



ELOG LONG TERM OBSERVATION KEY FINDINGS IN THE MONTH OF MAY 2017

Summary and Recommendations

During the month of May, ELOG Long Term Observers (LTO) in the 290 constituencies reflected an uptake of election administration activities evidenced by reports of election official trainings in the constituencies and increased voter education efforts from the IEBC, civil society and the media. ELOG is however concerned that, similar to previous reports campaigning is still characterized by violations of the Election Code of Conduct, including voter bribery, campaigning by public officials, some abusive or insulting language, particularly at women candidates, and some instances of the destruction and defacing of campaign materials during the party primaries. The aforementioned incidences occurrence in the run-up to an official campaign period, shows a worrying trend that need to be addressed promptly not to have negative impact on the August elections. However, it is encouraging to note that Freedom of expression and assembly continues to generally be respected with very few reports of instances of undue government or security interference, restrictions on movement, or media repression.

Based on information collected during this period, ELOG recommends the following;

- ELOG recommends scaling up of voter education and information by both IEBC, accredited civil society and media to ensure that all eligible voters receive education on voting in the run-up to the elections.
- ELOG urges the IEBC and other enforcement agencies to monitor and enforce the Electoral Code of Conduct and prosecution against any candidates instigating violence and bribing voters.
- ELOG urges political parties and candidates to adhere to the Electoral code of conduct and promote a mature and peaceful campaigning environment. Most importantly, candidates should desist from using threatening, insulting and abusive language against opponents and voters, both women and men.
- Finally, ELOG encourages voters to undertake their civic duty by verifying their details in the voters register as the June 9 deadline for voter verification draws closer.

Pre-Election Observation Methodology

ELOG has deployed a total of 290 LTOs each assigned to a constituency to observe and report on the pre-election environment in their respective constituencies. ELOG Long Term Observers are drawn from the broad ELOG membership and reside in their assigned constituencies. The LTOs were trained and deployed in early March 2017 and will observe and report until 31st August 2017, after the Elections.

In order to observe and document their observations, ELOG LTOs have been equipped with a standardized checklist which includes questions about IEBC preparations, civic education, campaign conduct and environment, the political participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, voter list inspection, political party primaries, hate speech, and electoral security and violence. LTOs send

reports every two weeks on this checklist, for a total of thirteen bi-weekly reports over the course of their deployment. Additionally, LTOs use a critical incident form to report serious incidents that could undermine the electoral process immediately as they occur to assist other electoral actors to rapidly mitigate and respond to such incidents. LTOs communicate all their findings using coded text messages to a central ELOG database located in Nairobi.

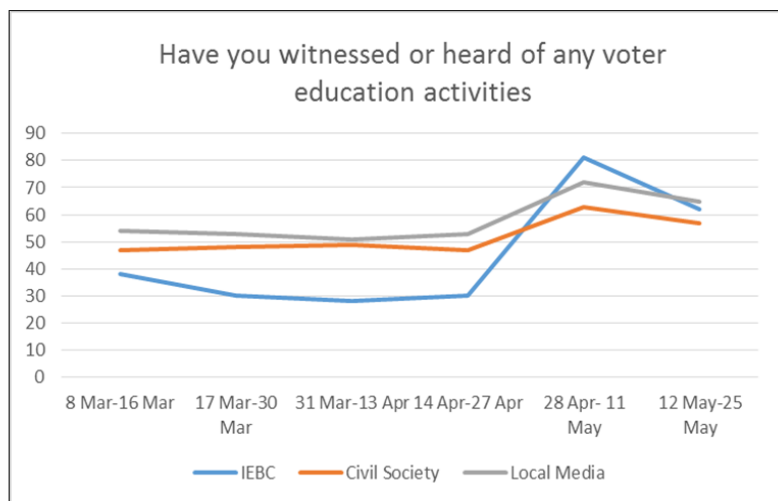
LTOs are asked to characterize their observations as those they observed directly (events personally witnessed) and those that they observed indirectly or heard of (events that were conveyed by a credible third party). These third parties may include credible media outlets or other members of the community. Before reporting any observation from a third party, LTOs must first seek to verify the event or incident.

ELOG LTO mission unlike PVT Observation does not rely on sample-based observation to carry out its pre-election observation efforts. The reported data is therefore not statistically representative of the country as a whole, but does provide an indication of general emerging trends nationally and within geopolitical zones. ELOG encourages end users of its reports and data to independently corroborate and respond appropriately to trends identified and discussed in these reports.

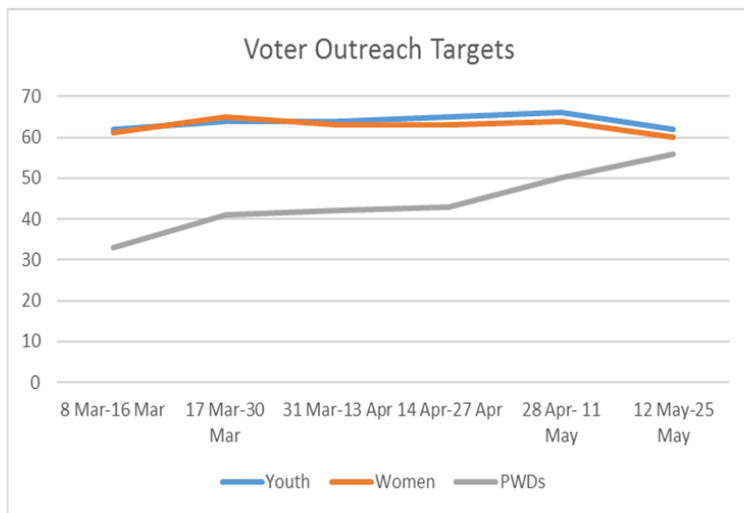
Key Findings

🌟 Provision of Voter Education

The IEBC has a mandate to inform Kenyan citizens about the electoral process and are assisted by independent efforts undertaken by civil society organizations. Accordingly, ELOG has noted an increase in voter education activity, particularly by the IEBC in the month of May. Additionally, LTOs also noted more voter education messages in the media in their constituencies.

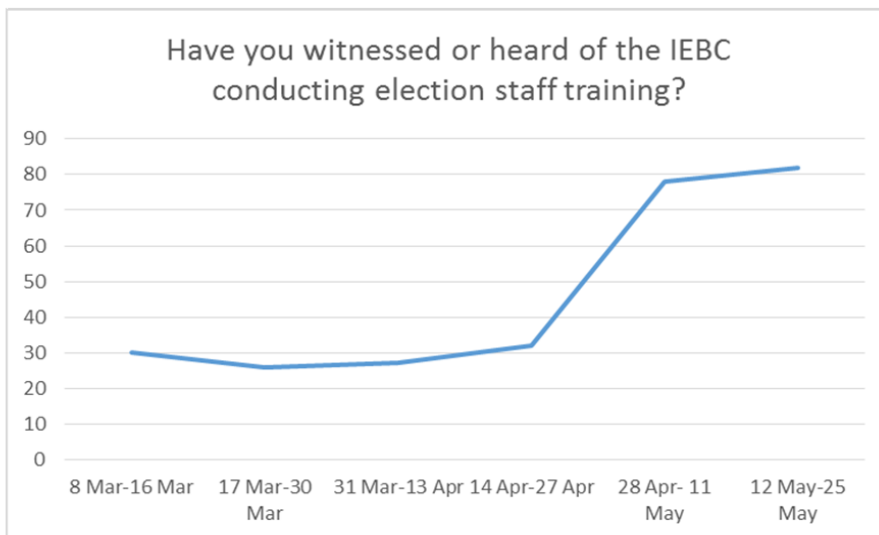


Though the level of targeted voter education activities observed toward women and youth has been relatively consistent of the last month, there has been a modest increase in voter outreach toward persons with disabilities in May.



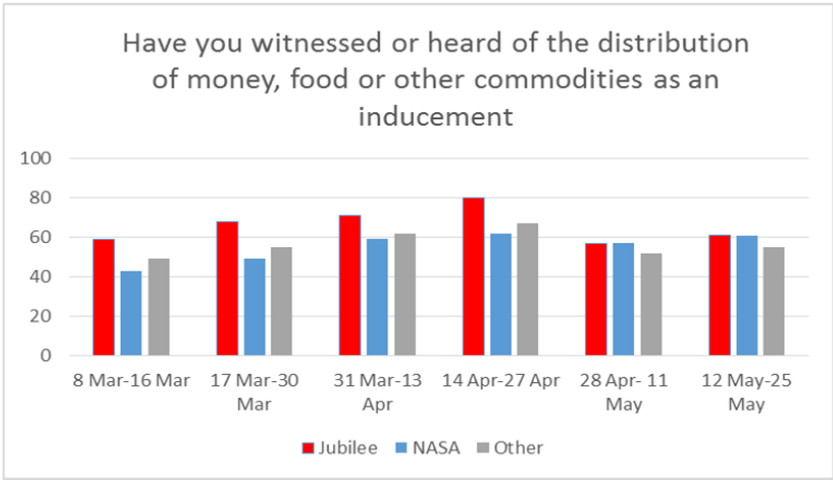
🌟 Election Administration Preparations

ELOG LTOs has been tracking Election administration preparations in the 290 constituencies. LTO reports in the last two reporting periods indicate a significant increase in LTOs witnessing or hearing of IEBC staff trainings in all the 290 constituencies.

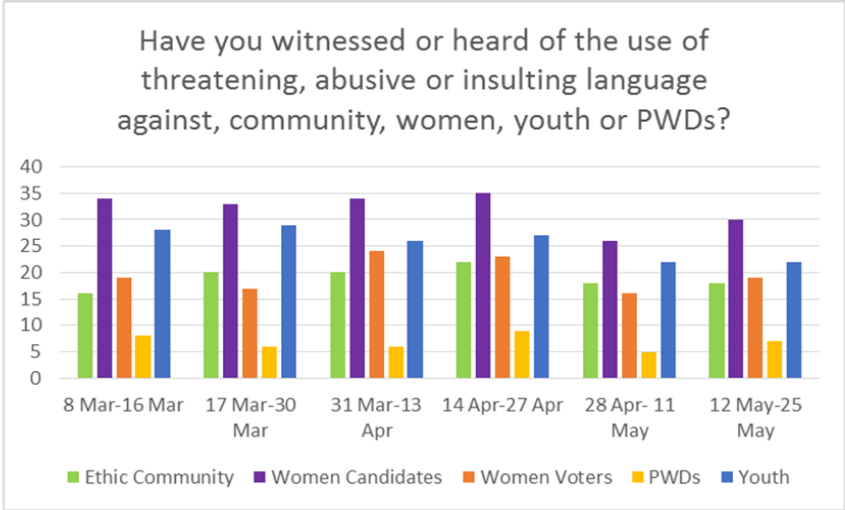


🌟 Conduct of Campaigns

The majority of ELOG LTO reports continue to note campaign activities outside of the official campaign window. This was further characterized by potential voter bribery in the form of distribution of foods and services by parties and candidates for all major parties, as well as the initiation of new development projects. LTOs also reported public officials campaigning - in violation of the Elections Act. Instances of the destruction of party or candidate posters and property rose during the party primaries, and are still being reported by LTOs in over a third of constituencies, even following the primary process.



With the onset of the official campaign period (28th May to 5th August), ELOG is still concerned that these vices may only increase during the campaign period. Although the use of threatening or abusive language remains overall moderately low in the campaigns, like previous reports, the same is still directed at women candidates more than any other disaggregated group when reported.



Early Warning Signs

In addition to the incidences of intimidation and intolerance reported above, LTOs are also tracking non-political events that could be indicators of the potential for electoral conflict as Election Day approaches. These include, increases of witness reports indicating some cases of recruitment and arming of militia, the displacement of people due to security concerns, and ethnic or clan-based conflicts over resources. During the reporting period, these signs remained low but a worrying trend that need to be checked to curb the probability of escalating to worrying or potential fatalities.

Signed By:
 Mulle Musau

 National Coordinator

