



**PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE IRREGULAR LISTING OF KENYANS AS POLITICAL PARTY
MEMBERS WITH THE REGISTRAR OF POLITICAL PARTIES**

21ST JUNE 2021

Amnesty International is deeply concerned with emerging reports that persons have been involuntarily registered for political party membership. We are concerned that this denies Kenyans the right to make free political choices which includes the right to join a political party of their choice. Further, these developments are a gross violation of the right to privacy and present significant infractions of the Data Protection Act, 2019.

The principles and obligations of personal data protection require data controllers and processors to ensure that personal data is accurate and kept up to date, with reasonable steps being taken to ensure that inaccurate personal data is erased or rectified without delay. The Office of the Registrar of Political Parties is thus duty bound by the Data Protection Act, 2019 to proactively ensure that personal data in the Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) is accurate.

“Political parties and all data controllers are obligated by the Data Protection Act to collect personal data directly from data subjects. Further, unequivocal, free, specific, and informed consent must always be obtained prior to any processing of personal data. Political parties should therefore take necessary steps to ensure compliance with data protection laws.” Says Amnesty International Executive Director Irungu Houghton.

We therefore urge the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to conduct an assessment with a view to ascertain whether the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties and political parties processed personal data in compliance with the Data Protection Act, 2019. We further call on the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to commence investigations into complaints brought against the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties and political parties by members of the public.

We also remind the public that they have the right to be informed of the use to which their personal data has been put. Further, every person has the right to correction or deletion of any false or misleading data about them. We urge every aggrieved person to utilize the complaints mechanism provided for in the Data Protection Act, 2019 by filing a complaint with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

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