

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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Sent by email to info@iebc.or.ke

August 4, 2017

Mr. Wafula W. Chebukati, Chairperson
Mr. Ezra Chiloba, Secretary/CEO
Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
P.O Box 45371 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Dear Mr. Chebukati and Mr. Chiloba:

As Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), I write to express our deepest condolences for the tragic loss of your ICT Manager, Chris Msando. Please express our sympathy to Mr. Msando's family and colleagues.

Over the years, Wisconsin elections officials have enjoyed receiving several delegations hosted by the U.S. State Department that included officials from Kenya who have come to learn about American democracy and election administration. For that reason, Mr. Msando's death was felt very strongly in our offices.

On a personal note, I spent most of my formative years (from 2-12) growing up in Nigeria (departed Bukuru in 1966) and witnessed the excitement of the early independence movement as a young boy. Holding elections and building democracy are noble undertakings and we wish you only success. As Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor writes in Dust:

“What endures? Echoes of footsteps leading out of a cracking courtyard, and the sound a house makes when it is falling down.

What endures? Starting again.”

With deepest sympathy,

Mark Thomsen
Chair
Wisconsin Elections Commission