



REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS IN
THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE, MR. BRUNO SHIOSO, AIG, OGW,
DURING THE MEDIA SUMMIT ON ELECTIONS IN NAIROBI ON FRIDAY
22ND JULY 2022.

- ❖ The Chief Executive Officer and Secretary to the Media Council of Kenya,
- ❖ Distinguished participants,
- ❖ All protocols observed,
- ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

I am privileged and honored to participate in this media summit as I join other key players in assessing media coverage of the electoral process and access to information in the run-up to the 2022 General Election.

I commend the Media Council of Kenya for convening this media summit that provides an opportunity for various duty bearers in the electoral process to reflect on their preparedness in the provision of critical information required in coverage of the election and in ensuring free, transparent, and credible elections.

On behalf of the National Police Service, I am grateful for the opportunity to make this keynote address.

On 9th August 2022, the Independent Elections and Boundaries Commission will conduct the General Election in our country. This will be Kenya's 3rd election after the promulgation of the 2010 constitution, and it is an essential opportunity for Kenyans to elect leaders of their choice, as set down by their rights guaranteed in the constitution.

The General Election is a very crucial process that calls for the collaboration and engagement of different actors for its success. The National Police Service

plays a very vital role in this process by ensuring that peace and security prevail before, during, and beyond the elections.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a responsible and committed Police Service, we have been cognizant of this enormous task bestowed upon us and initiated comprehensive preparations by putting in place elaborate measures and strategies to ensure that security is guaranteed throughout the electoral cycle to enable the IEBC to conduct a free, fair and credible election.

And as part of our early preparations, the Inspector General launched the process of election security preparedness in September 2021 in a conference

attended by Regional Police Commanders, Formation commanders, and County commanders.

Further, the Inspector General established the National Police Service Election Security secretariat with the express mandate to coordinate all activities on election preparedness.

Among the activities, the Secretariat has undertaken is the development of the election security manual, guidelines, and training manual. These critical documents were developed in collaboration with other stakeholders among them IEBC, ODPP, NCIC, IPOA, and Judiciary Working Committee on Election Preparedness among other actors.

Subsequently, National Police Service embarked on a training and sensitization programme to ensure all Police officers are well prepared to handle all forms of threats during the electioneering period.

The key training areas covered during the programme include and not limited to; Election security management and coordination strategies, process of risks and threats analysis, Public order management, reporting, handling and investigations of sexual and gender-based violence, reporting and investigation of election offences and police accountability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To enhance collaboration and seamless interoperability with stakeholders, the National Police Service has been holding frequent engagement meetings with

Government and non-government stakeholders as part of its preparedness to provide a secure electoral environment.

In addition, the National Police Service through the Directorate of Corporate Communication, the Head of the Election Security secretariat, and other Officers, have been engaging the public through the various media houses and social media platforms on the state of preparedness as well as their role as citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The National Police Service appreciates the cordial relationship that has existed between the police and the media, these two organizations have been interacting regularly in a relationship that can be described as symbiotic.

We will endeavor to strengthen this relationship by working together hand in hand and build a stronger partnership based on mutual respect to deliver greater benefits to the two institutions.

I, therefore, take this opportunity to commend all the media stakeholders, from mainstream and other recognised outlets, for the vital role they play in championing the integrity of democracy, rule of law and good governance, uncovering economic injustice and inequalities, human rights violations and abuses, environmental crimes and corruption.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya is a signatory to international and regional instruments that promote the right to freedom of expression and access to information. Article 33 of the Kenya constitution provides the framework that governs freedom of expression in our country.

Nevertheless, in the realization of the power that is beheld by the media, I urge you to use this to promote constructive journalism that is researched, factual and diverse.

Let us make it our responsibility to counter misinformation that could jeopardise peace that we enjoy as a country.

The National Police Service will continuously provide a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference. Additionally, in our proactive creation of strategic partnerships, the service will continue to enlist the support of the media among other stakeholders to drive change for a transparent and accountable National Police service.

At this juncture, let me take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of authenticating, when necessary, security information with my office before sharing it with the public. I also urge all Media Houses to always liaise for clearance with the Office of the Police Spokesperson or respective regional or county commanders over all requests for interviews with police officers.

As I conclude, allow me to applaud the Media Council of Kenya, being the lead institution in the regulations of the conduct and discipline of journalists in Kenya, I encourage you to continue promoting high professional standards amongst journalists and ensure adherence to the code of conduct in the practise of journalism.

Finally, I assure everyone that the National Police Service is adequately prepared for the upcoming General Election and urge all State Agencies, voters, the political class, and the public to play their role in the electoral process to ensure we have free, fair, and credible elections.

Thank you and God bless you

**BRUNO ISOHI SHIOSO, OGW
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS/SPOKESPERSON
NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE**

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