

## PWDs CALL IEBC FOR INCLUSION IN VOTER REGISTRATION

Nairobi, Saturday 9 October.

MCAs from county assembly disability caucus (CADICA) alongside organizations of Persons With Disabilities, Nairobi Disability Caucus (NDC), have come together with the goal of exercising their democratic right to a fully inclusive election.

The right to participate in leadership and governance is well articulated in Articles 27 & 54 of our 2010 Constitution. It is also in the public domain that elections are a central component of democratic societies which must include persons with disabilities being empowered to fully participate in the electoral process, be it as a voter, candidate or official.

With IEBC's recent announcement of a 30-day voter registration period, CADICA and NDC have identified several barriers that further disable the full inclusion of this special interest group. This is the largest minority population that cannot be ignored and is capable of influencing the direction of elections. CADICA and NDC call upon IEBC to provide reasonable accommodation throughout the electoral process, with a particular focus on the ongoing voter registration.

We call upon IEBC to implement the 5% placement of PWDs in its workforce.

We call upon IEBC during this registration period, to target the registration of one million PWDs and ensure the data is segregated according to the disability types.

We call upon IEBC to ensure that voter materials, physical locations and staff support are accessible to PWDs. Accessible materials include alternative formats such as large print, braille, pictograms, infographics and simple to understand language. Also, media advertisements should have PWD representation. Physical accessibility includes locations that accommodate the diverse groups of PWDs. Accessible staff support includes sign language interpreters and assistance from well trained staff

We call IEBC to mobilize, consult and engage with CADICA and NDC on best practices in accessibility standards.

In the spirit of affirmative action and inclusion, we call upon IEBC to extend the registration period to target registration and education of PWDs to at least 10 more working days. This must include youth with disabilities who are eligible to vote but have challenges accessing their national IDs and NCPWD cards.

Lastly, we strongly urge IEBC to reinstate voter education centres and materials that follow accessibility standards as outlined above.

To join this advocacy conversation online, follow Nairobi Disability Caucus @NDCaucus on Twitter.