



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

Objective - To identify existing control measures and their effectiveness in dealing with election crimes and offences

Methodology -The study adopted descriptive research design. The survey was carried out in 20 out of 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 officials, civil society organization, political parties and education sector. Probability and non-probability sampling techniques were employed. Quantitative data was analysed 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: 95.3% of the study respondents were aware of election crimes and offences control measures, 1.7% were not aware, while 2.9 % did not know. All respondents in Nakuru, Kericho, Migori, Siaya and Kwale were aware of existence of election crimes control measures indicating their keenness on matters of election crime and offences as opposed to the rest of the counties. In terms of age, those who were 26-33 years were found to be more aware followed by 43-41 years age range. Those who were married were found to be more aware than others. Respondents who had attained secondary education were found to be more aware than the rest. Residents who had stayed in their locality for more than 13 years were more aware of the existence of election crimes and offences control measures than the rest. Majority of respondents who were registered voters as at 2013 were more aware of control measures than others. The study established there were control mechanisms in election crimes and offences such as civic education conducted by IEBC and CSOs, deployment of security personnel and patrols, enforcement of applicable laws by the judiciary (Siaya 42.3%, Kakamega 37.5% and Isiolo 35.3%), IEBC code of conduct, employment of youth, implementation of the

constitution, use of electronic voting equipment, proper selection and training of election officials, establishment of TJRC and NCIC, intelligence gathering, deployment of election observers, deployment of party agents in polling stations and increased number of voter registration centers. The main control measures reported in all counties were civic education by IEBC and CSOs (Siaya 53.8% Kericho 50%, Bomet 50%, Bungoma 44.1%), deployment of security and patrols (Mombasa 49.2%, Kirinyaga 40.3%, Kwale 39.1%, Bomet 39.1%), anti-election crime offences campaign, peace messaging (Narok 64.2%, Mombasa 37.3% and Kitui 34.7% and IEBC code

The effectiveness of existing control measures were generally rated as effective at 54.3% of the sampled counties while 41.1% of respondents said that they were not effective, 2.9% did not know. Kitui and Narok county had 50% of respondents who stated control measures were effective, the rest of the counties rated between 44% and 15% effectiveness of control measures. This explains the reason why electoral offences and crimes were still recurrent therefore measures were not effective.

Conclusions: The study established that there existed control and electoral offence prevention mechanism such as civic education, deployment of security, enforcement of legislation, anti-electoral offences campaigns and code of conduct for officials which need to be enhanced to be more effective.

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