendments in the Political Parties Act, 2011 responsive to women issues; undertaking series of capacity building programmes for women interested in politics; convening sessions for women engagement amongst themselves are some major milestones ORPP had set out have enhanced inclusivity in political processes.

"All the women here have a personal responsibility of supporting women candidates in the upcoming polls," said the Registrar.

Other speakers lauded the forum, which provided technical know-how to the participants' better involvement in the electoral process. Badili Africa is an organization that empowers youths and women and promotes their active participation in civic, political and democratic processes.

## PICTURE SPEAK



IEBC agents demonstrate process of election during the chief political party agents training in Kapenguria county



ORRP officer, Elizabeth Ndwiga makes her presentation to political party agents in Samburu county



Left; ORPP Beatrice Nderi makes her presentation to party agents in Turkana county. Right; a group photo of ORPP officials with Kajiado county political party chief agents after the training session



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*The end!*