



**Mr. Locha Erukudi, ORPP Registration Department, feature in
Signs TV Breakfast Show**

1 December, 2025



Links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74pCs_7Ai6A and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tthc46Y3IXU>

Featured is a compilation of points from an interview between Signs TV host Alan Herbert and Mr. Locha Erukudi of ORPP Registration department on 1st December 2025 at the Signs TV station in Nairobi, Kenya.

The main topic revolves around the roles and responsibilities of the Office, its function in the political landscape, and specifically, the mechanisms of political party funding and the participation of special interest groups, particularly persons with disabilities, in Kenya.

The key points:

The ORPP's integral role in Kenya's political landscape: The ORPP is presented not as an intermittent body active only during elections, but as a continuous entity with a broad mandate crucial for the functioning and integrity of Kenya's political party system.

Core Mandates of the ORPP: The office operates across three primary areas:

- Registration of Political Parties: This involves two stages:
 - Provisional Registration: Currently, there are 28 provisionally registered political parties.
 - Full Registration: As of the discussion, there are 91 fully registered political parties, with another expected to be registered soon, bringing the total to 92.
 - To transition from provisional to full registration, a party must establish 24 county offices, one head office, and recruit 24,000 members across the country (at least 1,000 members in 24 distinct counties).
- Administration of the Political Parties Fund: This contentious aspect is mentioned as a future topic of discussion.
- Regulation of Registered Political Parties: This includes monitoring their activities and ensuring compliance with the law.

Definition of a political party: According to Section 2 of the Political Parties Act Cap. 70, a political party is defined as an association with a unique ideology whose primary function includes nominating candidates for elections.

Cost and process of establishing a political party:

- Name/Symbol Reservation: KES 500 (for name, abbreviation, symbol, slogan, three colors). Paid online via ORPP.go.ke.
- Provisional Registration: KES 100,000.
- Full Registration: KES 500,000.
- Total Fees to ORPP: KES 600,500.
- Additional Party-Borne Costs:
 - Recruiting 1,000 registered voters in each of 24 counties across the country (total 24,000 registered members).
 - Establishing one head office and 24 county offices, with costs varying depending on location and quality.

ORPP's Role in Elections (e.g., By-elections) The ORPP plays several direct roles in electoral processes:

- Registration: Officially registers political parties.
- Monitoring: Monitors all activities of political parties, including during by-elections.
- Agent Training: Conducts training for political party agents, educating them on their roles and responsibilities before, during, and after election day to ensure proper

procedures are followed and they do not overstep into the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC)'s functions.

- Compliance: Ensures political parties comply with the code of conduct outlined in the Political Parties Act.

Distinction between ORPP and IEBC (The "Coach vs. Referee" Analogy) Mr. Erukudi clarifies the specific boundaries of responsibility:

- **ORPP (The "Coach"):**
 - Registers political parties.
 - Prepares political parties for elections, including reviewing and certifying their internal rules before they are submitted to the IEBC (as per Section 27 of the Elections Act).
 - Trains party agents.
 - Certifies party lists to confirm that the individuals listed are genuine members of the respective political party (as per Section 34 of the Political Parties Act).
- **IEBC (The "Referee"):**
 - Certifies party rules for overall compliance with electoral laws within 14 days of submission.
 - Reviews party lists submitted by parties (after ORPP certification) for general legal compliance.
 - Conducts the actual elections.
- Both bodies, along with political parties, are legally obligated to work together during elections.

Importance and source of the Political Parties Fund:

- Importance: Political parties require resources to carry out their mandates, which include recruiting members, influencing public opinion, promoting national unity, and educating citizens on civic matters and their rights. This funding is crucial for a thriving democracy.
- Source: The fund is derived from taxpayers, allocated by Parliament from the national revenue.

Political Parties fund allocation formula: Parliament is obligated to allocate 0.3% of the national revenue to the ORPP for facilitating political parties. The distribution of this fund follows a specific formula:

- **70%** of the fund is allocated based on the total votes secured by the party in the previous general election.
- **15%** is allocated based on the number of elected representatives from special interest groups (e.g., women, youth, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities).
- **10%** is allocated based on the total number of elected representatives of the party, including those from special interest groups.
- **5%** is reserved for the ORPP's administrative costs, which include public education and maintaining its regional presence.
- **Crucial Condition:** A political party will not receive any funding if it does not have representation from special interest groups. This is a mandatory requirement by law.

Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs):

- **Current Status:** Out of 23.9 million political party members in Kenya (as per ORPP's Integrated Political Parties Management System - IPPMS data), only 1% (approximately 200,000) are persons with disabilities. This low representation makes their impact on fund allocation negligible.
- **Call to Action:** PWDs are strongly encouraged to join political parties to increase their numbers and influence.
- **Mechanisms for Joining/Managing Political Party Membership:**
 - **USSD Code:** Dial *509# to join a party, resign from a party, or check membership status from any location.
 - **eCitizen Platform:** Services are also available through eCitizen.
 - **IPPMS:** The Integrated Political Parties Management System facilitates these processes.
 - **Regional Offices:** PWDs can visit any of ORPP's 13 regional offices across the country (e.g., Mombasa, Nairobi, Kisumu) for assistance.

Addressing Representation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Party Lists A

significant concern was raised about the lack of PWD representation in county assemblies despite their inclusion in party nomination lists.

- **ORPP's Stance:** The ORPP's role regarding party lists is limited to certifying that the individuals on the list are indeed members of that political party. It does not review the list for compliance with representation quotas for special interest groups.
- **Proposed Solution:** Mr. Erukudi suggests a multi-stakeholder roundtable discussion involving the IEBC, ORPP, and leaders of PWD organizations to address this implementation gap, ensuring compliance with Article 54 of the Constitution (which mandates the inclusion of PWDs in elective and appointive positions).

ORPP's Efforts to Enhance PWD Participation:

- The ORPP website and online services are designed to be PWD-friendly.
- Regional offices conduct sensitization meetings to encourage PWDs to join and participate.
- The ORPP has developed specific guidelines for persons with disabilities, moving beyond general guidelines for all special interest groups.
- The ORPP also notifies political party leadership to ensure PWDs are not only in charge of PWD-specific organs but also hold key leadership positions (e.g., Chairperson, Party Leader, Secretary General) within the party's executive organ.

Future Legal Reforms for Enhanced Participation:

- **Re-fencing Special Interest Groups:** The current law broadly defines "special interest groups" to include women, youth, persons with disabilities, ethnic, and other minorities/marginalized communities. There's a consideration to "re-fence" these categories in future legal frameworks to provide more specific emphasis or requirements for groups like PWDs, who currently have low participation rates.
- **Removing "Progressive" from Article 54:** Article 54 of the Constitution, which addresses the rights of persons with disabilities, includes the word "progressive" in its implementation. The ORPP suggests that removing this word in future legal reforms would make the implementation of PWD rights compulsory for state agencies, rather than a gradual, open-ended process.

Conclusion

Mr. Erukudi emphasized that Article 38 of the Constitution grants every citizen the right to participate. He urged persons with disabilities to be active in registering, administering, and mobilizing within political parties. He highlighted that an increase in PWD membership from the current 1% (out of a total PWD population of 0.9 million, according to the 2019 census) would lead to a significant impact and greater representation, even potentially yielding a presidential candidate with a disability in the future.



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