

The Role of ICT in Electoral Processes: Case of Kenya

Elyjoy Micheni^{1*} and Julius Murumba²

^{*1}Department of Management Science and Technology, The Technical University of
Kenya,
²Kibabii University,

Abstract:

Healthy democracies require high levels of explicit participation by citizens in political life of their countries, from voting empowerment to monitoring government performance. ICT is a tool which when used appropriately can help citizens participate in the political affairs of their countries. Through use of information technologies such as database management systems, biometrics voter registration and identification, optical scanning, block chains and digital networks, secure and robust systems for digital voting can be devised. The objective of this paper are to highlight the types of technologies used in electoral systems and results transmission, Investigate the challenges faced in using these technologies and to establish benefits of technology use in electoral processes. The study was conducted through a desk search on elections materials, elections observer reports, international and Kenyan laws on elections and reports by the Kenya's EMB, IEBC. The study concludes that legislative and regulatory items that govern elections in African countries need to be reviewed to cope with new and emerging technologies. When considering technological solutions for electoral processes, Election Management Bodies must conduct adequate feasibility studies and proper strategic planning to ensure that they have sufficient plans and time for the introduction of new technologies
Keywords: ICT, Electoral Systems, Results Transmission

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