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KURA YANGU, SAUTI YANGU STATEMENT ON THE SELECTION OF THE IEBC CHAIR AND MEMBERS

Kura Yangu Sauti Yangu would like to raise a number of concerns about the on-going recruitment of members of the next Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). The recruitment process saw 15 candidates apply for the position of the Chair and 748 for the position of member. Of the 15 who had applied for the Chair's position, 5 were shortlisted while 36 applicants were shortlisted for the position of member.

First, we demand to know the basis and criteria upon which the shortlisting was conducted. The publication of the long list only provided the academic qualifications of the applicants. There has been little or no public information on the other qualifications of the candidates that applied.

Second, Kura Yangu Sauti Yangu challenges the quality of candidates shortlisted for the position of Chair. We note that the candidates shortlisted neither inspire public confidence nor meet the minimum requirements of the chapter six on leadership and integrity, article 10, and article 3 of the Constitution on the basis of their professional track record and personal integrity.

Third, Kura Yangu Sauti Yangu demands to know why a number of candidates were short-listed twice, first for the position of Chair and second for that of Commissioner. Is the Selection Panel playing favourites to increase the chances of favoured candidates being appointed to the IEBC?

Fourth, also of concern is the gender balance of the shortlisted candidates. Of the 36 applicants shortlisted for the position of member of the Commission, only 8 applicants are women. If the Selection Panel adhered to the 2/3 gender rule, it should have on the lower side shortlisted at least 12 female applicants. We recall that public appointments in the recent past have seen the gender rule violated by no less than the person in the presidency, as witnessed in the November 2015 cabinet reshuffle.

Kura Yangu Sauti Yangu therefore makes the following demands:

- That the Selection Panel immediately makes public the process it went through in deriving both shortlists, including the criteria relied upon and how those shortlisted meet the criteria beyond their academic qualifications;
- Since the current shortlist will not result in a suitable Chair, that the recruitment process for that position be re-opened and the vacancy re-advertised;
- That the Selection Panel should not consider candidates for appointment in more than one position. Those currently shortlisted for more than one position must be asked to select which position they would like to be considered for and must be interviewed only for that position;

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- (d) That the Selection Panel ensures that the constitutional gender rule is taken into account and given effect in the selection of IEBC members.

About Kura Yangu, Sauti Yangu

Kura Yangu, Sauti Yangu is a citizen movement spearheaded by like-minded civil society organisations (CSOs) including the: Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC); Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU); Constitution and Reforms Education Consortium (CRECO); InformAction; African Centre for Open Governance (AfriCOG); CSO Reference Group; Inuka Trust; Katiba Institute; Development through Media; and International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)-Kenya. They have come together to support Kenya's preparations for the 2017 elections with a view to ensuring the country minimises the risks related to the dysfunctional electoral systems and practices of the recent past.

The Secretariat,

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