



A corruption free Kenya

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TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL KENYA LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN WATCH PORTAL TO MONITOR THE USE OF STATE RESOURCES IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Nairobi-Kenya, 10th September 2021: Transparency International Kenya ([TI-Kenya](#)) has today launched an online portal dubbed '*Campaign Watch*', a platform to collect reports from the public on the use of state resources during the campaigns for the 2022 general elections and beyond.

Campaign Watch will enable Kenyans in whatever capacity they hold, whether as trained monitors, journalists, public officials, citizens or even anonymously to report any use of public resources that they witness through the portal in a safe, confidential space. Through the portal, members of the public will be able to upload reports, messages, photographic and video evidence on the use of state resources during campaigns. The information provided by the public through the platform will help in ensuring fairness in electoral contests through the monitoring and reporting of the use of public resources in campaigns, thereby contributing towards the levelling of the playing field for all individuals seeking elective positions especially women, youth, PWDs, and other key sections of our population that are traditionally disenfranchised in political processes.

“In any electoral process, the creation of an unfair playing field through the introduction of undue powers and resources such as unregulated campaign finances that facilitate the electoral campaign of one candidate over the other, or to promote one idea over others, severely undermines political competitiveness, erodes public confidence in the legitimacy of any electoral process, and is a major compromise to its integrity, hence the need to monitor the use of public resources during the upcoming general elections.” said Sheila Masinde, Executive Director, TI-Kenya during the launch of the platform.

The platform which can be accessed via this link: <http://campaignwatch.tikenya.org>, was born out of the need to strengthen citizens oversight and action in the electoral process, and to curb the use of illicitly acquired funds and state resources during election campaigns.

The launch of the *Campaign Watch* Portal comes at a time efforts to ensure the operationalization of the Election Campaign Funding law have been assailed by the National Assembly, most recently through the introduction of legislative proposals seeking to eliminate scrutiny of campaign spending by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, and other checks within the law for

instance those providing for public disclosure of funding or donations received by politicians thus allowing continued and uncontrolled campaign spending to abet corruption and use of illicitly acquired resources, and disenfranchise voters and candidates in the electoral processes in Kenya. Parliament must reject the new amendment proposals, and instead speedily enact the Election Campaign Financing (Amendment) Bill 2020 which seeks to address concerns raised on the implementation mechanisms of the law. Parliamentarians must also consider regulations on campaign financing submitted by IEBC to ensure disclosure, public reporting and monitoring of funding sources, amounts contributed and expenditure. On the other hand, IEBC should proceed to enforce the campaign spending limits published in August 2021 as it acted within its constitutional mandate and does not require parliamentary approval to gazette the limits. The 12th Parliament should commit the honorable action and leave a lasting legacy to be remembered as the House that contributed towards the control of dirty money and public resources in elections.

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