



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

Objective: To identify the perpetrators 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 nonprobability 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, Bungoma, Mombasa, Kwale, Tana River, Marsabit, Isiolo, Uasin Gishu (Eldoret), Bomet, Narok and Garissa.

Findings: According to NCRC (2016) report on election crimes and offences in Kenya, the main perpetrators of election crimes and offences were political aspirants/candidates (45.7%), unemployed youth (28%), supporters of politicians (14.5%), party officials and agents (13.5%), voters (11.4%), rogue election officials (8.8%), other government agencies (7.0%) and criminal gangs (5.8%).

Politicians and their allies bribed the poor and illiterates for votes and propagated hate speech against opponents. Unemployed youths are easily lured with cash, drugs and other promises and end up committing serious crimes especially in political rallies.

On perpetrators per County, the study established that political aspirants/candidates were the leading in almost all the counties and were mostly prominent in Narok (91%), Garissa (72.4%), Siaya (55.8%) and Bomet (51.6%). Unemployed youth were the main perpetrators of election crimes and offences in Narok (56.7%), Kisumu (49.1%), Siaya (40.4%), Nairobi (36.8%) and Garissa (5.2%) Counties. Supporters of politicians the leading in Bomet (35.9%), Kitui (29.2%), Kakamega (18.1%), Narok (17.9%) and Garissa (17.2%) Counties.

Party officials were the leading perpetrators in Siaya (23.1%), Tana River (20.7%), Migori (19.6%) and Kakamega (19.4%). Voters perpetrated election crimes in Garissa (32.8%), Siaya (25.0%) and Narok (19.4%) Counties.

Election officials were leading as perpetrators of election crimes and offences in Siaya (21.2%), Tana River (20.7%) and Bomet (15.6%) Counties. On the other hand, Government officials were leading perpetrators of election crimes and offences in Siaya (17.3%), Nairobi (15.8%) and Kisumu (15.1%) Counties. Criminal gangs committed election crimes and offences in all counties except in Kirinyaga, Kericho, Migori and Marsabit Counties.

Conclusion: Election crimes and offences in Kenya are perpetrated by a cross section of individuals and groups. There is need to especially target political aspirants/candidates in anti-election crimes and offences campaigns. Government must ensure adherence to the provisions of legislations such as Elections Act and the Code of Conduct for Public Servants. It is also imperative to address youth unemployment challenge in Kenya.

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