



CREDIBLE, PEACEFUL, FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

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Press Release

The 2017 General Election Observation Mission:

State of Preparedness

Summary and Recommendations

During the month ELOG report reflects many of the same positive and negative trends as the previous three reporting periods.

Key Highlights

- ❖ The systematically collected observer data shows that the voter education efforts are thinly spread across the country.
- ❖ The issue of displacement of persons was also reported in the border of Baringo and Pokot Counties.
- ❖ The continued political attacks being meted by political opponents and their supporters in campaign trail across the political divide; incidences of vandalism of campaign materials and incidences of hate speech and threatening language meted by opponents and their supporters during the campaigns.
- ❖ Additionally, vandalism and the destruction of candidate and/or supporter posters and banners were widespread across political divide during the party primaries and has continued into official campaign period.

Based on information collected during this period;

ELOG Emphasizes:

- ❖ The need for a respectful and non-combative campaign environment by all political players.
- ❖ ELOG continues to encourage candidates, and citizens to refrain from using incendiary language and to maintain a respectful campaign environment.
- ❖ ELOG also recommends that the security forces remain vigilant in enforcing personal property protection laws, as politically motivated destruction of property can be a trigger for election-related violence not forgetting ensuring the areas reporting tension between communities security is deployed to restore peace and communities encouraged to embrace dialogue to avert potential violence.



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- ❖ To the IEBC, ELOG will be seeking clarity to some of the key issues emanating from voter list audit by KPMG and Voter verifications exercise queries that have remained controversial in the public domain.

Key Findings

LTO Key Findings

To execute its mandate, ELOG employs various methodologies. ELOG uses Long Term Observation, where a total of 290 are deployed to observe and report on the pre-election environment in their respective constituencies.

In June, the ELOG Long Term Observers noted that:

1) The Voter Verification and the KPMG Audit

While the IEBC report released on 29th June 2017 covered:

- The launch of SMS platform (70000) to enable voters verify their registration details. As well as communicating availability of the same services on an online portal to serve the same purpose.
- When addressing the status of 171476 records that had invalid IDs when checked against National Registration Bureau database, IEBC reported a decision to maintain the same in the register was reached as a clerical to avoid disenfranchising concerned voters.

Of Concern to ELOG and issues that have been raised with IEBC for clarity include:

- Out of the 17,523 voters whose details could not be found in the data on passports provided by the Directorate of Immigration, how many were included in the register?
- 98 voters whose details had been confirmed to be Diplomatic Passports and data had not been provided what was the status?
- What was the fate of the 264,242 Register of Voters with (a) duplicate IDs or passports, (b) Out of range details in the Register of Voters?
- And what happened to 2,610 voters who registered with both an ID and Passport?

2) Provision of Voter Education

While the law is clear that voters have a right to access voter education, ELOG LTO reports have consistently shown that this is not being achieved comprehensively.

- The drive by IEBC was below 40% in March and April but shot to about 80% in May and June when the voter verification drive was on but dropped to around 56% immediately after the close of the verification drive.
- Voter Education efforts by civil society and media have remained constantly higher than the IEBC at 50% over this reporting period. This rose sharply in May and June and averaged at over 70% during the voter verification drive. This dropped by 10% immediately after the voter verification drive.
- Voter education targeting women and the youth averaged between 64%-68% from March to June. However, ELOG sadly noted that it was very low for PWDs and averaged between 34%-40% over the same reporting period.
- Voter Education tailored for PWDs and SIGs dropped from 24% to 18% in the past two weeks of June 2017.

3) Conduct of Campaigns

ELOG LTOs reports observed the political party nominations and the campaign period and the key findings showed that the Election Offences Act was consistently flouted by political players across the political divide.

During this time, the campaigns conduct has been characterised by:

- ❖ Open voter bribery that has been in the form of distribution of money, food and services by all major parties and candidates as well as independent candidates.
- ❖ The report also noted that during the party primaries, though not officially gazetted as a campaign period, political parties continued to campaign unabated.
- ❖ LTOs also reported that public officials often went to campaign - in violation of the Elections Act. Case in point it was reported recently in parts of Mathira, Othaya and Tetu constituencies chiefs and sub-chiefs have been linked with campaigning for the Jubilee party.
- ❖ **Destruction of property and campaign materials.**

This was also noted and it is also an electoral offence. 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 during the official campaign period. Of concern includes torching of a Jubilee



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Banner in Kitutu Chache South and the arson reported in Kajiado where the ODM office was raised down.

4) Use of threatening or abusive language

Although the use of threatening or abusive language has remained relatively low during the party primaries and official campaigns period, the same is still mainly directed at women candidates. Use of threatening and/or abusive language averaged at 31% targeting women candidates, followed by 25% targeting young people, while 19% was reported for both women as voters and communities and 6% was reported for Persons with Disability.

Use of derogatory language/remarks

Use of derogatory language/remarks also increased from especially on SIGs candidates, supporters and aspirants among others.

In Uasin Gishu County the incumbent governor, Hon. Jackson Mandago (Jubilee), was reported in a rally that if a new county government the kikuyus in the area will be ejected from the area. In Nandi County during a NASA campaign, Bomet governor, Isaac Rutto (CCM) told off Jubilee supporters not to foolishly disrupt the rally or else face the consequences.

In Siaya County, Hon. Raila while addressing a rally in Bondo said "*Gumbo birokae to pogou pesa gi lesa, lesa makapier min*" translating to Gumbo anakuja hapa nakuwagawia pesa na lesa, lesa za matako ya mamake" in Kiswahili. He was attacking the Independent Governor candidate for Siaya Nicholas Gumbo.

Special Interest Groups

On 27th June 2017, IEBC informed the public that 14,552 Candidates are vying during the august elections of which 9% are Women and 13% are Youth. The total number of Registered voters stands at 19,611,423 of which 47% are Women and 51% (9,930,315) Youth. These categories of voters are part of the SIG project that is being implemented by ELOG and the report below captures the engagement of the SIGs in the electoral process as stipulated in Article 100 of the Kenya Constitution.

1. Materials in Accessible Formats and accessibility to venues

Materials in accessibility formats to PWDs increased to 52% from 49% previously. This informs that the desired accessible formats for easier readability and access for the

PWDs include making the materials in large fonts and using braille in the documentation were not accessible. This means there was a decline in the campaign information accessible to PWDs.

Accessibility of venues to PWDs increased to 67% from 61% meaning that access to the political rallies by PWDs increased to a commendable margin. The venues used by the political parties for their campaigns were easily accessible to persons with disabilities e.g. the rallies had a number of spaces designated for wheelchair users, had podiums and stands accessible to PWDs.

2. Violence or Intimidation

Violence, intimidation on SIGS during campaigns increased from 4% previously to 7%. This means that the violations in the campaign environment is increasing. Campaigns being conducted in various counties, there were incidences of the violence or intimidation.

In Bungoma County, there ensued violence following a clash between youthful supporters of an ODM aspirant MP and a Jubilee MP during the returning of the nomination papers.



Picture: A Bungoma youth being stripped off Jubilee branded t-shirt and dressed to a stray dog

In Siaya County, Hon. Raila while addressing a rally in Bondo, his utterance on an Independent candidate led to a stampede and violence as the crowd reacted back and started leaving the rally. 2 people who were youth were confirmed dead after being beaten by the crowd who were mostly Nicholas Gumbo's supporters. Gumbo is the MP for Rarieda and is vying for gubernatorial seat as Independent candidate



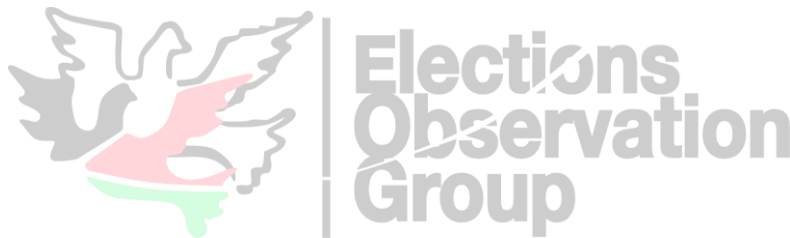
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In Murang'a County, Jubilee party Senatorial Aspirants Jubilee Irungu Kang'ata (Youth) and Independent candidate, Kembi Gitura exchanged words at the Blue Post hotel leading their supporters to clash. The nominees were waiting for the President to arrive to address other aspirants at the hotel and the incumbent Senator demanded to join the caravan of businessman Peter Munga (Equity Chair) but was denied access.

In Kakamega, Mumias West MP supporters were armed with pangas, rungas and machetes and attacked supporters of an ANC MCA Aspirant inflicting deep cuts on his head near Romania Catholic church in Masawa town as the MCA campaigned after a church service on Sunday. The MCA was rushed to the hospital and the area OCPD intervened and blocked the ANC Youth from seeking revenge.

In West Pokot, during the President address in a rally in Pokot town there was a commotion between incumbent governor, Hon. Simon Kachapin (ODM) supporters' and the aspiring governor who's the current Senator (*John Lonyangapuo*).



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