

Darubini

Ya Uchaguzi

Issue 16



**Elections
Observation
Group**

CREDIBLE. PEACEFUL. FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR	03
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	04
THE ELECTORAL LENS The Elections Blind Spot: Election Officials, Essential Workers and their Democratic Rights	05
ELECTIONS AND TECHNOLOGY Beyond the Ballot: Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Electoral Integrity in Africa	08
ELECTORAL NEWS ROUNDUP Electoral Actors Preparedness towards 2027 General Elections; Regional Co-operation matters	14
THE DARUBINI PUBLIC SQUARE	
Bunge La Mwananchi: ELOG edition	15
The People's Dialogue Festival	16
Youth & Political Parties Dialogue Summit	18
MUSINGS	20

Contributors and Credits

Editorial Team:

The Research and Documentation Desk Team- **Hilda Mulandi;**
Pauline Agesa; **Hawa Mwaura;**
Moses Nzikali

Design and Layout:

D&D Creative hub: by Denis Njunge **Phone number:**
0713081725

Photo Credits:

Communications Desk

Published by:

Elections Observation Group
(ELOG) Copyright © 2026





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 16th edition of Darubini ya Uchaguzi newsletter. As we step deeper into the electoral cycle leading to the 2027 General Elections, the questions before us are becoming sharper, clearer and more urgent. This edition turns its attention to some of the most pressing gaps in our democratic practice. The piece on electoral officials and their voting rights exposes a paradox that has persisted for too long: the very people who administer our elections are systematically unable to participate in them. That is not a minor administrative inconvenience. It is a structural denial of rights, and it deserves a deliberate legislative response well before 2027 as ELOG has consistently recommended.

The conversation on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and electoral integrity is equally timely. AI is no longer a distant prospect; it is already shaping how electoral information spreads, how campaigns target voters, and how disinformation travels. Kenya's existing

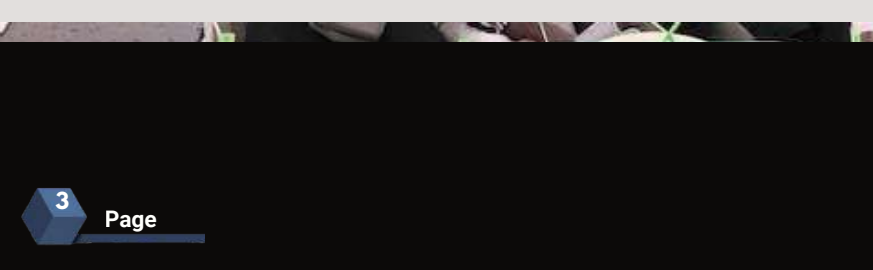
legal frameworks were simply not designed for this reality. As the Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2026 makes its way through Parliament, civil society and electoral stakeholders must be active voices in shaping how these technologies are governed.

What gives us confidence, reading through this edition, is the energy reflected in our field engagements, from the Bunge la Mwananchi forum in Westlands to the Youth and Political Parties Dialogue Summit. Citizens are actively engaged. Young people are asking harder questions. That is not something to manage; it is something to build and engage on.

The road to 2027 will be defined not just by what happens on polling day, but by the groundwork laid now. I thank our team and partners for their continued dedication, and I invite you, as always, to engage with the conversations in these pages critically and constructively
Warm Regards,

VICTOR NYONGESA

CHAIRPERSON, ELOG





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Partners,

It is a privilege to share this 16th edition of our newsletter with you. What makes it feel particularly meaningful is how much the content reflects where Kenya actually is right now, not where we hope it will be. The issue has come at an opportune time when Kenya's electoral environment continues to be shaped by emerging legislative proposals such as the Artificial Intelligence Regulation Bill, 2026, ongoing political campaigns, as well as the just concluded IEBC Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) that saw the emergence of a new mass Gen-Z led mobilization initiative "Tuko Kadi" aimed at registering the youth en masse as well as ongoing political campaigns. These issues are not occurring in isolation as they are unfolding within heightened political pressures that are steadily defining the country's path towards the 2027 General Elections.

The coming months will test the capacity of our electoral management institutions in ways we have not fully anticipated. The IEBC's announcement on voter re-registration was a reminder that even well-intentioned administrative decisions can create confusion if communication is not handled carefully especially where public confidence remains fragile. There is a need for consistent clarity, transparency and accountability as well as a sustained commitment by all relevant state and non-state actors to safeguard the integrity of the electoral processes. As the country gears up for the 2027 General Elections, it will be vital to navigate our attention to the State of Electoral Preparedness of these actors towards ensuring a transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory electoral environment.

In the current edition, ELOG presents analysis and commentaries interrogating concerns tied to voter registration and participation of a segment of voters rarely taken into consideration in the disaggregation process: election officials and essential workers as well as the impact of Artificial Intelligence on electoral processes. We hope that this read will be informative on the preparatory activities as the country prepares itself for the 2027 General Elections.

Yours sincerely,

Mulle Musau

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELOG



THE ELECTORAL LENS

THE ELECTIONS BLIND SPOT: ELECTION OFFICIALS, ESSENTIAL WORKERS AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

by Research and Documentation Desk Team



Introduction and Context-Setting

Historically, voter registration in Kenya has undergone several transitions. In 2007, under the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK), the manual register contained approximately 14 million voters. In 2010, the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC) registered 12.5 million voters within two months using Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) and Electronic Voter Registration (EVR) technologies. Following the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the IEBC was established and mandated to conduct continuous voter registration. In 2012, the Commission carried out a

fresh registration exercise using the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) technology, deploying 15,000 kits across 24,614 registration centres and registering 14,388,781 voters in just 30 days. This number grew to 19,611,423 in 2017 and further to 22,120,458 by 2022.

These developments raise an important question: are there registered voters who remain effectively disenfranchised? Nearly fifteen years after the establishment of the biometric register, gaps in electoral participation persist.

Below is the analysis of the final register of voters as presented to KPMG on 16th June 2022.

Key Figures:

Year	Number of Polling Stations	Final Number of Registered of Voters	KNBS Eligible Voters	NRB Issued IDs
2022	*46,232	22,120,458	27,857,598	29,566,678
2017	40,883	19,611,423	25,212,056	25,323,059
% Growth	13.08%	12.79%	10.49%	16.76%

Picture 1: Courtesy of IEBC Official Website



Despite significant technological advancements in voter registration, institutional and administrative mechanisms have not evolved at the same pace to safeguard the voting rights of election officials.

These individuals, who are recruited to administer elections, are typically required to report to their assigned polling stations on the eve of polling day and remain there throughout the process. While Kenya has made considerable progress in expanding voter registration and increasing the number of polling stations, limited attention has been given to ensuring that these professionals are able to participate in the very elections they oversee.

The Commission's policy and guidelines, emphasizes that polling officials be recruited from within their local areas which enhances accessibility and efficiency. In order to safeguard neutrality and avoid conflicts of interest during deployment, some officials might be assigned outside their registered polling stations. Due to the absence of alternative voting mechanisms, that is special or early voting, the same creates procedural constraints that minimize their ability to exercise their voting rights.

The scale of this issue becomes clearer when viewed in the context of the 2022 General Elections. At the time, 46,232 polling stations had been gazetted, and more than 510,770 election officials were engaged, an increase from 445,471 officials in 2017. Due to long



working hours and deployment away from their registered polling stations, many of these officials were effectively unable to cast their votes.



Picture 2: Courtesy of IEBC Official Website

As a result, election officials were disenfranchised by the very nature of their responsibilities. They are required to report to duty the day before polling and remain at their stations through the close of polls, vote counting, and results transmission. Under these conditions, it is practically impossible for them to travel to their registered polling stations to vote.

This challenge extends beyond election officials to include other essential personnel, such as security forces, deployed to safeguard polling centres until electoral processes are complete. Over time, this has raised concerns about fairness and inclusivity in democratic participation.

Moreover, voter turnout statistics rarely account for this category of registered





voters who are unable to vote due to professional obligations. As Kenya’s population continues to grow, ongoing initiatives such as Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) will further increase the number of registered voters. This, in turn, will necessitate more polling stations and a larger workforce of election officials for the 2027 General Elections, potentially exacerbating the issue.

Inevitably increasing the number of polling stations that will be required for the 2027 General Elections, thus further increasing the number of polling officials that will be required to be deployed to the polling centers.

Recommendations

Addressing this challenge will require deliberate electoral reforms aimed at ensuring that disenfranchised groups can exercise their democratic rights. Comparative experiences from other democracies demonstrate that electoral integrity can be preserved while facilitating participation by election officials. Measures such as early voting and special voting arrangements for essential workers can provide viable solutions.

In the United States, election officials and essential workers can vote early through legal provisions such as early voting and absentee ballots.



In India, polling officials can vote using postal ballots or the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).

Similar special voting arrangements exist in South Africa

Ghana has similar special voting provision

Conclusion

As Kenya prepares for the 2027 General Elections, it is essential to reflect on lessons learned from the 2022 polls. Ensuring inclusivity in electoral processes, particularly for disenfranchised groups such as election officials and security personnel will be critical. Removing administrative barriers to voting will not only uphold democratic rights but also strengthen the credibility and integrity of Kenya’s electoral system.





- [1] <https://www.facebook.com/CitizenTVKe/posts/iebc-says-individuals-registered-before-2012-need-to-register-afresh-as-they-are/1550099629808706/>
- [2] <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3.sourceafrica.net/documents/120971/Voter-Registration-Source-Book.pdf>
- [3] https://www.iebc.or.ke/uploads/resources/JqmDO7vRL0.pdf#:~:text=The%20Commission%20is%20pleased%20to%20announce%20that,and%20the%20number%20of%20polling%20stations%20*46%2C232.
- [4] The Presiding Officers, Deputy Presiding Officers, Returning Officers, Polling Clerks, Tallying Clerks, ICT Support, Security Personnel.
- [5] <https://iebc.or.ke/uploads/resources/eY2ACv8FGq.pdf>
- [6] U.S. Election Assistance Commission reports on absentee and early voting frameworks; Survey of the Performance of American Elections
- [7] Election Commission of India manuals on postal ballots for polling personnel.
- [8] Electoral Commission of Ghana: special voting arrangements.



ELECTIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Beyond the Ballot: Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Electoral Integrity in Africa

by Moses Nzikali

As African democracies approach another cycle of highly competitive elections, the role of technology in Shaping political outcomes is becoming increasingly significant. In countries like Kenya, where elections are often intensely contested and heavily mediated through digital platforms, the rise of artificial

Intelligence (AI) introduces a new dimension to electoral processes. From AI-generated disinformation to algorithmic political targeting, emerging technologies are redefining how voters access information, how campaigns mobilize support, and how electoral institutions safeguard democratic processes.



The experience of the 2022 Kenyan General Election demonstrated the growing influence of digital technologies in elections from online political campaigns to the electronic transmission of results managed by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

As AI capabilities continue to evolve, future elections across the continent may face even more complex technological challenges. Without adequate guardrails, AI-driven interference through deepfakes, automated propaganda, and algorithmic manipulation could undermine electoral integrity and erode public trust in democratic institutions.

Impact of AI on Elections and Electoral Processes: The New Digital Battleground

As Kenya gears towards the 2027 General Election, artificial intelligence is reshaping both the opportunities and risks within democratic governance. AI has begun influencing multiple stages of the electoral cycle. It is rapidly transforming the way elections are conducted, communicated, and contested across the world. In Kenya, where elections are highly competitive and deeply shaped by digital and social media discourse, this transformation carries significant implications for public trust, electoral integrity, and democratic accountability.

As Kenya prepares for the 2027 General Election, a more urgent question emerges: Is the country prepared to respond to AI-driven electoral deployment?

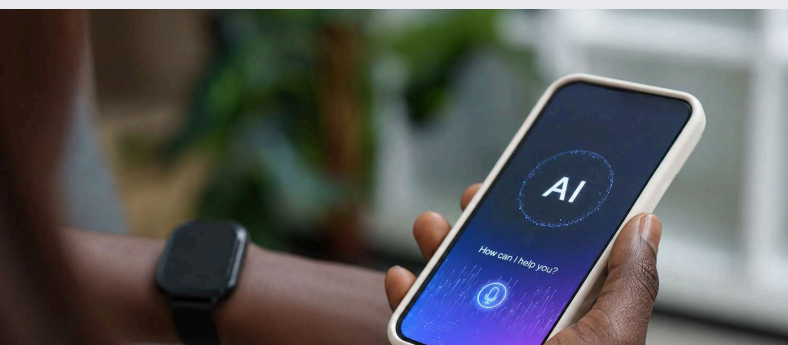
From the 2013, 2017 and 2022 General Elections, technology has continued to form a core part of Kenya's electoral processes. Starting with the biometric voter verification through the Kenya Integrated Election Management System (KIEMS) to the electronic transmission of results by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), digital tools played a visible and consequential role in election administration. At the same time, the election period also exposed the vulnerabilities that accompany technological dependence, particularly the rapid spread of disinformation and manipulated content across digital platforms through deep fakes.

AI has introduced a new layer of complexity into electoral processes. Beyond conventional disinformation, emerging technologies now enable the creation

AI offers powerful tools that could strengthen electoral governance. When responsibly deployed, these technologies can improve vote counting systems, enhance election observation, detect misinformation, and increase transparency within electoral processes.

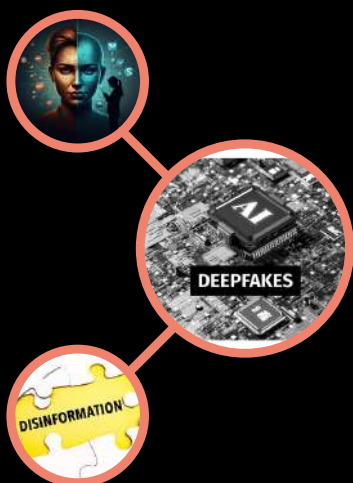


The critical challenge for policymakers, electoral institutions, and civil society is therefore not whether AI should be used in elections, but how it should be governed to protect political rights and democratic accountability.





of highly convincing deepfakes, synthetic audio, and AI-generated political messaging. These tools can fabricate speeches, manipulate videos of public officials, and create false election narratives capable of spreading rapidly through platforms such as WhatsApp, X, Facebook, and TikTok. In an environment where digital information increasingly shapes public perception, such content can distort political dialogue and erode public confidence in democratic institutions.



However, this challenge is not unique to Kenya. Democracies globally are grappling with the use of AI in micro-targeted political campaigns, automated propaganda, and bot-driven amplification of false narratives. One area where AI could significantly shape electoral administration is vote counting, including special and external vote counting processes used for diaspora voters, security personnel, and other special categories of voters.

AI-powered systems can assist electoral management bodies in processing large volumes of data quickly and detecting anomalies during counting and tallying. Machine learning algorithms may be deployed to identify irregular voting patterns, improve audit mechanisms, and enhance the efficiency of results transmission systems. However, the use of AI within electoral processes also introduces risks. Automated decision-making tools, if not transparent or properly regulated, may create concerns around manipulation, lack of oversight, or systemic bias. The legitimacy of elections depends not only on accurate vote counting but also on public trust in the integrity of the counting process. In contexts where electoral institutions are already under political pressure, poorly regulated AI systems could undermine transparency and increase suspicion among voters and political actors.



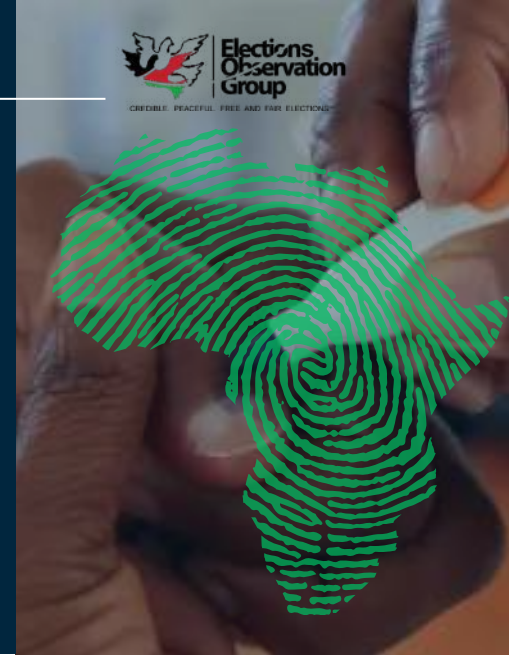
Opportunities Presented by AI in Electoral Processes: AI as a Tool for Electoral Strengthening

Despite the concerns and risks, AI also presents meaningful opportunities for strengthening electoral processes and citizen participation. Guided by an efficient regulatory framework, AI can support real-time election observation and incident analysis, detection of disinformation trends, results anomaly detection and audit support as well as faster processing of observer and citizen reports.



For Election Observers, these tools could significantly improve the speed and depth of incident reporting and analysis, particularly during high-pressure election periods

In the regional context, several countries are already leveraging digital tools in electoral governance. In South Africa and Nigeria, civil society and election observers have increasingly used advanced analytics to monitor disinformation trends and electoral incidents, offering important lessons for Kenya's evolving democratic landscape. For example:



In South Africa, electoral authorities and civil society organizations have explored digital monitoring tools and AI-assisted data analysis to track misinformation and monitor election-related conversations online.



In Nigeria, election observers and technology organizations have used advanced data analytics to monitor electoral incidents and identify patterns of electoral malpractice.



In Madagascar, digital election monitoring initiatives have used automated systems to improve transparency and reporting during electoral processes.

These cases illustrate that AI, when responsibly implemented, can enhance transparency and accountability of electoral institutions as well as enhance inclusivity, election observation, improve voter education, and strengthen the ability of institutions to detect irregularities.

Kenya's Preparedness to Respond to AI-Driven Impact on Electoral Processes Legal and Institutional Gaps



Kenya has made commendable progress in digitizing electoral management. However, the governance framework for AI-driven electoral risks such as political deepfakes, algorithmic campaign targeting, and AI-generated disinformation remains underdeveloped and can influence public trust in electoral processes and institutions. These gaps have raised important questions about institutional readiness ahead of 2027. Electoral bodies, regulators, media institutions, and civil society may need stronger technical capacity and coordinated response mechanisms to detect and counter AI-enabled interference.



In this regard, a bill is currently in Parliament, that is, the Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2026 that sets out a comprehensive framework that will govern the use of AI technologies in Kenya. The Bill seeks to ensure that AI is developed and deployed in a manner that is ethical, transparent and accountable, while simultaneously safeguarding human rights, data privacy and public welfare. Further, the bill aims to address gaps in the existing laws such as the Data Protection Act, 2019 and The Science, Technology and Innovation Act.

Further, the bill proposes for the establishment of the Office of the Artificial Intelligence Commissioner, which will act as the primary regulator overseeing AI systems in Kenya.

Despite these emerging risks, Kenya’s current legal and policy frameworks have not fully caught up with the realities of AI and its impact within electoral contexts.

Existing laws, including the Data Protection Act (2019) and the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, provide important safeguards for data privacy and cybersecurity. Additionally, the proposed Artificial Intelligence Bill, 2026 seeks to establish a more comprehensive framework to govern AI in Kenya as well as proposes the establishment of a regulatory authority. However, it is still unclear on how these provisions will apply to governance and electoral spaces. The same creates a regulatory gap when AI technology is becoming more accessible and sophisticated.

However, they do not comprehensively address the manner in which Artificial Intelligence is utilized in the governance and electoral spaces.

As a result, key gaps that remain un-checked with AI tools are becoming widely available, harder to detect and easier to use include:



a) AI-generated mis/disinformation and deepfakes



b) Targeted political messaging especially during campaigns



c) Automated online political campaigns



d) The broader use of AI tools in political communication



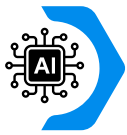
What do these gaps mean for Kenya’s elections?

If the aforementioned gaps are not addressed, their implications on elections could influence voters decision-making and voting patterns in a manner that might prove difficult to verify or challenge in real-time. Further, targeted messaging could reinforce political divisions, while manipulated videos or audios could tarnish the credibility of candidates and institutions thus eroding public trust in electoral processes, which is central to the credibility of elections.



Recommendations: What Must be Done Before 2027?

To safeguard political rights and electoral integrity in the age of AI, several reforms should be prioritized. The same should include:



a) Strengthen Regulatory Frameworks-Develop clear legal guidelines on the use of AI in political campaigns and election communication.



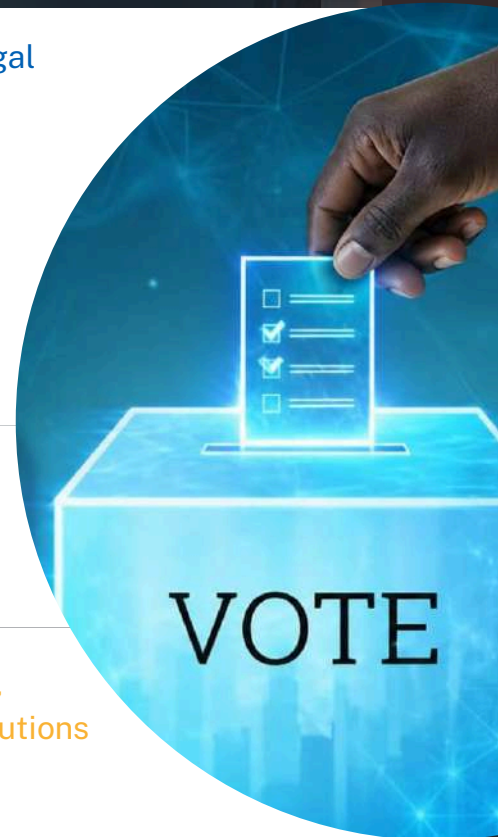
b) Build institutional response capacity-Strengthen the technical capacity of Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), media watchdogs, and election observers to detect fake news, disinformation.



c) Improve digital literacy-Public awareness campaigns should equip citizens to identify deepfakes, false results announcements, and manipulated political content.



d) Enhance multi-stakeholder collaboration-Civil society, technology platforms, media houses, and electoral institutions must work together to safeguard electoral integrity.



Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly transforming the landscape of democratic governance. It is no longer a future electoral issue but rather a present democratic reality. With respect to Kenya and other democracies, ensuring digital tools are strengthened to enhance democratic trust is vital. As the country prepares for the 2027 General Election, safeguarding electoral integrity in the digital age must become a central pillar of reform.

[1] <https://www.freiheit.org/germany/ai-super-election-year-revolution-or-familiar-threat-new-guise>

[2] <https://cioafrica.co/kenya-tables-ai-bill-proposing-regulator-risk-rules-and-penalties/>



ELECTORAL NEWS ROUNDUP

Electoral Actors Preparedness towards 2027 General Elections; Regional Co-operation matters

ELOG Report / Source Area	Key Recommendation	Reference in Reform Discourse / Bills	Institution(s) Referenced	Status of Uptake
<p>ELOG 20132017 Election Observation Reports (ELOG)</p>	<p>Timely enactment of electoral reforms; comprehensive review of electoral legal and institutional framework (including IEBC operations, technology, and dispute resolution)</p>	<p>Reflected in recurring proposals for electoral law review and reform agenda discussions in Parliament . The Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2024 & Election Offences (Amendment) Bill, 2024 are currently under joint parliamentary mediation between the Senate and the National Assembly to resolve disagreements. Parliament further urged to fast-track the consideration and passage of key Bills arising from the NADCO report within 90 days (from 10th March 2026) [A1] based on the report presented by the Committee overseeing the Implementation of the 10-Point Agenda and NADCO Report.[1][2][3]</p>	<p>Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission; Parliament of Kenya</p>	<p>Partially acknowledged , not fully implemented</p>
<p>[1] https://signstv.co.ke/joint-parliament-team-proposed-to-fast-track-nadco-bills [1] https://www.kbc.co.ke/nadco-report-parliament-urged-to-fast-track-key-bills-in-90-days/ [1] https://thekenyatimes.com/national/list-of-laws-drafted-to-seal-election-loopholes-in-kenya-under-nadco-reforms/</p>				
<p>ELOG Mid-Cycle Review on Electoral Reforms (Post-2017) (ELOG)</p>	<p>Strengthening electoral administration, voter registration integrity, technology transparency, and accountability</p>	<p>Reflected in proposals on Elections Act amendments and voter register audits</p>	<p>IEBC; ORPP; Parliament</p>	<p>Fragmented adoption (administrative > legislative)</p>
<p>ELOG FURIC Engagement Findings (Regional Observation Platforms)</p>	<p>15 priority reform areas including: voter registration integrity, results transmission transparency, electoral justice timelines, political party reforms</p>	<p>Informing ongoing electoral reform conversations, including Political Parties Act amendments and NADCO-linked reform discussions</p>		<p>Emerging influence, not yet codified into law</p>



<p>ELOG Pre-Election Observation Reports (2022–2025 by-elections) (ABC News Africa)</p>	<p>Strengthening results management, regulating party agents, improving voter education, and enforcement of electoral rules</p>	<p>Reflected in operational recommendations to IEBC and security agencies rather than Bills</p>	<p>Office of the Registrar of Political Parties; IEBC; Parliament</p>	<p>Operational uptake, weak legislative translation</p>
<p>ELOG Thematic Advocacy (Uchaguzi Platform & Electoral Reform Dialogues) (ELOG)</p>	<p>Electoral legal framework reforms, campaign finance regulation, and inclusive participation (youth, women, SIGs)</p>	<p>Appears in ongoing Bills discussions (e.g., Political Parties Act amendments, referendum and governance reform proposals)</p>	<p>Parliament; ORPP; Civil society</p>	<p>Partially reflected in draft reforms, slow enactment</p>

THE DARUBINI PUBLIC SQUARE



Bunge La Mwananchi:

ELOG engaged citizens at the Westlands Bunge la Mwananchi structure, taking its efforts directly to a grassroots public forum known for open and participatory dialogue. The visit

formed part of ELOG’s broader commitment to strengthening citizen awareness and involvement in electoral processes by meeting people within their everyday spaces of discussion and debate.

During the session, ELOG introduced its work in election observation, highlighting its role in promoting credible, transparent, and accountable elections in Kenya. The team also shared key findings from its FURIC engagements conducted across

selected Regional Observation Platforms. These consultations brought together diverse citizen voices and experiences, culminating in the identification of 15 priority areas for electoral reforms



ELOG, in collaboration with SKIIKA, engaging with Bunge la Mwananchi.



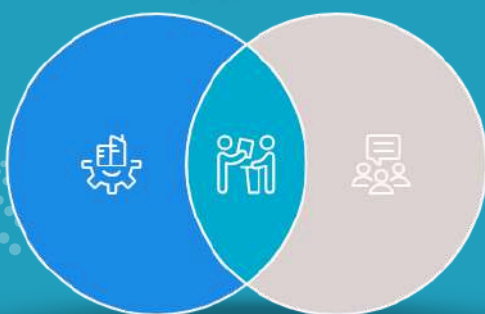


that reflect pressing challenges and opportunities within the electoral process.

The engagement created space for an interactive exchange, with participants raising concerns and contributing perspectives on issues such as voter registration, electoral technology, dispute resolution mechanisms, and institutional trust. By presenting the reform priorities in an accessible and relatable manner, ELOG helped bridge the gap between technical reform processes and citizens' everyday realities.

Accessible Electoral Engagement

Technical Reform Processes



Citizen Realities



ELOG in collaboration with SKIIKA engaging with Bunge la Mwananchi

This outreach at the Bunge la Mwananchi reaffirmed the importance of grounding electoral reform efforts in citizen voices. It demonstrated that meaningful change is not only driven by policy discussions at higher levels, but also by continuous dialogue with wananchi, whose lived experiences remain central to shaping a more credible and inclusive electoral system.

The People's Dialogue Festival

ELOG participated in the 8th edition of the People's Dialogue Festival as part of its ongoing commitment to strengthening democratic governance and electoral integrity in Kenya. The festival provided a timely platform for ELOG to engage with citizens, policymakers, and fellow civil society actors on emerging issues shaping the country's electoral landscape, particularly as momentum builds toward the 2027 General Elections.

Through its engagements, ELOG contributed to conversations on electoral accountability, youth participation, and the growing demand for transparency and responsiveness in governance.



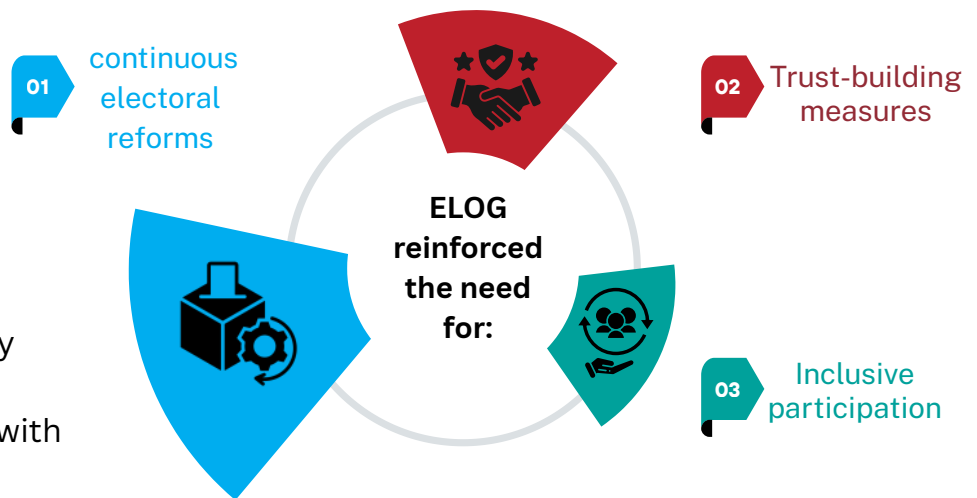
The Peoples Dialogue Festival (PDF) 2026



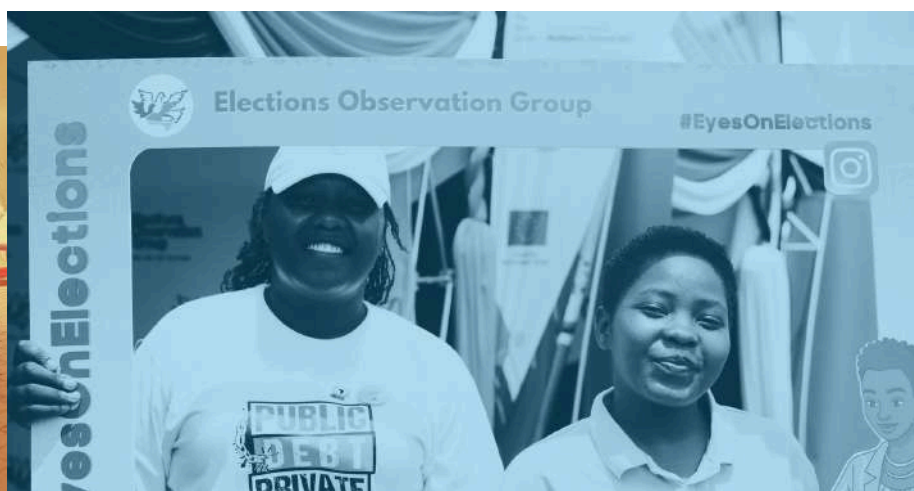
ELOG's side session at the Ni Sisi Ni Sasa Village

A notable feature of these discussions was the prominence of young voices, whose experiences and perspectives continue to redefine civic engagement in Kenya. ELOG emphasized the importance of harnessing this energy constructively, ensuring that citizen expression translates into meaningful policy and institutional reforms.

The festival also offered an opportunity for ELOG to highlight its evidence-based approach to election observation and advocacy. By drawing on its research and field experience, These engagements not only deepened dialogue but also strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders working to advance credible and peaceful elections.



ELOG's participation ultimately underscored the value of dialogue as a driver of democratic progress. The insights and connections gained from the festival will inform its future programming, as the organization continues to champion a transparent, accountable, and citizen-centered electoral process in Kenya.





YOUTH & POLITICAL PARTIES DIALOGUE SUMMIT



The youth & Political Parties Dialogue Summit convened by ORPP in partnership with IRI

On 24th March 2026, key stakeholders gathered in Nairobi for the Youth and Political Parties Dialogue Summit, convened by the office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) in partnership with the International Republican Institute (IRI). The summit brought together young people, political party representatives, and electoral actors in a timely conversation about the evolving role of youth in Kenya's political landscape.

At the heart of the discussions was a clear and consistent message: young people are not disengaged from politics, they are seeking more meaningful, inclusive, and responsive avenues for participation. Participants highlighted the disconnect between youth aspirations and the current structures of political parties, pointing to barriers such as limited representation, high costs of participation, and a lack of internal party democracy.

The summit also served as a platform to challenge political parties to rethink their engagement strategies. There were strong calls for parties to engage in:

Of critical importance, the dialogue underscored the need to rebuild trust between young citizens and political institutions. This includes strengthening transparency, accountability, and continuous civic engagement beyond electoral cycles. The emphasis on peaceful participation and responsible political engagement further reflected a shared commitment to safeguarding democratic processes.

As Kenya looks ahead to the 2027 General Elections, the outcomes of the summit point to a critical opportunity: aligning political party structures with the energy, creativity, and demands of the country's youth. Doing so will not only enhance representation but also contribute to a more inclusive and resilient democracy.

Young leaders express desire to shape policy and governance year-round



Participants urge parties to create safe spaces and move beyond tokenism



calls for political parties to institutionalize youth inclusion



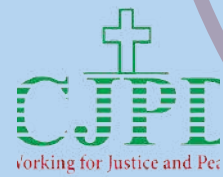


Artificial intelligence will be the most transformative technology of the 21st century

– Jensen Huang,
CEO, NVIDIA

- MUSINGS -

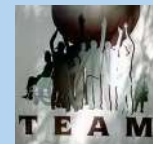




Centre for
Minority Rights
Development



I.E.D INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION IN DEMOCRACY
"Peaceful Positive Change"



Jumuia Place, Lenana Road P.O Box is
45009-00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
Tel. +254 715551268 Email:
info@elog.or.ke



CREDIBLE PEACEFUL FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS