

## **Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA)**

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### **PRESS RELEASE: STATEMENT BY KENYA DIASPORA ALLIANCE (KDA) ON THE GENERAL ELECTIONS – CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TWO LEADING CONTENDERS**

#### **For Immediate Release**

**NAIROBI, Kenya:** The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) congratulates President-elect, H.E. (Dr) William Ruto for being declared winner in the elections, and for striking a reconciliatory tone in his acceptance remarks.

We equally commend the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Raila Odinga for statesmanly response to the outcome, painful and unexpected as it may be. The country has been saved from avoidable turmoil by the decision to contest the outcome in court.

The call by both coalitions on their supporters to maintain calm is similarly commendable. We however note that peace and justice are conjoined twins, and that this matter will be sooner rather than later be concluded with finality, to let the economy rebound.

We also commend the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) for generally conducting a good election, marred only at the finish line. Posting the primary documents, Form 34A to a public portal for all to see and scrutinize was a master-stroke, likely a first for the region and worth emulating. We advocate for deployment of more technology – secure, cost-efficient, mobile, transparent and verifiable, as this is the only way for significant numbers of diaspora voters to be enfranchised.

We laud the over 10,000 diasporas in 12 countries that took advantage of the opportunity presented to register and exercise their civic duty to elect their leader of choice. We acknowledge that the bulk majority of the diasporas voted for a single coalition. Notwithstanding, much remains to be done to remove the numerous impediments on the way of meaningful enfranchisement of diasporas.

We were likely the only institution with volunteer, accredited observers in most of the diaspora voting countries. We continue to press for more countries and centres to be included in future, and more diasporas to be registered to vote. The highest number of diaspora aspirants too presented themselves this year; we congratulate those who won and those who didn't. Kenya is the winner for the better!

Even as we call upon all Kenyans of goodwill and friends of Kenya to continue to maintain peace and restraint, we condemn all manner of acts of violence and injustices meted upon diverse persons, least election officials and innocent voters. We especially send condolences to families of all those who have lost lives during this election period, and wish speedy recovery to all those injured physically, emotionally or socially.

Finally, we commend all those who have played significant roles towards broadly orderly transition, among them security and communications agencies, election observers, diplomats, the Judiciary, the National Peace and Mediation Team (NPMT) and partners that include religious, business and cultural leaders, eminent women leaders, media and civil societies. This attestation of Kenya's maturing democracy is something that we hope can be emulated by others.

Sincerely,



Dr. Shem Ochuodho  
**KDA Global Chairman**

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### **About Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA)**

The Kenya Diaspora Alliance (KDA) is a Registered Trust, and a Federation of fifty (50) registered Diaspora organizations with a nominal combined membership of about 250,000 Kenyans across the globe. KDA's affiliated memberships include: welfare, cultural, faith-based, social, philanthropic, educational, professional and business associations, among others.

The Diaspora Investment Club (DICL) is KDA's business and investment arm. It is a limited liability company, presently with start-up businesses in real estate, financial and securities markets, agribusiness, mini-industries, tech-novation (mobile apps), and business/investment consultancy.