



The Associated Press. – 12.08.2022

By Cara Anna

## Kenya media council: ‘No one’ asked to stop election tallies

*Рада ЗМІ Кенії: «Ніхто» не просив зупинити підрахунок голосів*  
*Спостерігачі та журналісти ЗМІ Кенії висловили занепокоєння після того, як центральні телевізійні канали Кенії призупинили або сповільнили підрахунок бланків з результатами президентських виборів, опублікованих виборчою комісією. Різні результати під час підрахунку ЗМІ викликали занепокоєння серед деяких кенійців, оскільки давній лідер опозиції Раїла Одінга, якого підтримав колишній суперник і діючий президент Кенії Угуру Кеніятта, що йде у відставку, у своїй п'ятій спробі стати президентом зіткнувся з віце-президентом Вільямом Рутто, який посварився з президентом рік тому. У Кенії вперше може відбутися другий тур президентських виборів.*

<https://apnews.com/article/africa-elections-presidential-4c60a4578ced3a5dd6fa9d837f31919b>



*Electoral Commission (IEBC) Chairman, Wafula Chebukati, right, chats with IEBC commissioners, at the National Tallying Centre in Bomas of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya, Friday, Aug. 12, 2022. Kenyans are waiting for the results of a close presidential election in which the turnout was lower than usual. (AP Photo/Sayyid Abdul Azim)*

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — The head of Kenya’s government-created media council says local media outlets haven’t been asked to stop their counting of [presidential election](#) results after observers noticed a dramatic slowdown in reporting on the close contest.

Media Council of Kenya CEO David Omwoyo told The Associated Press on Friday that “no one has asked anyone to stop,” but added that “we want to align the numbers with each other” and “I think let’s peer review our numbers.”

He said he was going into a meeting with media leaders as he spoke.

Observers and journalists with local media houses have expressed concern after Kenya Television Network, NTV Kenya and Citizen TV tallies of presidential results forms posted online by the electoral commission stopped or slowed on Thursday evening.

The differing results as media raced to do their tallies led to anxiety among some Kenyans as longtime opposition leader Raila Odinga, backed by former rival and outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta in his fifth attempt at the presidency, faces Deputy President William Ruto, who fell out with the president years ago.

Kenya could see a runoff presidential election for the first time.

The public posting of results forms was meant to be a groundbreaking exercise in transparency for the electoral commission, which has been under pressure after the high court cited irregularities and overturned the results of the previous presidential election in 2017, a first in Africa. Kenyatta won the new vote after Odinga boycotted it.

The electoral commission chair, Wafula Chebukati, even appeared to tease local media houses a day after Tuesday's election, saying they were "behind" in tallying the more than 46,000 results forms being posted from around the country. On Thursday, however, he stressed that only the electoral commission can declare a winner.

On Wednesday, the media council in a statement noted "growing concerns" about the varying tallies and said it was consulting with media owners and editors "to find an urgent solution to this to ensure Kenyans receive synchronized results."

To win outright, a candidate needs more than half of all votes and at least 25% of the votes in more than half of Kenya's 47 counties. No outright winner means a runoff election within 30 days.

Official results will be announced within a week of the vote, but impatience among some Kenyans is growing. Some have turned to counting a far smaller set of results forms for 291 constituencies also being posted online by the electoral commission. More than 65% of them had been posted Friday morning.

Human rights groups [have warned](#) about "rising levels of false or misleading information being shared on social media" as the country awaits the official results.

Turnout dipped sharply in this election, to 65%, as some Kenyans expressed weariness with seeing long-familiar political leaders on the ballot and frustration with economic issues including widespread corruption and rising prices.