

Letter of Transmittal



Commonwealth Observer Group Kenya General Elections 4 March 2013

10 March 2013

Dear Secretary-General,

Following your invitation to observe the 4 March General Elections in Kenya, we have now completed our Final Report and we are pleased to forward it to you with this letter. These elections were Kenya's first under the new Constitution and were therefore an integral step in the reform and devolution process. Citizens voted for six elections at the same time, including for three brand new institutions. The elections were also the first since the tragic events following the 2007 polls, and so a major test for the country and its institutions.

Our overall conclusion is that despite some concerns and shortcomings the 2013 elections in Kenya were credible and met many of the benchmarks for democratic elections to which Kenya has committed itself.

The legal framework provides the basis for credible and competitive elections and key rights and freedoms are also provided for. The campaign was highly active and generally peaceful and reporting by the media was far more responsible and balanced than previously was the case. The elections were for 1,882 elective positions in total and were contested by over 12,000 candidates. However, despite the provision of some special seats for women in the National Assembly and County Assemblies the level of women's participation as candidates, and as representatives, remains relatively low.

Overall the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission faced a challenging task in preparing for the elections, including having to undertake a national delimitation of constituency boundaries and a biometric voter registration, while also preparing for six elections. While the IEBC did experience some problems during the transmission and tallying of results overall it performed well and operated in a transparent manner.

On the day of the elections, there was a very large turnout of voters and was largely peaceful with voters free to express their will and the vote count was transparent.

We have offered a number of recommendations to help improve the process. This Group will now depart from Kenya. We would very much like to thank you for this opportunity. It has been a highly rewarding experience for us all. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for all its support to the Observer Group. We hope we have made a contribution to Kenya and the Commonwealth's continuing engagement here.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Mogae', written in a cursive style.

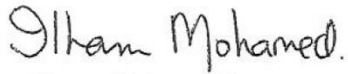
H.E. Festus Mogae
Chairperson



Nancy Tembo



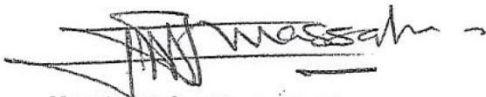
Raenette Taljaard



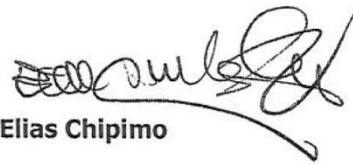
Ilham Mohamed



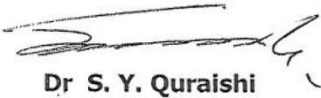
Joshua Wamala



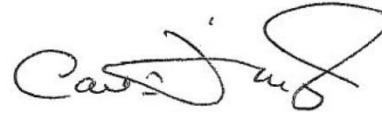
Hon Dr John Massaburi



Elias Chipimo



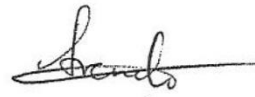
Dr S. Y. Quraishi



Hon Justice Carl Singh, OR, CCH



Thomas Kwesi Quartey



Miatta French



Kaye Oliver



Shana Kaiser



Tahura Titi Gabi



Fabian Brown



Samira Sawlani



Hon Jacqueline Muhongayire