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Statement of The Brenthurst Foundation on the voting day of the Kenya General Elections of 9 August 2022

Nairobi, 11 August 2022

The Brenthurst Foundation deployed a diverse team of 32 election observers, to four regions of Kenya – Nairobi, Mombasa, Eldoret and Kisumu - to observe the voting during the General elections held on 9 August 2022. The Brenthurst Election Observer team was led by H.E. Mr. HaileMariam Dessalegn, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and consisted eminent Africans and friends of Africa from broad spectrums of society including government, political parties, parliament, research institutes, media and civil society leaders.

The team has observed the voting process in 461 polling stations across the four regions including through roving observer team as well as visit to the same polling station at opening, closing and during counting to develop a consistent record of the election day processes.

Based on the polling stations visited by the Brenthurst Elections Observers team, the key observations of the voting day process include:

- Kenyans participated in the voting in an orderly and peaceful manner demonstrating their commitment for a democratic process in their country.
- Polling station officers, agents and their support staff performed their duties with integrity, confidence and professionalism which ensured a smooth management of the voting process in most polling stations. The administration of most polling stations was characterized by consensus and co-operation among election officers and agents/observers.

- Although some polling stations opened late, mainly as a result of materials not being delivered on time or the KIEMS machine problems, the great majority of polling stations opened and closed on time, while some stations extended their closing time to accommodate for the late start and people in queue.
- Overall, Kenya's biometric system did its job of identifying voters. While the KIEMS machine had its downtime, delays, and it struggled with older people and workers with a history of strenuous physical labor, it did not hinder the voting process per se as election officers used alternative means of verification including the alpha numeric numbers and photo identification.
- Party and independent candidate agents were present in most polling stations but some polling stations such as in Kisumu and Eldoret had a visible absence of UDA/Kenya Kwanza and ODM/Azimio agents respectively.
- Voters needing assistance should have been helped by a person of their choice but were sometimes overwhelmed by party agents.
- There was visible armed security officers presence in and around the polling stations.
- The opening and closing procedures, including the end of the voting and sealing of the boxes, were clearly explained to the agents, and transparently carried out.
- Albeit on bumpy roads in rural parts of the counties, polling stations were broadly accessible by car. Provisions for persons with physical disabilities were not explicitly made in most polling stations, although many polling stations were relatively accessible due to design.

Ahead of voting day, the Brenthurst Election Observer team met with key stakeholders including the IEBC, leaders of political parties, and CSOs.

Overall, the Brenthurst election observer mission of the voting process noted that voting day was generally peaceful and orderly. While there were some technical and logistical problems, these were neither sufficiently widespread or systematic to undermine the integrity of the voting process.

The mission was strictly confined to observing voting on 9 August 2022 and can make no comment on tallying or the announcement of results which is yet to happen in the coming days.

The mission hopes that the will of the people of Kenya which was expressed on election day will prevail during the counting and results announcement phase of the election.

**His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia,
Head of Mission**

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