



*A corruption free Kenya*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL KENYA LAUNCHES A REPORT ON CITIZENS' PERCEPTION OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN KENYA**

**Nairobi, 24th August 2021:** Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya) has today launched a report-“ My Leader, My Choice: Citizens’ Perception of Ethical Leadership in Kenya”.

The report details findings of a survey conducted by TI-Kenya to establish citizens’ perceptions, attitudes and opinions on ethical leadership, as espoused in Chapter Six of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, and to understand Kenyans perception of their role in promoting ethical leadership in the country.

On the report’s findings, majority of respondents identified with qualities of good and ethical leadership as a yardstick to elect one to a public office. 82% of the respondents indicated that they were either ‘Very Unlikely’ or ‘Unlikely’ to vote for candidates with a history of corruption. 75%, believed that a person convicted, accused or under investigation for corruption should not be allowed to contest for a leadership position. Further, 57% of the respondents stated that the established institutions mandated to fight corruption and promote ethical leadership in the country are compromised by corrupt candidates on their way to contesting in elections.

The startling observation was that 59% of respondents indicated that they would willingly accept a bribe from a politician, irrespective of whether the bribe would influence one’s voting decision or not. “This is among the reasons Kenya needs regulation of campaign financing. Without transparency and accountability on the sources of campaign funds, and spending limits and disclosure on how campaign money is spent, voter bribery and the culture of handouts from politicians, which the latter have cited among reasons for rejecting efforts to regulate campaign fundraising and spending, will continue unabated.” said Sheila Masinde, Executive Director, TI-Kenya during the launch of the report.

While 69% of respondents were aware of their role in preventing corrupt individuals from ascending to public and state office positions, the study indicates that the moral desire for an ethical leadership is undermined by lack of citizens’ knowledge on existing constitutional and legal mechanisms

established to prevent candidates with questionable integrity from running for public and state offices.

To promote integrity in leadership in Kenya, the study recommends that relevant government agencies mandated to promote ethical leadership, including the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), and Civil Society Organizations prioritise sensitization of the public on established constitutional, legal and institutional frameworks that advocate for ethical leadership in Kenya. The institutions should sensitize Kenyans on the benefits of electing leaders of integrity and their duty to report and not participate in voter bribery. Also recommended is the need to harmonise and streamline mechanisms of clearing candidates aspiring to contest for political offices. Specifically, IEBC should be the final institution to clear candidates to elective leadership positions after vetting by other institutions and government departments such as DCI on criminal records, KRA on tax compliance and EACC on integrity concerns, among others.

The survey was conducted between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021, with 1,004 Kenyan respondents of voting age selected randomly across the country. The study was informed by persistent experiences of unethical leadership witnessed in the country, despite the adoption of Kenya's 2010 progressive Constitution, related laws, rules and regulations. Download a copy of the report by clicking on this link: <https://bit.ly/3mqm6xB>.

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#### **ABOUT TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL KENYA**

Founded in 1999 in Kenya, [TI-Kenya](#) is a not-for-profit organisation with the aim of developing a transparent and corruption-free society through good governance and social justice initiatives. TI-Kenya is one of the autonomous chapters of the global Transparency International movement that is bound by a common vision of a corruption-free world. The global movement provides a platform for sharing knowledge and experience, as well as developing strategies to respond to regionally distinct patterns of corruption.