



## Issue Brief on Election Crimes and Offences in Kenya Report, 2016

**Objective:** To establish the Factors Contributing to Election Crimes and Offences in Kenya.

**Methods:** The study adopted descriptive research design. The survey was carried out in 20 out of the 47 counties in Kenya. 1,222 (654 males and 568 females) sample respondents from both rural and urban areas were interviewed. Key informants were drawn from Criminal Justice Agencies: IEBC; civil society organizations; political parties and education sector. Probability and non-probability sampling techniques were employed. Quantitative data was analyzed through SPSS and qualitative data analyzed through interpretation of key informants' responses along research themes.

**Counties of study:** Nairobi, Kirinyaga, Laikipia, Kitui, Nakuru, Kericho, Migori, Siaya, Kisumu, Kakamega, Bungoma, Mombasa, Kwale, Tana River, Marsabit, Isiolo, Uasin Gishu, Bomet, Narok and Garissa

**Findings:** The study established that ethnic animosity, tribalism and clanism (27.6%); poverty (26.4%); youth unemployment (20.4%); electorate illiteracy (18.4%); incitement and use of abusive and derogatory statements by politicians (15.7%); corruption in politics (12.6%); and drug and substance abuse (11.2%) were major factors contributing to election crimes and offences in Kenya. Other factors include: selfishness in political leadership; lack of proper civic education and public awareness on civil rights; use of cash money in campaigns; poor electoral process, political fanaticism; competition for resources; insecurity and inadequate security apparatus; unequal distribution of national resources; perception of stolen elections; impunity among politicians; greed for large pay in political offices; poor governance; government interference in local politics and gender discrimination.

**Conclusions:** To prevent and control factors contributing to elections crimes and offences, it is recommended that programmes to alleviate poverty be put in place; coming up with youth empowerment programmes; appropriate civic education programmes as a short term intervention during election period; need to sensitize and prosecute politicians to avoid hate speech and incitement to violence and other crimes; reforming and facilitating the electoral process to ensure credible elections; adequately facilitating security organs; equitable distribution of national resources in all counties; ensuring a reformed and impartial judicial system; and the formation of an Inter-agency Committee on investigations and prosecution of electoral crimes and offences by the government and its stakeholders.

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