



**Speech by His Grace Archbishop (Rtd)
Eliud Wabukala, Chairperson of the
Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission
(EACC) during the National Elections
Conference at the Kenyatta
International Convention Centre (KICC)
on Tuesday, 13th June 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya;
All protocols observed.**

Let me start by welcoming you all to this important conference on Kenya's elections 2017. From the very onset, I wish to thank the stakeholders in various sectors of our Kenyan society who in one way or another contributed to the organization and planning of this event. More particularly, I commend the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), our development partners and the *Kura Yangu Sauti Yangu* Initiative all of whom we worked closely with to conceptualize and eventually host this conference.

From where we sit as EACC, today's conference is of immense importance as it provides an opportunity for all of us to deliberate, share experiences, offer advice, listen and learn from each other on the subject of electoral integrity which is a precursor to fair and free elections.

As we are all aware, Kenyans will on the 8th of August 2017 be called upon to once again elect the leaders who will govern the nation at various levels of leadership for the next five years. It must be emphasized that leadership is a great calling and a public trust which necessitates adherence to the highest standards of integrity.

There is no better time than during a general election when Kenyans have an opportunity to apply the integrity test to elect persons who will serve them in public office through a democratic process.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen;

When Kenyans last participated in a general election in 2013 under the new constitution of Kenya 2010, the concept of integrity in electoral processes was not given due preference and consideration

This is partly because the integrity framework under Chapter Six of the Constitution was still in its infancy and Kenyans were probably less informed about the same.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Both the Constitution and other laws have set integrity as a prerequisite for election or appointment into public office. In this regard, EACC has partnered with other relevant agencies in enforcing Chapter Six of the Constitution during this upcoming election. Working under the auspices of the 'Chapter Six Working Group', EACC has sought to ensure that only the men and women who meet the requirements of Chapter Six of

the Constitution are cleared to vie for elective positions. From the vetting process targeting all the over 16,000 aspirants, we have submitted to IEBC a list of 106 individuals whom we think ought not be allowed to contest for political seats due to outstanding issues in line with the law.

It must be remembered that leadership is a call to steward the resources of this great nation and that can only be achieved when Kenyans elect servant leaders who are not driven by their selfish interests. I therefore impress upon the heart of every Kenyan to take

responsibility and elect people that can be entrusted with the resources of this nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Constitution remains a major tool for social re-engineering of our culture, national identity and our institutions of governance. This dictates that all state officers while exercising the sovereign power bestowed upon them, by the people, are to abide by the national values and principles of governance which include good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability.

This election process is not the responsibility of IEBC alone. Other agencies such as the Judiciary, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Office of the Attorney General, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), National Cohesion and Integration Commission, EACC and others must of necessity work closely with IEBC to ensure that this election process is successful. I pray that God will give guidance and wisdom to those institutions so as to provide selfless service that will only aim at promoting public interest.

On our part, EACC will ensure compliance with the provisions of Chapter Six of the Constitution and related integrity laws and regulations before, during and after the elections. We will among other activities undertake the following:

- i) Continue to provide all the information requested or which we will consider useful for the IEBC to determine the integrity and suitability of any political aspirant;
- ii) Monitor the conduct of all candidates to ensure compliance with the relevant integrity laws before, during and after the election;

- iii) Require and facilitate state officers who will be elected or appointed to various offices pursuant to this election to sign and commit to the leadership and integrity codes in line with section 40 of the Leadership and Integrity Act, 2012.

- iv) Monitor the transition process to ensure that public resources are not plundered by those who are hell-bent on taking advantage of the transition period to dip their fingers into public coffers.

- v) Will call for a National integrity Conference after the elections to recommit the nation to rally together in a covenant towards a corruption a free Country.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen;

I finalize by calling upon Kenyans to embrace the spirit of patriotism; and to depart from that culture of shifting blame from one party to another. Every Kenyan must condemn all acts of criminality, unethical or other undesirable conduct that may jeopardize our democracy. Article 1 of the Constitution declares that all sovereign power belongs

to the people of Kenya. Kenyans have a significant opportunity to determine how they want to be governed bearing in mind that some of the challenges we experience today including corruption, are caused by those among us who lack personal integrity.

During this election therefore, no one should be a spectator. I urge all Kenyans to choose their leaders wisely and not to be influenced by any factor other than the integrity of the individual. ***Tukague kabla ya kuchagua.***

In the same breath, I call upon civil society, religious sector, media and other stakeholders to remain vigilant and committed to playing their respective roles in the pursuit of free and fair elections.

To the law enforcement agencies, Kenyans will be looking upon us to prevent and deal firmly with any breaches of the law in line with our respective mandates.

To the political aspirants, do not let your country down. After 8th August 2017, some will have won and others will have lost. Most importantly,

the country will remain. Let us therefore not incite our supporters or engage in other malpractices. Let us give our competitors what we expect from them. Such concerted efforts to tame malpractices will leave our country more united after the election.

Let me leave you with the words of Frank Herbert who once said as follows:

“Good governance never depends upon laws but upon the personal qualities of those who govern”

Thank you for listening and I do wish you all a fruitful engagement with our session facilitators.

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP (RTD) ELIUD WABUKALA
CHAIRPERSON