



PRESS STATEMENT
22/08/2022

KENYAN GENERAL ELECTIONS 2022

The Federation of Women Lawyers is a non-governmental, non-partisan, non-profit making organization established in 1985 with a mission to promote women's individual and collective power to claim their rights in all spheres of life. The organization works towards addressing challenges facing women's access to their social, political, and economic rights.

FIDA-Kenya has been working in a collaborative program with other partners to advance the **achievement of gender equality and to empower all women**. This has been championed through the Vote A Dada initiative. This is a campaign aimed at supporting women's political participation across the electoral cycle, including through coordinated efforts with partners. The main focus of the campaign is the achievement of the two-third gender rule premised in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and pronounced severally through Judicial rulings and advisory.

Additionally, FIDA-Kenya has been implementing several initiatives toward achieving gender equality and promoting safety for our women and girls in the electioneering period. This includes the deployment of SGBV monitors, the training of pro bono lawyers on Electoral disputes resolutions, the establishment of an observation center, the training of health care providers on SGBV documentation and evidence preservation, and the enhancement of our toll-free lines which provide for legal and psychosocial support to women and girls.

As a result of these initiatives coordinated over the last five years, we are proud to be associated with the positive outcomes of the elections 2022. Particularly that the elections have been largely peaceful with few reported cases of SGBV that we are mitigating in different regions. Secondly, there is an increase in the number of elected female leaders. Out of the 1962 female candidates this year **7 female governors were voted in marking an increase of 3 from 2017**. 8 deputy female governors were elected increasing the number from 7 in the previous elections. The elections of the **27 single constituency female MPs also marked an increase from 23 the 2017 polls**. We equally commend the **3 elected female senators**, the 47 County women representatives and **80 female members of the county assembly who** were elected from a highly contested election. Although the numbers for MCAs has declined in this year's poll we note that more women candidates were gazette for the position. We, therefore, salute their resilience and uphold their valiant pursuits in participating in governance platforms at the National and County levels. **Hongera Waheshimiwa!**

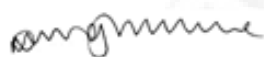
We are now urging political parties to purposefully nominate female candidates to bridge the two-third gender gap that has presented itself from the list of elected MPs. We are insistent that a legislative framework to uphold the Constitutional imperatives of Article 81(b) of the Constitution should be top on the Agenda for the 13th Parliament.

Thirdly, FIDA-Kenya commends the Kenyan electorates for taking up the challenge to give women a chance especially now we have **first-time Members of County assembly from marginalised communities and counties where we had no elected female Members of Parliament**. These milestones will be beneficial for the whole society as we propel gender equality in all spaces and locations of Kenya.

As we embark on the inauguration of the elected officials we urge all our elected leaders to uphold their campaign manifestos which were laden with economic progress, democratic initiatives and progressive developmental ideals that had affirmative action at the center. We will be documenting this journey as we continue to strategize and program for the effective delivery of our mission goals.

We call upon all the elected leaders and institutions of governance to uphold their Constitutional mandate and we transition into the 13th Parliament.

Nancy K. Ikinu



Chairperson

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