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

Objective: To establish the challenges faced in the control of 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 inadequate resources and poor networks among security agencies (29.1%); corruption and lack of integrity in the electoral process (18.7%); electorate illiteracy and ignorance (18.7%); political leader impunity and selfishness (13.5%); tribalism, nepotism, hatred and hostility (12.3%); inadequate cooperation and partisan interests among concerned agencies (9.5%) were the major challenges faced in the control of election crimes and offences. Other challenges include inadequate civic education mechanisms, insecurity in some parts of the country, poverty, lack of government commitment to credible elections, prosecution of perpetrators, poor and inappropriate election infrastructure, public apathy, drug abuse among youth and media bias.

Conclusion To address these challenges, it is recommended that law enforcement agencies be allocated adequate resources and their capacity built to enhance their investigative and prosecutorial skills. Proper civic education on elections be intensified and illiteracy and unemployment addressed in the country. Moreover, problems posed by insecurity, ethnic and clan differences needs to be dealt with well before the electioneering period. The various security and other agencies in the electoral processes needs to adopt a coordinated approach to register higher success rates in their undertakings.

References::

Government of Kenya (2008). The Waki Report on Post-Election Violence, 2008. Nairobi: Government Printer.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission. (2014). Post-Election Evaluation Report on the March 4th 2013 General Elections. Nairobi: IEBC.

National Crime Research Centre. (2016). Election Crimes and Offences in Kenya Report. Nairobi: NCRC.

Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. (2013). Report of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. Nairobi: TJRC.