

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
ELECTIONS RELATED CONFLICTS; A CASE OF KITUI WEST CONSTITUENCY –
KITUI COUNTY**

KITONGA KIEMA HENDENG’U

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
KIKUYU LIBRARY
P. O. Box 30197
NAIROBI**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ART IN PROJECT PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT**

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

2012

Bd 352528

DECLARATION

This project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other award in any other university or other institutions of higher learning.



7-8-2012

KIEMA KITONGA HENDENG'U

DATE

L50/65541/2011

This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as university supervisor.

Ursula Acheng Okoth

08/08/2012

DR. URSULA ACHIENG OKOTH

DATE

LECTURER

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

ABSTRACT

The study investigated the factors that influence prevention and management of election related conflict in Kitui West constituency of Kitui County, Kenya. The main objectives of the study were; to establish the role of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in prevention and management of election related conflict. To assess the influence of state on prevention and management of election related conflicts, to examine the influence of media on the prevention and management of election related conflict. To assess the influence of the civil society on prevention and management of election related conflicts. To establish the influence of political parties on prevention and management of election related conflict. To ascertain the delimitation of boundaries on prevention and management of election related conflict. The research design used was descriptive analysis. There were different sampling techniques used for the study due to the nature of the population studied and they included stratified; cluster, random and purposive sampling. Data was collected using two instruments namely a questionnaire and an interview schedule while data analysis was done by use of descriptive statistics.

The findings of the study were that EMBs played a key role in prevention and management of election related conflicts through the laws enacted to be followed during the entire voting process. The state was found to have failed because of the many cases which were still pending in courts and also because the courts were seen not to be independent. The media's role was mainly found to be that of informing people of areas where conflict was likely to occur though it was seen to be accelerating conflict in other instance.

Civil societies were found to be providers when and after the conflicts occur though they were credited for being the custodians of civic education. Political parties and their candidates were found not to follow the set laws resulting to various incidents of conflict in the society.

Delimitation of the constituencies were found not to have been done as per the set regulations resulting to the many conflicts that were witnessed as well as cases being taken to court on the same.

DEDICATION

This research project report is dedicated with a lot of respect and appreciation to my loving wife Eunice Kitonga and sons Harry, Fred and Collins. May this work inspire you to greater heights of exploration in your desired academic and professional fields. Secondly I also dedicate this work to my beloved parents Kiema Mulovwe and Munani Kiema.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Am indebted to acknowledge the sacrifices, contributions and support that I received from people throughout the project process. First, I would like to thank chairperson of the program, Dr. Kyalo Ndunge. Further acknowledgement to my supervisor, Dr. Ursulla Achieng Okoth for the grace, patience, time, and support on completing this project work. I would also like to thank all the other coursework lecturers for moderating my research work. Sincerely I recognize the work done by Mr. Mbala for training us on SPSS and Ms Mbi for being my advocate; not just for giving me advice on bettering my research but on how to survive the process. I would like to thank all my friends for the encouragement and support while I immersed myself in the project process. Thanks to Kavili, Kyavoa, Saki, Mutembei, Kamau and Nzomo for enduring the journey with me, I am grateful we will graduate together. Also thanks to my office assistant, Ms Lydia Mumbe who assisted me in data collection and editing of the document. Many thanks and appreciation for my wife, Eunice Kitonga who provided an inspiring and conducive atmosphere during my study and my entire family who provided encouragement long before this master's endeavor began. Much appreciation goes to my dad, Kiema Mulovwe, who has always believed in me and my in-law Beatrice Sammy who gave support all along.

Table of contents

DECLARATION.....	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
DEDICATION.....	iv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xi
CHAPTER ONE:.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background to the study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem.....	5
1.3 Purpose of the Study	5
1.4 Objectives of the study.....	6
1.6 Significance of the study.....	7
1.7 Assumptions of study.....	7
1.8 Delimitations of the study.....	8
1.9 Limitations of the study	8
1.11 Operational definition of key words	9
CHAPTER TWO:.....	10
LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.1 Introduction.....	10
2.2 Election related violence/conflict	10
2.3 Causes of Election Violence	11
2.4 Early warning signs for election conflicts	13
2.5 Conflict prevention and management	14
2.6 Factors that determine the outcome of any election	15
2.6.1 The election management bodies (EMBs).....	15
2.6.2 Election court	16
2.6.3 The media.....	16

2. 6.4 Political parties and candidates	20
2.6.5 Civil society (CSOs).....	21
2.6.6 Boundary delimitation.....	22
2.6.7 Government	26
2.7 Conflict management and mitigation.....	26
2.8 Knowledge Gap	27
2.9 Conceptual framework.....	28
CHAPTER THREE:.....	29
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	29
3.1 Introduction.....	29
3.2 Research Design.....	29
3.3 Target population	29
3.4 Sample size and sampling procedure	30
3.5 Data collection	32
3.5.1 Development of the questionnaire.....	32
3.6 Data collection procedures.....	32
3.7 Instrument Validity	33
3.8 Instrument reliability.....	33
3.9 Data analysis	34
3.11 Operational definition of variables	35
CHAPTER FOUR	36
DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.....	36
4.1 Introduction.....	36
4.2 Questionnaire return rate.....	36
4.3 Stakeholders Demographics.....	37
4.4 Items on factors that influence prevention and management of election related conflict ...	39
4.4.1: Items on EMBs.....	40

4.4.2: Items on the state.....	41
4.4.3: Items on media	42
4.4.4 Items on civil societies	43
4.4.5 Items on the delimitation of boundaries.....	46
CHAPTER FIVE	50
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	50
5.1 Introduction.....	50
5.2 Summary of the findings.....	50
5.3. Conclusions of the study.....	56
5.4. Recommendations and suggestions of the study	57
5.5 Suggestions for further study	58
APPENDICES	62
APPENDIX A: LETTER TO RESPONDENTS	62
APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE STAKE HOLDERS.....	63
APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS	67

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire rate.....	36
Table 2: Election stakeholder's gender.....	37
Table 3: Distribution of the election stakeholder's responses as per age of respondent.....	38
Table 4: Responses as to the academic qualifications of the stakeholders	39
Table 5: Responses as to whether all the stakeholders were registered voters.....	39
Table 6: Responses as to the role of EMBs in prevention of election related conflicts.....	40
Table 7: Responses as to how the courts/state influence prevention of election conflicts.....	41
Table 8: Responses as to the influence of media in prevention of election related conflicts.....	42
Table 9: Responses as to the influence of civil societies in prevention of election conflicts.....	44
Table 10: Distribution of responses as to how political parties influence influences prevention of election related conflict.....	45
Table 11: Responses as to the influence of delimitation of boundaries in prevention of election related conflicts.....	46
Table 12: District Commissioners response on how these factors prevent election related conflicts.....	47

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Sample size 31

Figure 2: Operationalization of variables 35

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
BP	Besieged populations
CBEWER	Community-based early warning and early response
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DCs	District Commissioners
ECK	Electoral Commission of Kenya
EISA	Electoral Institute of Southern Africa
GSDRC	Governance and Social Development Resource Centre
IDPs	internally displaced persons.
IEBC	The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission
IFES	International Foundations for Electoral Systems
IPI	International Peace Institute
MP	Members of parliament
NGOs	Non Governmental Organization
PEV	Post Election Violence
UNDP	United Nations Development Programmes

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
KIKUYU LIBRARY
P.O. Box 30197
NAIROBI

CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

The former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali described conflict prevention as preventive diplomacy, an “action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and limit the spread of the latter when they occur (Nkwachukwu, 2003). According to Ettang, Ouma-Nzovu & Osula- Bakwesegha (2011) conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy apply to situations where conflict is still in its embryonic stage and measures are taken to contain its escalation while conflict management applies when a conflict has already occurred and is beginning to escalate, but measures are put in place to reduce the intensity of violence associated with such conflict.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2009) indicates that when elections meet global standards of fairness, administrative professionalism and respect for human rights, they provide popular support and legitimacy for both the sitting and elected governments. When people have the opportunity to participate freely in public life and to choose their leaders through a free and open process, they are less likely to feel a need to resort to violence to resolve their differences or to make their voices heard.

However, because electoral processes are fundamentally about the attainment of political power, often in high-stakes contexts, they can sometimes be a catalyst or accelerator of conflict. Electoral conflict and violence become tactics in political competition. It is when an electoral process is perceived as unfair, unresponsive, or corrupt, that its political legitimacy is compromised and stakeholders are motivated to go outside the established norms to achieve their

objectives (Fischer, 2002). Experience shows that electoral contests can elevate social tensions and provoke violence, especially when the electoral process itself is not perceived to be free and fair, or where those seeking to retain or gain political power have few or no qualms about resorting to extraordinary measures—including the use of force—to win (UNDP, 2009).

While the regularity and frequency of elections since the reintroduction of multi party systems in Africa has generated a sense of demo-optimism (Lindberg 2008) there has recently emerged a worrying trend of election-related violent conflict that threatens democracy, peace, stability and sustainable human development. Bekoa (2010) agree that Conflict and tension during elections have been common in Africa's new democracies—coming into existence in the 1990s during the third wave of democracy. Studies indicate that violence in Africa's elections affect between 19 and 25 percent of elections. In many countries where electoral violence is a risk, it tends to recur and may consequently lead to an unfavorable view of democratization.

Electoral competition for state power has become a norm and most African states have now held more than three successive elections (Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) Policy Brief, 2010). Many new democracies, especially those with strong authoritarian legacies or deep ethnic cleavages common in many African countries, find it difficult to manage political opposition (Bekoa, 2010).

The manner in which these tensions are managed can make the difference between an election that proceeds peacefully versus one that degenerates into violence. The factors that propel such violence are multifaceted, ranging from flawed or failed elections to structural issues such as poor governance and exclusionary political practices, to name but a few. In many cases elections have either precipitated political disputes or have escalated simmering tensions to an outburst of conflict. For example, in the past five years there has been violent election-related conflict in

Kenya (2007/08), Zimbabwe (2008), Nigeria (2007), Lesotho (2007), the Democratic Republic of Congo (2006), Togo (2005), Zanzibar (2005), and Guinea Bissau (2008). The increasing prevalence of electoral violence on the continent highlights the challenges facing those who aim to prevent and manage such conflict nationally, regionally and continentally (EISA, 2010).

Election-related violence can be defined as the acts or threats of coercion, intimidation, or physical harm perpetrated to affect an electoral process or that arise in the context of electoral competition. When perpetrated to affect an electoral process, violence may be employed to influence the process of elections—such as efforts to delay, disrupt, or derail a poll—and to influence the outcomes: the determining of winners in competitive races for political office or to secure approval or disapproval of referendum questions UNDP (2009).

Violent acts can be targeted against people or things, such as the targeting of communities or candidates or the deliberate destruction of campaign materials, vehicles, offices, or ballot boxes UNDP (2009).

Electoral violence includes acts, such as assassination of opponents or spontaneous fistbuffs between rival groups of supporters— and threats, coercion, and intimidation of opponents, voters, or election officials. Threat and intimidation are forms of coercion that are just as powerful as acts of violence can be. Indeed, one purpose of acts of broader intimidation—such as tossing a grenade into a crowd of rival supporters—is to induce fear and to intimidate (e.g., to suppress mobilization or voting by that group UNDP (2009). Discussing prevention strategies that could be implemented in order to mitigate electoral violence firstly requires the identification of the different types of electoral violence (Larsrud, 2007).

Kenya had been regarded as a beacon of stability in Africa until tragic post-election violence erupted, leaving more than 1,500 people dead and hundreds of thousands displaced in January and February 2008. It took more than eight weeks and the intervention of African leaders before negotiations facilitated by former UN Secretary- General Kofi Annan brought about an end to the carnage. A mediated agreement on power sharing was signed by the president and the leader of the opposition at the end of February 2008 UNDP (2009).

In 2007 the issue of electoral violence was important and embedded in the voter education and media programs but was not elevated as a highest priority UNDP (2009). Electoral violence emerged subsequently and even more recently as a major voter education concern hence the interest of the researcher in this study of factors influencing prevention and management of violent election related conflict to close the gap.

Kitui West Constituency

Kitui West Constituency is an electoral constituency in Kitui County. The constituency was established for the 1966 elections. It borders Mwingi South and Masinga constituencies to the north, Yatta and Mwala constituencies to the west, and Kitui South and Kitui Central to the east. It comprises of three Districts namely; Kitui West (Mutonguni), Matinyani, and Lower Yatta. Its size is 1865sq km with a population 159,367 (Census Results, 2009). Total registered voters are 55,512 (IEBC Records,). Most of the political power has been skewed to one “the Mwendwa family” (ECK Reports, 2007). Apart from Charles Mutisya Nyamai who comes from Lower Yatta and the rest come from Matinyani ward. According to IEBC records (2012) the constituency has 11 wards.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The conflict in Kitui West constituency has been between the Lower Yatta people and the Matinyani/Mutonguni people all struggling for political supremacy (ECK Reports, 2007). At the moment Lower Yatta District has been carved out to create Kitui Rural Constituency. However the Mutonguni and Matinyani people are not comfortable with the delimitation because they want Kwa Vonza which is a location of Lower Yatta District be retained in Kitui West (i.e Matinyani and Mutonguni region). Majority of people of lower Yatta District comprises of settlers from mainly Makueni and Machakos a reason for the rampant conflicts over resources especially within Kanyonyoo sub location in kwa vonza location lower Yatta district (IEBC REPORT on delimitation meeting held on 17th Jan 2012). The concern to promote peace and stability in the area created interest and the need to investigate the factors influencing the prevention and management of election related conflicts in Kitui West Constituency so that a repeat of the spate of violent conflict which caused extensive damage, loss of life and property and led to internally displaced persons (IDPs) or besieged populations (BP) (National Policy on Peace building and Conflict Management, 2009) experienced in Kenya in 2007 may be dealt with early before the 2012/2013 General Election. This study, therefore, seeks to investigate the factors influencing prevention and management of election related conflicts.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the factors influencing the prevention and management of elections-related conflicts in prevention of conflict associated with election.

1.4 Objectives of the study

1. To establish the role of EMBs in prevention and management of election related conflict.
2. To assess the influence of state on prevention and management of election related conflicts
3. To examine the influence of media on the prevention and management of election related conflict.
4. To assess the influence of the civil society on prevention and management of election related conflicts.
5. To establish the influence of political parties on prevention and management of election related conflict.
6. To ascertain the delimitation of boundaries on prevention and management of election related conflict.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What is the role of EMBs in prevention and management of election related conflict?
2. How does the state influence prevention and management of election related conflicts?
3. How do the media influence the prevention and management of election related conflict?
4. How does the civil society influence prevention and management of election related conflicts?
5. What influence do the political parties have on prevention and management of election related conflict?
6. How does the delimitation of boundaries influence the prevention and management of election related conflict?

1.6 Significance of the study

The study identified the factors that influence the prevention and management of electoral related conflict with the aim of conducting free elections in developing countries Kenya included. As such the body charged with managing elections in Kenya, The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) can gain by reading the findings of the study to ensure that the subsequent elections are free of violence.

It will also strengthen the knowledge of relevant staff of Electoral Management Bodies (EMB); IEBC on general and specific patterns of electoral Violence and its relations with Electoral Processes.

It is also anticipated that any discrepancies uncovered and subsequently the alternative procedure and techniques which will be recommended by this study will shed light on potential reforms on the electoral process by the relevant authorities.

The findings further added to the general body of knowledge in the area of election conflicts, prevention and management of elections in Kenya that will be of use to other scholars and thus become a basic source for further training of all election stakeholders on election management.

1.7 Assumptions of study

The basic assumptions of the study were: -

1. That the target populations have knowledge from past experience on election related conflicts.
2. That the respondents will be truthful in responding to the questionnaire
3. That the finding of this study will be looked into and the findings be implemented where applicable.

1.8 Delimitations of the study

The study took place in the large Kitui West Constituency before the delimitations early this year (2012) which saw part of it caved to form Kitui Rural Constituency. The study also focused on the factors that influence the prevention and management of election related conflicts. However the literature touched on the different types of election related violence since discussing prevention strategies that could be implemented in order to mitigate electoral violence firstly requires the identification of the different types of electoral violence

1.9 Limitations of the study

The study covered a large constituency in terms of area hence the challenge of high cost in terms of time and finances. Coupled with that is the fact that the respondents were not stationed in one place especially hence this caused a challenge in locating the sampled population.

The researcher collected articles relying on the databases of Elton B. Stephens Company (EBSCO host), ProQuest ABI, Science direct, Journal Storage Project (JSTOR) and Wiley Interscience and thus may have overlooked crucial viewpoints from monographs.

1.11 Operational definition of key words

Conflict in elections - A general term that “arises when two or more persons or groups with interest in elections manifest the belief that they have incompatible objectives”

Conflict management- Occurs when a conflict has already occurred and is beginning to escalate, but measures are put in place to reduce the intensity of violence associated with such conflict

Conflict Preventive -applies to situations where conflict is still in its embryonic stage and measures are taken to contain its escalation.

Election-related conflict - any random or organised act or threat to intimidate, physically harm, blackmail, or abuse a political stakeholder in seeking to determine, delay, or to otherwise influence an electoral process”

Factors - Anything that contributes to management and prevention of election related conflict.

Violence - It is a symptom of conflict that points to unresolved conflict and deeply frustrated feelings.

CHAPTER TWO:

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This is chapter two of the study and it contains reviewed literature which is related to the study on the factors that influence the prevention and management of election related conflicts. The subtopic includes, Election related violence, Causes of Election Violent, how election related conflicts can be anticipated (Early warning for election sign), factors influencing the prevention and management of violent election related conflicts, conflict prevention and management and the challenges faced in preventing and managing election related conflict. It also leads to development of the theoretical and conceptual framework of the study.

2.2 Election related violence/conflict

Discussing prevention strategies that could be implemented in order to mitigate electoral violence firstly requires the identification of the different types of electoral violence. Violence is one of the greatest threats to free and fair elections. The emergence of electoral violence/conflict is not a result of the process being followed, but signals a critical departure from the accepted rules that govern the process (Lerserud, 2007). Dundas in Lerserud, (2007) suggests distinguishing between violence aimed at disrupting elections by actors who do not want the elections to take place at all and Violence triggered by the rivalry between the contesting candidates/parties. In the first national security forces can be mobilized and target the obstructionists. The second type of violence triggered by rivalry between the contestants, can be controlled by other measures such as: codes of conduct for political parties with strong sanctions

penalizing electoral violence, intensive voter/civic education programmes concerned with election campaigns and polling, and also special programmes/ activities aimed at preparing parties and candidates for election loss.

Another distinction of electoral conflict, identified by Mohamed in Lerserud, (2007) is based on the different times during the electoral cycle when violence takes place. Hence conflicts before, during and after elections. The pre-electoral period conflicts are often connected to voter registration processes and their perception as unfair or biased. Such conflicts could be mitigated by transparent registration accompanied by voter education. Compulsory registration as opposed to voluntary is another potential cause, since in the case of the latter, eligible voters may be prevented from registering, which could in turn lead to escalating conflict situations. Attention should be given to boundary delimitation and polling station locations, so that the needs of voters in rural and remote areas are catered. If the voters are attached to particular polling stations, and if any fraud allegations arise during or after elections, re-polling could be done with the same voters, at the same station.

2.3 Causes of Election Violence

Fischer (2001) indicated that while no single theory can account for all the root causes of election violence, there is consensus that three elements are critical: the context of democratization or political change in which violence occurs, the effects of electoral system choice on conflict dynamics, and the nature and patterns of political mobilization.

In Philippine just before the elections of 2007 observers attributed a pattern of election-related violence in the country to several interrelated factors, such as a history of intense rivalry among political clans, stark competition for government posts that carry the potential for power and access to resources and state largesse, and a broader culture of violence in which small arms are

plentiful and often in use. According to the police then, powerful politicians often had their own private armies and some members of the security forces were also acting to protect or serve political bosses (Manny, 2007).

In Nigeria among the factors that make political violence possible and indeed likely are deepening poverty, unemployment and hunger, retrenchment resulting from privatization of institutions (IFES, 2002). Hoffman & Smith (2010) indicates that standard factors, such as ethnic fragmentation, public demand for democracy, level of economic development, and political history can also cause election violence to people's property, manipulation of ethnic loyalties, and attempt to rig future elections

According to Benesch (2011) Kenya has seen elections beset by inflammatory speech and violence all too often, most recently and catastrophically in 2007 and 2008 The root causes of post-election violence then were however linked to the broader socio-political situation. While violent conflict was in part planned, it was fuelled by deep-rooted and long held ethnic divisions, socio-economic disparities, poverty and endemic corruption, all of which require long term solutions. Elections do not cause violent conflict, but unresolved deep-rooted frustrations do.

What is generally acknowledged is that over the years, the fundamental causes of the conflict have not ever been adequately addressed and dealt with (UNDP, 2009). In 2007 the issue of electoral violence was important and embedded in the voter education and media programs but was not elevated as a highest priority UNDP (2009). Electoral violence emerged subsequently and even more recently as a major voter education concern.

2.4 Early warning signs for election conflicts

Conflict early warning and response has been described as the sine qua non of conflict prevention. It consists of the systematic collection and analysis of information coming from areas of crisis for the purposes of anticipating the escalation of violent conflict, developing strategic responses to crisis, and the presentation of options to critical actors for decision-making (Ekiyor, 2008). Kanno (2010) says that situational awareness, fact finding, in-country missions, sharing of information between agencies and regular meetings to discuss the situation was in effect what constitutes the conflict early warning system. In Kenya the country's intelligence service had clearly warned about the possible violence as early as three months prior to the actual elections (Waki Commission, 2008). Kanno (2010) continues to say that in the field of early warning and early response, it is commonly accepted that there are plenty of warnings but the problem is that warnings are not followed by preventive actions.

Generally speaking, it may be difficult for civil society to prevent post-election violence by using an early warning and early response mechanism due to what civil society can utilize for their interventions is dialogue and also the fact that the results of elections are not negotiable.

Dialogue for something unnegotiable" is not easy. Most of the disputes between conflict parties are negotiable (it is the case especially at a community-level like the use of land), but the results of elections cannot be changed unless there was violation in election campaigns. If it is difficult for civil society to prevent post-election violence, it may be a good idea to work with law enforcement agencies who possesses coercive power to stop violence. However, it is questionable that law-enforcement agencies function rapidly and impartially even if early warnings are wired to them. What is even worse is that they are actively involved in violence in

some occasions. There are reports that in the 2007 Kenyan election violence, police officers had taken sides and used terror tactics (Kanno, 2010). According to the Waki Commission's (2008) investigation, "the deadliest of the election-related violence could have been avoided had the Government made use of its own intelligence reports." The Commission's investigation demonstrates that warning was not the problem, but rather response (Kanno, 2010).

2.5 Conflict prevention and management

Clearly, conflict prevention is difficult to define and carry out (Steward, 2001). In this phase, perhaps the most important element is the work of electoral management bodies (EMBs) in identifying best practices and regulatory provisions to ensure integrity of an electoral process. This includes developing auditable procedures that prevent or deter fraud and corruption, as well as measures to ensure transparency and inclusive participation in the election. However, conflict prevention does not stop with the EMBs. Government agencies and security providers work with EMBs to mainstream security and electoral issues in multi-agency stakeholder settings, including developing strategic, comprehensive security plans and operational rooms. In the justice and legislative sectors, reviewing and making necessary reforms throughout the electoral framework (e.g. legislation, boundary delimitation, the composition of election management bodies, and candidate and voter registration) helps identify issues that may aggravate the risk of violence during an electoral process and propose effective alternatives. Electoral conflict prevention also relies heavily on non-governmental actors, including media, civil society and political parties, to educate, advocate and provide early warning mechanisms around election violence. It is useful to develop codes of conduct that establish parameters for appropriate standards of behavior during an election for all actors (candidates and political parties, media outlets and journalists, electoral officials, security forces), especially those that specifically focus on ensuring a non-violent

campaign atmosphere. Educational initiatives that address causes of concern (including voter information campaigns and civic awareness promoting non-violence) help diffuse or channel tension before it triggers violence.

2.6 Factors that determine the outcome of any election

2.6.1 The election management bodies (EMBs)

Legitimate institutions like EMBs are central to effectively resolving election disputes (Stremlau, and Price, 2009). The election management bodies (EMBs) in conjunction with the security forces can develop an election security tool kit to support the planning and implementation activities of national and local locals. This tool kit can be devised from surveying the international and national practices in election security and distilling the best practices for this tool kit (IFES, 2002).

Their main functions of EMBs is defined as being the planning and budgeting of the electoral process, the effective organization and execution of the actions envisaged in the electoral calendar, including acts of training and civic education. The electoral management bodies should also have some liberty to interpret the law and to avoid dealing with the process in a legalistic way (Fandrych, 2003). Hence with regard to the electoral management bodies it is essential to guarantee their autonomy and independence in terms of conducting the electoral process as well as in financial terms. Some of the literature emphasizes that electoral administrative institutions are important not only to ensure the proper functioning of elections but also as a source of consultation and joint-decision making. By providing such an arena, these institutions provide

incentives for parties to move away from military strategies to political strategies (Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC), 2008)

2.6.2 Election court

The election courts should analyze an election dispute resolution models for their effectiveness and also win public confidence in them. This analysis can reveal the specific forms of technical assistance that can promote the timely, fair, and transparency adjudication of disputes; and the access to justice for electoral plaintiffs (IFES, 2002). Also, the independence of the judiciary itself has to be guaranteed by a political and financial autonomy. Access to justice by the ordinary citizens is a crucial factor. One of the basic functions of the judiciary is the promotion of a culture of democracy and the safeguarding of justice. Courts should take care so as to speedily respond to and process electoral complaints, as the delay in decisions itself could be a cause of conflict in a polarized environment. Courts should therefore assume an active and pragmatic role in resolving conflict, as opposed to a legalistic approach (Fandrych, 2003).

2.6.3 The media

In this context, what 'the media' refers to exactly outlets such as radio, televisions and newspapers. Internet and mobile phones are also generally considered to be part of the broader media ecology. But typically, less attention is given to news outlets such as mosques or teashops or mediums such as poetry. It is argued that in many societies, if the goal is to understand how news and information shapes political processes, these forms of communication are neglected at peril (Stremlau and Price, 2009). Small message service (SMS) can also not be ignored for it has

a new and complex role in media and post-election violence. It can accelerate messages, including rumours but it also serves as a tool for monitoring the electoral process.

It is where there is meaningful competition that the potential for violence increases and the functions of the media become more complex. It is in these instances where it is especially important to define the responsibility of the media and to craft appropriate media policy and regulation. There are important roles for the media to play, including serving as a check against corruption, ensuring that voters are informed, and determining the integrity of the election process (Stremlau and Price, 2009).

Media organizations, coupled with the NGO community, can also serve educational purposes with messages and programs to stem cultures of electoral conflict (IFES, 2002). The fluent cooperation and sharing of information between the NGOs and the media is instrumental to disseminate independent, accurate and timely information about the electoral process to electorate and to all other stakeholders (UNDP, 2009).

Stremlau and Price (2009) indicate that media monitoring can be an effective tool in both gauging the potential of violence associated with the elections but it should not just occur in the pre election and voting period as is most often the case, but in the post-election period as well. Notions of professionalization should be probed in each society and normative assumptions of journalists being 'balanced watchdogs' should be avoided. Understanding the ideology of journalists is essential to understanding the media and political systems (Stremlau and Price, 2009).

Media regulation has to be debated and updated to address issues of new technology including controversial issues such as the monitoring of SMS for hate speech. Dialogue and cooperation within the media sector should be encouraged. This will help to reduce polarization and facilitates the media's role as a space for elite negotiation. Given that much of the power lies with the government, government actors must take a leading role in this area by responding to criticisms leveled at them within the media, answering questions posed by journalists from media outlets that might be aligned with other political parties, and showing extra sensitivity regarding statements that might further polarize the media environment.

For the media to become mediators in the prevention and transformation of conflict, it is necessary to question the common understanding of what constitutes 'news' in terms of a commodity, as well as the concept of 'objectivity and neutrality'. Where a situation threatens to escalate into any number of violent conflicts – electoral, political, constitutional, ethnic, etc - pragmatism demands that the media should actively work to forestall that escalation. The media must objectively or factually gather news, but they must subjectively or sensitively communicate it (Fandrych, 2003).

There were several methods which journalists could apply and which are prone to diminish the probability of violence, such as: To increase the quantity of communication, i.e. the mass media should provide greater access to the different conflicting parties so as to reflect the volume of the diversity of perspectives on a conflict issue or event, to increase the quality of communication, i.e. the mass media must exercise their analytical skills in a process called the critical-sensitive approach on the basis of the following principles:

Paying attention to the causes, rather than just symptoms, of conflict;

Engaging conflicting parties in 'interest-based' discussions, or helping them to define their mutual interests;

Presenting conflicting parties' perceptions and fears; and

Prioritizing process over outcome or paying more attention to the processes of negotiations and how the media report these in terms of the sources cited and what is ascribed to those sources:

To provide early warning of situations that might lead to conflict, as well as to alert political leaders and attentive publics to opportunities for increasing inter-party understanding and dialogue.

To stimulate the use of mechanisms for conflict resolution and to provide information that tends to facilitate these processes.

To help create a mood in which peaceful solutions are more likely to be sought or accepted.

To mobilise, or help to establish contacts among those who are interested in finding peaceful solutions, and to help build public opinion favoring such solutions (Fandrych, 2003)

Bajraktari, & Hsu (2007) conclude that a coherent and effective media strategy may contribute to the mitigation of post-war tensions by elevating moderate voices and dampening extremist ones, and allowing peaceful outlets for ongoing conflict management and dialogue. If media plans are not well designed, however, there is a risk that the media could reinforce divisions or that a weak media sector could be vulnerable to exploitation by warlords, political patrons, and spoilers.

2. 6.4 Political parties and candidates

As for the role of political parties in the electoral process it has been noted that they were obviously the direct participants of the electoral process and therefore have added responsibilities. In cooperation with the electoral management bodies they should be invited to directly monitor the electoral acts, especially the voting and counting of ballots. It is however key that the political parties undertake an effort to train party monitors for the voting stations so as to contribute to the confidence building and transparency of the whole process. Another area of concern, mentioned earlier, is with respect to the party financing system which has to be clarified at an early stage. A good instrument to hold political parties to the ethics required during the process is the drawing up a code of conduct, which could be part of a binding electoral law (Fandrych, 2003).

According to Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) (2008) political parties based on ethnic or religious lines can be divisive and lead to violence and conflict. This has led some experts to advocate bans on such parties. In addition, lack of capacity within political parties can be an issue, as was the case in Kenya, 2007. There, it is argued that the inability of political parties to properly handle the nomination process spurred violence. As such, programmes to support capacity building of political parties can be beneficial in preventing violence.

Although country-based NGOs serve as valuable resources in providing transparency and accountability in election violence, the trans-border nature of corruption and its relationship to electoral violence must be viewed as a threat that can be monitored through information sharing networks (IFES, 2002).

2.6.5 Civil society (CSOs)

Defining civil society and identifying which organizations fall within the framework of civil society continues to be a challenge (Ekiyor, 2008). Civil society has also been described as the arena outside the family, the state and the market, where people associate to advance common interests. These are organizations of citizens or individuals with particular interests or agendas in the election process. Civil society participation in all spheres of AU activities – including in the conflict management realm – remains critical for Africa to embrace the prevailing paradigm of broadening the field of peace and security beyond the dominant and narrow state-centric approach (Nhema & Zeleza, 2008). Civil society actors have increasingly become vital forces in discourses, initiatives and programmes that foster peace and security across the world.

Specifically, civil society has been instrumental in the reconceptualization of security from a “state-centred” process to one that is “people centred (Ekiyor, 2008)”

The role played by civil society organizations in dealing with electoral issues is very delicate and requires a lot of patience. It is therefore paramount for them to know;

- i) How to deal equally with all candidates, political parties and the civil society in general and
- ii) How, in its action, to explore and boost to the maximum possible the forces or opportunities of transparency and reduce to the barest minimum occasions (weaknesses) of intransparency which can endanger its seriousness and commission to the mission. The challenge is how to establish serious dialogue and a strategy of articulation between the civil society organization and the various level of political organization. However the field of intervention of civil society organizations in electoral events is wide. Experience shows us that it is fundamental to gather and give value to “good practices” and make them factors that reinforce democracy and peace.

(Fandrych, 2003)

According to Ekiyor (2008) the functions of civil society include but not limited to; primary providers of basic social service in war torn societies, mitigating conflicts and building peace process, are key in addressing social-economic disparities in societies, assist in humanitarian relief, their proximity to local population has also made them critical to mediation, reconciliation, and other community peacekeeping initiative and at national level CSOs raises awareness of arms production.

NGOs (who form part of the civil society) can too play a role in the monitoring process. NGOs such as the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (Sri Lanka) serve a technical role in recording the circumstances and cases of election violence in that country. Such capacity can be established in a number of like-minded NGOs and regional networks employing similar methodologies can be informally organized (IFES, 2002).

2.6.6 Boundary delimitation

Boundary delimitation, or simply delimitation, is the term used to describe the drawing of boundaries, but is most often used to describe the drawing of electoral boundaries. Though not autonomous or separate from the state, electoral areas have significant autonomy in the identification of leaders to represent the electoral areas in the national and county government. Electoral areas include counties, constituencies' wards and sub- wards (Handley, 2007).

The process is often undertaken by a special commission, to which the EMB might provide support. Such a commission or a similar body may be made up in a variety of ways including, Representatives of political parties, Independent non-political individuals such as judges; Relevant experts -- demographers, geographers, statisticians, cartographers; or a combination of all or some of the above.

Noticeably missing from the boundary commissions in most countries are legislators and representatives of political parties. The express purpose of this omission is to maintain the political neutrality of the commissions (Handley, 2007). Even if politics is not permitted to play an overt role in the drawing of the electoral district boundaries, it is still possible for the legislature or executive to influence the process if the boundary authority and its product are not independent from legislative and executive control (Handley, 2007)..

One of the most contentious issues in electoral system design which affects the overall electoral formula is the delimitation of boundaries. How many districts will there be, and how do the districts relate to the spatial distribution of voters (for example, along ethnic, racial or religious lines)? Should electoral districts in multiethnic societies coincide with living patterns along ethnic lines (when they are present), or should they explicitly cross-cut such lines? (UNDP, 2009). Though boundary delimitation or redistricting practices vary greatly around the world, there are three universal principles to guide the delimitation process; representativeness, equality of voting strength and reciprocity and non-discrimination.

According to Handley (2007) electoral abuses such as mal apportioned constituencies (electoral districts that vary substantially in population) and electoral districts that have been "gerrymandered" (constituency boundaries intentionally drawn to advantage one political group at the expense of others) can have profound effects on the outcome of an election and the composition of a parliament. If voters and other stakeholders suspect that the electoral boundaries have been unfairly manipulated to produce a particular political outcome, this will affect the credibility of the delimitation process. The legitimacy of the electoral outcome itself could be questioned.

In Kenya the new constitution (2009) has given guidelines to be followed in the delimitation process which show that the following should be taken care of; Community of interests, geographical features, means of communications, population trends; or population density as stipulated by population quota. While Nkure (2012) reinforces the criteria to be used in determining/delimiting electoral and administrative boundaries should include; (i) density of population, and in particular the need to ensure adequate representation of urban and sparsely-populated rural areas; (ii) population trends; (iii) means of communication; (iv) geographical features; and (v) community interest; Electoral boundaries denote political/representational defined/divided areas. These are created to facilitate citizen's participation in governance.

Nkure (2012) indicates that the boundary delimitation process is now complete but there are many contentious issues that have emerged and have resulted in an upsurge of cases filed in the High Court contesting the delimitation of the electoral boundaries. Some of the grounds upon which the cases have been filed in courts are;

Neglect of the core mandate with respect to administrative boundaries review; The first and most critical debate is on administrative boundaries. The Interim Independent Boundaries Commissions (IIBRC) popularly known as the Ligale commission was mandated to review both the electoral and administrative units and make recommendations on their delimitation. However, the commission failed to focus or act on administrative boundaries (Districts, Divisions and Counties) and only concentrated on electoral boundaries thus their report was inadequate to that end. The IEBC took the cue and also neglected that area of administrative boundaries. The second is Overlooking of other parameters for delimitation such as;

Community of Interest: The second issue is the overlooking of the other four parameters in delimiting constituencies; for example, the Elchamus of Baringo county had been awarded a constituency by the courts and the ruling indicated that when the delimitation process starts, they shall be considered in the parameter of community of interests on the ground that they are a minority, living amongst a larger and more affluent majority and thus even if they contested for elective posts, their issues will likely not be articulated and leaders drawn from their community are unlikely to get elected. This is an argument that has found favour amongst minority groups and minority rights advocates as the development processes since independence have tended to exclude the Elchamus. However, the boundary delimitation exercise conducted by the IEBC did not consider the ruling of the court and denied them a constituency.

Population trends - This was a criterion that was not taken into consideration in delimiting the boundaries. For example, in Northern Kenya, the population of Kenyans of Somali origin, according to the 2009 census, had more than doubled from 800,000 in 1999 to 2.3 million. This resulted in the cancellation of the census results for Northern Kenya by the Government of Kenya. As a result, the delimitation of boundaries in the area is based on projections provided by the Government.

Geographical features such as rivers and roads were overlooked in delimiting the boundaries. Residents of Kisasi and Mbitini wards have moved to the High Court to challenge the IEBC decision to move the two wards from Kitui Central to Kitui Rural constituency. In the case filed at the High Court in Nairobi under a certificate of urgency by Beatrice Sawe on behalf of the residents, said the IEBC ignored the proposals of the people of the two wards. "The delimitation and inclusion of the two wards in Kitui Rural constituency put together people with major

differences culturally, socially and economically and who are separated by natural barriers including Tiva River and the Yatta plateau

2.6.7 Government

Political factors identified includes, weak governance that could mean that governments may act as potential instigators of violence, extreme political fluidity and recurring inter-party conflict, lack of political party guidance/capacity, intra-party divisions and power struggles often leading to a proliferation of political parties along lines of overlapping social differences of identity and class.

2.7 Conflict management and mitigation

When election conflict prevention fails, stakeholders engage in a spectrum of mitigation and management responses. A range of cross-sectoral early response mechanisms exist to track political and electoral developments and to monitor violent incidents in order to facilitate quick responses to emerging risks or flare-ups. EMB and security sector preparedness can play a decisive role in rapidly quelling violence. Two essential elements are: (1) developing an electoral security plan (e.g. based on scenarios during the campaign, polling and results periods) to manage potential “hot-spots”; and (2) training security forces and election workers on electoral security issues (e.g. management of campaign rallies and crowd control at polling stations). Troubleshooting mechanisms that involve electoral actors (such as political party liaison panels and “green line” emergency call systems) in identifying and managing conflicts can also provide channels for addressing nascent conflicts. Information management is another key tool. Training election officials, political parties, candidate representatives and observers on how to gather accurate, credible information on electoral breaches as well as how to disseminate information in

a non-inflammatory manner, can tip the scale against growing violence. When the media follows best practices for accurately reporting electoral issues it helps efforts to control the violence by mitigating inflammatory coverage and avoiding hate speech or censorship. Mediation led by EMBs and civil society before violence escalates is also important.

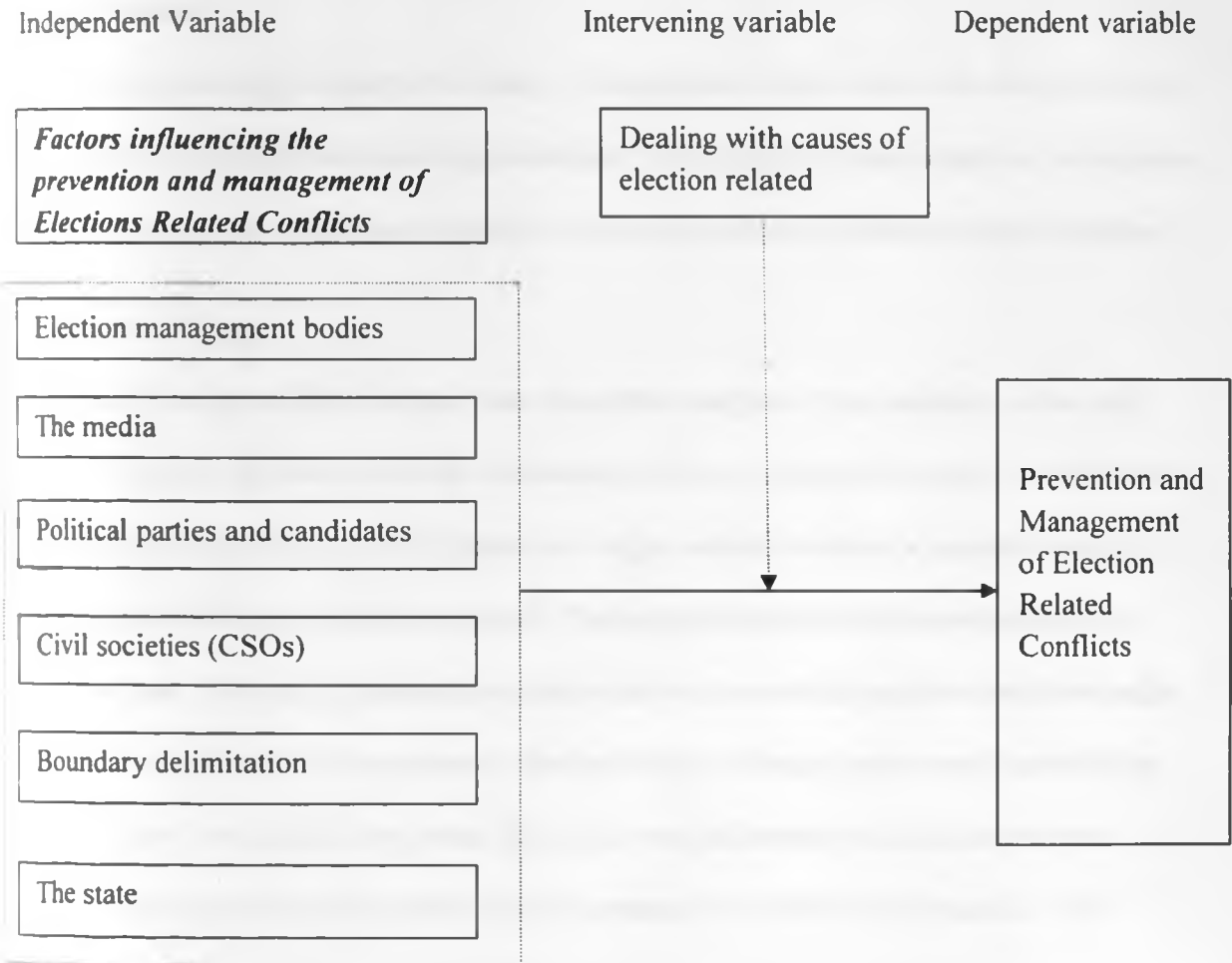
2.8 Knowledge Gap

Although civic education is seen by many as a key method of mitigating electoral discord, there is insufficient empirical evidence on the efficacy of mass education. Support for civic and voter education seems to have made a difference in areas where it was tried in the Nigerian 2007 election, but these approaches did not prevent conflict in the 2007 Kenyan election. The elections community of practice could do more to understand citizen perspectives about political participation and personal security, including more studies on public opinion such as those undertaken by the National Democratic Institute in Southern Sudan. These approaches support local ownership and active citizen engagement in democratic governance (Gillies & Kwamie, 2009)

Another gap is that the capacities of national and local institutions to effectively prevent and resolve election conflict has not been an area of focused project activity (IFES, 2002) hence the need for this study. Under this theme, election management bodies (EMBs), security forces, election courts, and political parties among other factors become the focus of this study.

2.9 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework for the study encompassed independent and dependent variables related to the research question (question 2 and 3) of this study



CHAPTER THREE:

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This is the methodology chapter of the study. It contains sub topics such as the research design, study population, sample and sampling procedures, instruments for data collection, development of the questionnaires, validity and reliability of the instrument and methods of data collection.

3.2 Research Design

The research design used for the study was descriptive analysis. It was suitable for the study because it was not concerned with the relationship between variables but rather a description of individual variables. The aim was to describe a single variable or obtain a separate description for each variable when several are involved. The respondents were asked questions about a particular issue. The study employed descriptive analysis to establish opinions and knowledge about the prevention and management of election related violence. Any research undertaking involves lots of cost implications hence this design was deliberately selected for the study because it allows for quick data collection at a comparatively cheap cost (Grinnell, 1993).

3.3 Target population

The research study was carried out in the larger Kitui West Constituency. It is one of the constituencies in Kitui County. The study targeted all major stakeholders in elections who form the population. The target population for the study thus included, the political parties liaisons committees, the civil society, the district peace committee representative, security representative and the faith based organizations. The exact population size may not be possible to estimate because political parties' membership keeps on changing as members change parties.

3.4 Sample size and sampling procedure

The sampling procedure used was stratified whereby two respondents were selected from each of the stakeholders groups. Cluster sampling also formed part of the sampling technique because the area was divided into the eleven wards. After that the respondents were picked randomly one representative from each ward apart from the three District Commissioners, two from Kitui West and the other from Kitui Rural which share the constituency. The DCs selection was thus purposive.

Figure 1 Sample size

Wards/stakeholders	Faith based organization	Security representative	District peace committees	Civil society	Political party liaisons committee	Totals
Musengo/Usiani	2	2	2	2	2	10
Kanyangi	2	2	2	2	2	10
Kiseuni	2	2	2	2	2	10
Katutu/Mutanda	2	2	2	2	2	10
Kauwi/Kivani	2	2	2	2	2	10
Kwa vonza	2	2	2	2	2	10
Mutongoni/kakeani	2	2	2	2	2	10
Yatta/Nthongoni	2	2	2	2	2	10
Kithuluma/ Kauma	2	2	2	2	2	10
Kathivo/Kwa Mutonga	2	2	2	2	2	10
Matinyani	2	2	2	2	2	10
Totals	12	12	12	12	12	110

So the total number of respondents who participated in the study was 110 plus the three DCs

bringing the total number to 113. Ten respondents from one ward who did not participate in the study were used to pilot the study.

3.5 Data collection

The data was collected using one questionnaire, for all the stakeholders (Appendix B) and an interview schedule (Appendix C) for the three DCs. However the questionnaire for each stratum of the stakeholder was well labelled to be analysed separately for purposes of comparing the responses given by each group. Document analysis was also used. The questionnaire was preferred for its suitability to the study. It was suitable as a method of data collection because it allowed the researcher to reach a larger sample within limited time. It also ensured confidentiality and thus gathered more candid and objective replies.

3.5.1 Development of the questionnaire

Two techniques were used; closed ended and open ended technique. The items to be contained in the questionnaire were based on the objectives of the study.

- Closed ended items were developed for they allowed easier and accurate analysis of the data. They also made numerical comparison relatively easy while allowing a high degree of respondents' objectivity. They also reduced the problem of falsification.
- Open ended questions were considered feasible in order to give the respondents a chance to deliver rich information and not to feel the constraints imposed by a fixed choice question.

3.6 Data collection procedures

After approval of the research by the University supervisor, a research permit which authorizes the researcher to carry out the study was obtained from the National Council of Science and Research at Utalii House, Nairobi. The researcher then paid a courtesy call to the District Commissioners, to inform them of the study. The instruments were administered, after authorization from the administrators. The questionnaires were drop and pick type, so the

respondents were given one week to fill. After one week the questionnaires' were collected. Due to the vastness of the study area sampled the researcher was assisted by research assistants whose duty was mainly to follow up the questionnaires.

3.7 Instrument Validity

Pre-testing was conducted to assist in determining accuracy, clarity and suitability of the research instrument. According to Borg and Gall (1989), one can carry pilot study on two or three cases. The purpose of the piloting was to assist the researcher to identify the items which may be inappropriate so as to make necessary corrections, examine responses to determine the level of ambiguity of the questions and determine the percentage of responses. Pilot study was carried to validate the instruments. Respondents from one ward were used to pilot the study so the actual number who participated in the study was 113 inclusive of the three District Commissioners because 10 respondents were used to pilot the study. The responses were also checked to verify whether the questions answered what they are intended to answer in order to ensure instruments validity. Based on the analysis of the pre-test, the researcher was able to make corrections, adjustments and additions to the research instruments.

3.8 Instrument reliability

In the study, reliability was assessed through the results of piloting, which were done using test-retest technique. The research instrument was administered to the same group of subjects twice in the pilot study. A two week lapse between the first and the second test was allowed.

The scores from both tests were correlated to get the coefficient of reliability using Pearson's product moment formulae as follows: Pearson's coefficient of correlation r

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N\sum xy - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{[N\sum X^2 - (\sum X^2)][N\sum Y^2 - (\sum Y^2)]}}$$

Where

- N number of respondents
- X scores from the first test
- Y scores from the second test

The value of r lies between $+1$, the closer the value will be to $+1$ the stronger the congruence.

3.9 Data analysis

The data collected from questionnaires was analyzed by the use of descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages). The descriptive analysis was appropriate for the study because it involved the description, analysis and interpretation of circumstances prevailing at the time of study. Descriptive statistical techniques were used to analyze various items of the questionnaire. These included averages, percentages, frequencies and totals. The study used frequencies and percentages because they easily communicate the research findings to majority of readers (Gay, 1992). Frequencies easily show the number of subjects in a given category. A number of Tables were used to present data findings

3.10 Ethical consideration

Consent of the participants was sought whereby they agreed to participate in the study through voluntary informed consent without threat or undue inducement. In addition the respondents were assured that the information they gave was to be kept confidential and used only for the purpose of research. For anonymity the respondents were requested not to write their identities in the questionnaire section while the appropriate chain of command was followed before the commencement of the data collection process.

3.11 Operational definition of variables

Figure 2 Operationalization Table

Objective	Variable	Indicators	Measurement scale; N=Nominal O=Ordinal	Types of analysis D=Descriptive
To establish the relationship between the EMBs and prevention and management of election related conflict.	-Develop election security -Training -Civic education -interpretation of law -consultation	Election free from violence. Violence preparedness. Undisputed election results	N O	D
To assess the influence of the civil society on prevention and management of election related conflicts.	-Provision of civic education -mitigate conflicts -Social service providers	Election free from violence/conflict	N O	D
To examine the influence of media on the prevention and management of election related conflict.	-Informs voter -checks corruption -early warning signs -monitors hate speech	Unbiased media No vote buying/ selling Intelligence information Court proceedings	N	D
To ascertain the delimitation of boundaries on prevention and management of election related conflict.	Delimitation of boundaries	Undisputed constituencies/boundaries	N O	D
Establish the influence of political parties on prevention and management of election related conflict	Political parties	Civil voters Undisputed election results	N O	D
Assess the influence of state and courts on prevention and management of election related conflicts.	State and Courts	lack of backlog in courts Timely justice Guaranteed security	N O	D

CHAPTER FOUR DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

The study investigated the factors that influence prevention and management of election related conflict in Kitui West constituency of Kitui County, Kenya. The main objectives of the study were; to establish the role of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in prevention and management of election related conflict. To assess the influence of state on prevention and management of election related conflicts, to examine the influence of media on the prevention and management of election related conflict. To assess the influence of the civil society on prevention and management of election related conflicts. To establish the influence of political parties on prevention and management of election related conflict. To ascertain the delimitation of boundaries on prevention and management of election related conflict. The data was analysed and presented in tables on questionnaire return rate, stakeholders' demographics, items on factors that influence prevention and management of election related conflict.

4.2 Questionnaire return rate

One questionnaire (Appendix B) was used as an instrument for collection of data from the election stakeholders and it was administered to 110 of them. There was an interview schedule (Appendix C) which was administered to the three district officers.

Table 1: Distribution of questionnaire rate

Type respondents	Total	Returned (f)	%
Election stakeholders	110	90	81.8%
District commissioners	3	3	100

Out of the 110 questionnaires given to the election stakeholders, 20 (18.2 %) were not returned. But all the questionnaires given to the local district commissioners were all received back because they had offices where the researcher could collect them. The 18.2% loss in the election stakeholders questionnaire was due to the vast nature of the area of study hence the researcher could not locate some of them for the return of the questionnaires. So the election stakeholders who participated in the study were 90 (81.8%) and 3 (100%) of the district commissioners.

4.3 Stakeholders Demographics

The demographics of the respondents were obtained by use of 4 closed ended questions. The results were presented in Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Table 2: Election stakeholder’s gender

Gender	f	%
Male	64	71.1
Female	26	28.9
Total	90	100

Table 2 indicates that majority of the respondents who participated on this study were male with 71.1% while the females formed a mere 28.9%. This disparity may be due to the fact that more often than not women shy away from issues related to elections or politics. As for the research it may mean that in terms of gender there may be some biasness in the responses due to the gender imbalance.

Table 3: Distribution of the election stakeholder's responses as per age of the respondent

Age	f	%
21- 30	45	50
31 – 40	24	26.7
41 –50	11	12.2
51 – 60	10	11.1
Total	90	100.0

Table 3 shows that half (50%) of the respondents were young people of ages 21-30 years followed by 26.7% of another group of youth between ages 31- 40 year. There was however a 12.2% and 11.1% of respondents who were over the age of 41years. This indicates the zeal the youth have on elections in Kenya. Also it means that most positions in the respective offices for instance civil societies, faith based organization which were among the sampled were held by the youth

Table 4: Responses as to the academic qualifications of the stakeholders

Response	f	%
KCSE / KCE	59	65.6
Diploma	21	23.3
Degree	7	7.8
Others (not been to school)	3	3.3
Total	90	100

These results indicate that 65.6% of all the stakeholders had reached class eight or form four. 23.3% had diploma certificates and only 7.8% were university graduates. It should be noted that there were 3.3% who indicated that they had not been to school.

Table 5: Responses as to whether all the stakeholders were registered voters

Response	f	%
Yes	90	100
No	0	0
Total	90	100

From Table 5 it is clear that all 100% of the stakeholders were registered voters.

4.4 Items on factors that influence prevention and management of election related conflict

To establish this influence, the stakeholders were given statements to respond to by ticking whether they strongly agreed (SA) agreed (A) had no opinion (NO) disagreed (D) or strongly disagreed (SD).

4.4.1: Items on EMBs

The first objective of this study was to establish the role of EMBs in prevention and management of election related conflict.

To establish that the respondents were given some roles that are performed by EMBs and were asked to respond to them by ticking. The responses were presented on Table 6

Table 6: Responses as to the role of EMBs in prevention of election related conflicts.

Response	SA	A	NO	D	SD
	%	%	%	%	%
Develop election security tool to support the planning and implementation activities	50	40	10	0	0
Provision of civic education	10	12.2	0	40	43.3
Interpretation of law	52.2	47.8	0	0	0
EMBS IS autonomous/independent	76.7	23.3	0	0	0
It should be a source of consultations	95.6	4.4	0	0	0

According to Table 6 the respondents indicated that EMBs develop election security tool to support the planning and implementation activities with 50% strongly agreeing to that and 40% only agreeing. There is a 10% response of those who did not have any opinion because they were not sure whether EMBs do that basing their response on the 2007 election violence and asking where the security was if it had really been planned for. As for provision of civic education a big percentage strongly disagreed 43.3% to that due to the fact that civic education is done by NGOs and the work of EMBs-I.E.BC was only to accredit them. As for the interpretation of the law 52.2% agreed strongly and 47.3 % agreed that EMBs do so. Through probing the researcher was given the example in which due to impasse between the president and the prime minister I.E.B.C

decided on the election date for the elections to be held next year . As for EMBs being sources of consultation 95.6% strongly agreed to that. So it can be concluded that the EMBs have a lot of influence in deciding whether elections will be peaceful and in making decision concerning election conflicts especially through consultations and by providing security.

4.4.2: Items on the state

The second objective was to assess the influence of state on prevention and management of election related conflicts and response was obtained and presented on Table 7

Table 7: Responses as to how the courts/state influence the prevention of election related conflicts.

Response	SA	A	NO	D	SD
	%	%	%	%	%
Ensure access to justice by the ordinary citizens	45.6	30	24.4	0	0
Be independent	20	30	0	30	20
Speedily respond to and process electoral complaints	10	10	10	50	20

The results indicate that the state through the courts ensure access to justice by the ordinary citizens with only 45.6% agreeing to that. Also through the courts being independent with only 20% strongly agreeing to that and around 50% disagreeing to the same. This means that in Kenya courts are not seen to be independent because of the many backlog of cases which were lying in courts. As for the speedy respond to the process of electoral complaints only a mere 10% agree that this happens with a bigger percentage of 70% disagreeing to that.

4.4.3: Items on media

The second objective was to examine the influence of media on the prevention and management of election related conflict.

To achieve the set objective statements were given to the stakeholders to respond to them by ticking using the same scale as in scale as shown in sub-section 4.4. The findings were presented on Table 8.

Table 8: Responses as to the influence of media in prevention of election related conflicts.

Response	SA	A	NO	D	SD
	%	%	%	%	%
Serve as a check against corruption	85.6	10	4.4	0	0
Informing the voter	100	0	0	0	0
Determining the integrity of the selection process	90	10	0	0	0
Monitoring of SMS for hate speech	45.6	0	0	0	54.5
Dialogue and cooperation within the media	77.7	22.3	0	0	0
Objectively foretelling of situations threatening to escalate	50	0	0	50	0
Engaging conflicting party in “interest based” discussions	100	0	0	0	0
Provide early warning of situation that might lead to conflicts	20	20	20	4.4	36.6
Stimulate conflict resolution mechanism	10	30	10	20	30

Table 8 indicates that 85.6% of the stakeholders strongly agree that the media serves as a check against corruption which by extension may bring about conflict. 100% strongly agree that the media informs the voter about situation that might lead to conflicts. As for monitoring of SMS for hate speech only 45.6% strongly agreed that the media does that, with majority 54.5% strongly disagreeing with that. The respondent felt that the work of monitoring SMSes was the preserve of the service providers and the police force. 100% strongly said that it was true that the media was engaging conflicting party in “ interest based” discussions. There is a 50% of the respondents who disagreed that the media objectively foretells situations threatening to escalate. Many of them felt that at times through their reporting they become catalysts to the escalation of the situations. On whether the media stimulate conflict resolution mechanism 30% disagreed that the media does that though there was a 10% who strongly and 30% who agreed to the same.

4.4.4 Items on civil societies

The third objective examined the influence of civil societies on the prevention and management of election related conflict.

To establish that statement on how civil societies influenced conflict prevention were given to be responded by the stakeholders. The same scale used in subsection 4.4 was used also for this sub sections. The results were presented on Table 9

Table 9: Responses as to the influence of civil societies in prevention of election related conflicts.

Response	SA	A	NO	D	SD
	%	%	%	%	%
Provide social service where conflicts occur	100	0	0	0	0
Primary providers of basic social service in war torn societies	90	10	0	0	0
Mitigating conflicts and building peace process	50	0	0	0	0
CSOs are key in addressing social-economic disparities in societies	78.9	10	11.1	0	0
Their proximity to local population has made them critical to mediation, reconciliation and other community peacekeeping initiatives.	100	0	0	0	0

Table 9 shows that all the stakeholders 100% are in agreement that civil societies provide social service where conflicts occur 90%also strongly agree that they are the primary providers of basic social service in war torn societies while 10% agree to that. As for as mitigating conflicts and building peace process only 50% of the respondents agreed to that because according to them they hear of the civil societies coming in when the situations have escalated to conflicts distributing food, tents and beddings to the affected but not before. All in all 100% are strongly in agreement that their proximity to local population has made them critical to mediation, reconciliation and other community peacekeeping initiatives.

Table 10: Distribution of responses as to how political parties influence influences prevention of election related conflict.

Response	SA	A	NO	D	SD
	%	%	%	%	%
Monitor election process especially voting and counting of ballots	100	0	0	0	0
Train party monitors	80	0	0	20	0
Stick to the Code of Ethics provided	30	21.2	0	3.2	45.6
Ensure they have capacity to handle party nominations	10	30	0	30	30

Table 10 indicates that 100% of the political parties monitor election process especially voting and counting of ballots. Though 80% said that political parties train monitors there is 20% who disagreed with that because majority of them pick their monitor and plant them in the polling stations without any training. There is also an indication that most of the parties do not stick to the Code of Ethics provided with almost half of the responses 45.6% while over 60% of the respondents disagreed to the fact that parties ensure they have capacity to handle party nominations because there are conflicts during the party nomination which culminates in people defecting to other parties or from one party to another.

4.4.5 Items on the delimitation of boundaries

To ascertain how delimitation of boundaries influences prevention and management of election related conflict the respondents were asked to indicate whether the following were considered in delimiting their constituency

Table 11: Responses as to the influence of delimitation of boundaries in prevention of election related conflicts.

Response	SA	A	NO	D	SD
	%	%	%	%	%
Density of the population	10	55.5	33.4	0	1.1
Population trends	20	23.4	38.9	17.7	0
Means of communication	90	0	0	0	10
Geographical features	10	0	0	45.6	44.4
Community interest	20	0	7.7	12.2	60

Table 11 shows that respondent indicate that only the means of communication with 90% response was followed by the delimiting body. However there is quite a big percentage who indicated that they had no opinion. This can be interpreted to mean that they did not know the delimitation requirements hence the need for civic education to be done before any delimitation is done. Due to the non conformancy to the requirement for delimitation there are cases which are in court which are yet to be determined concerning delimitations in Kenya which if not taken care of could degenerate to election conflicts.

4.5 The District Commissioners (DCs) response to the factors that influence prevention of election related conflicts.

The district commissioners were given open ended question to respond to as concerns factors that influence prevention of election related conflicts. The findings were presented on Table 12

Table 12: District Commissioners response on how these factors prevent election related conflicts

Response	f	%
EMBs		
Having rules to guide election process	3	100
Ensuring that all registered voters were in the register	2	66.7
Asking for security agents from the government	3	100
Training all the election officials on how to conduct election peacefully	1	33.3
State		
Provide security through the EMBs	3	100
Deters conflict through prosecutions in courts	1	33.3
Media		
Calling on all to be peaceful	3	100
Civil societies		
Doing civil education	3	100

Table 12 shows that all the District Commissioners 100% were in agreement that the EMB which is the IEBC in Kenya, prevents election related conflicts by having rules to guide election process. The other way was through ensuring that all registered voters were in the voter register by the time voting commenced with a 66.7%. The other way was through asking for security agents from the government with 100% response. Coupled with that was training all the election officials on how to conduct election peacefully which attracted a smaller percentage of 33.3%

As for the state the DCs indicated with 100% that it provides security through the EMBs and 33.3% deters conflict through prosecutions in courts. As for media the DCs only showed that it prevents election related conflicts by calling on all to be peaceful 100%. Civil societies provided civil education 100% as political parties and their candidates were expected to abide by the by-law given by IEBC. They also indicated that delimitation should done as per the guidelines given in the constitution.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The study investigated the factors that influence prevention and management of election related conflict in Kitui West constituency of Kitui County. This chapter contains summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. The findings of the study were that EMBs played a key role in prevention and management of election related conflicts through the laws enacted to be followed during the entire voting process. The state was found to have failed because of the many cases which were still pending in courts and also because the courts were seen not to be independent. The media's role was mainly found to be that of informing people of areas where conflict was likely to occur though it was seen to be accelerating conflict in other instance.

Civil societies were found to be providers when and after the conflicts occur though they were credited for being the custodians of civic education. Political parties and their candidates were found not to follow the set laws resulting to various incidents of conflict in the society.

Delimitation of the constituencies were found not to have been done as per the set regulations resulting to the many conflicts that were witnessed as well as cases being taken to court on the same.

5.2 Summary of the findings

This study attracted 90 (81.8%) of the election stakeholders and 3 (100%) of the District Commissioners (DCs). Majority of the respondents who participated in this study were male while the females formed a mere 28.9%. This disparity may be due to the fact that more often than not women shy away from issues related to elections or politics. As for the research it may mean that in terms of gender there may be some biasness in the responses due to the gender

imbalance. Half of the respondents were young people of ages 21-30 years followed by 26.7% of another group of youth between ages 31- 40 year. There was however a 12.2% and 11.1% of respondents who were over the age of 41years. This indicates the zeal the youth have on elections in Kenya. Also it means that most positions in the respective offices for instance civil societies, faith based organization which were among the sampled were held by the youth. The majority of stakeholders who were interviewed had reached class eight or form four, 23.3% had diploma certificates and only 7.8% were university graduates. It should be noted that there were 3.3% of the respondents who indicated that they had not been to school. All the stakeholders 100% who responded to this study were registered voters

As for the factors EMBs were found to be one factor that influences prevention of election related conflicts. The respondents indicated that EMBs develop election security tool to support the planning and implementation activities with 50% strongly agreeing to that and 40% only agreeing. There is a 10% response of those who did not have any opinion because they were not sure whether EMBs do that basing their response on the 2007 election violence and asking where the security was if it had really been planned for. As for provision of civic education a big percentage strongly disagreed 43.3% to that due to the fact that civic education is done by NGOs and the work of EMBs-I.E.B.C was only to accredit them. As for the interpretation of the law 52.2% agreed strongly and 47.3 % agreed that EMBs do so. These results are in agreement with literature reviewed that showed that the electoral management bodies should also have some liberty to interpret the law and to avoid dealing with the process in a legalistic way (Fandrych, 2003). Through probing the researcher was given the example in which due to impasse between the president and the prime minister I.E.B.C decided on the election date for the elections to be held next year . As for EMBs being sources of consultation 95.6% strongly agreed to that. So it

can be concluded that the EMBs have a lot of influence in deciding whether elections will be peaceful and in making decision concerning election conflicts especially through consultations and by providing security.

The state, through the courts ensures access to justice to the ordinary citizens with only 45.6% agreeing to that. About the courts being independent only 20% strongly agreed to that and around 50% disagreeing to the same. This means that in Kenya courts are not seen to be independent because of the many backlog of cases which were lying in courts. By extension it means that justice is denied due to these delays while we know from literature reviewed that access to justice by the ordinary citizens is a crucial factor (Fandrych, 2003). It is also contrary to IFES (2002) report which advocated that the independence of the judiciary itself has to be guaranteed by a political and financial autonomy. As for speedy respond to and process of electoral complaints only a mere 10% agree that this happens with a bigger percentage of 70% disagreeing to that.

For media the stakeholders strongly agree that it serves as a check against corruption which by extension may bring about conflict. 100% strongly agree that the media informs the voter about situation that might lead to conflicts. As for monitoring of SMS for hate speech only 45.6% strongly agreed that the media does that, with majority 54.5% strongly disagreeing with that. The respondent felt that the work of monitoring SMSes was the preserve of the service providers and the police force. 100% strongly said that it was true that the media was engaging conflicting party in “interest based” discussions agreeing been with Fandrych, (2003) who indicated that engaging conflicting parties in ‘interest-based’ discussions, or helping them to define their mutual interests was the duty of the media.

There was a 50% response that disagreed that the media objectively foretells situations threatening to escalate unlike the results of literature by Stremlau and Price (2009) that indicated that media monitoring can be an effective tool in both gauging the potential of violence associated with the elections but it should not just occur in the pre election and voting period as is most often the case, but in the post-election period as well. Many of the respondents in this study felt that at times through the reporting of media it becomes a catalysts to the escalation of the situations. On whether the media stimulate conflict resolution mechanism 30% disagreed that the media does that though there was a 10% who strongly and 30% who agreed to the same.

All the stakeholders 100% were in agreement that civil societies provide social service where conflicts occur 90%also strongly agree that they are the primary providers of basic social service in war torn societies while 10% agree to that. As for mitigating conflicts and building peace process only 50% of the respondents agreed to that because according to them they hear of the civil societies coming in when the situations have escalated to conflicts distributing food, tents and beddings to the affected but not before. To some extent the results agree with those of Ekiyor (2008) who showed that civil society actors have increasingly become vital forces in discourses, initiatives and programmes that foster peace and security across the world. All in all 100% are strongly in agreement that their proximity to local population has made them critical to mediation, reconciliation and other community peacekeeping initiatives.

100% of the political parties monitor election process especially voting and counting of ballots as literature had indicated that in cooperation with the electoral management bodies they should be invited to directly monitor the electoral acts, especially the voting and counting of ballots (Fandrych, 2003). Though 80% said that political parties train monitors there is 20% who

disagreed with that because majority of them pick their monitor and plant them in the polling stations without any training results which are in line with literature by Fandrych (2003) who suggested that it is however key that the political parties undertake an effort to train party monitors for the voting stations so as to contribute to the confidence building and transparency of the whole process. There is also an indication that most of the parties do not stick to the Code of Ethics provided with almost half of the responses 45.6% but according to Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC) (2008) good instrument to hold political parties to the ethics required during the process should be draw up a code of conduct, which could be part of a binding electoral law and which should be followed by all political parties. Over 60% of the respondents in this study disagreed to the fact that political parties ensure they have capacity to handle party nominations because in Kenya there are conflicts during the party nomination which culminates in people defecting to other parties or from one party to another. These finding are the same as those of GSDRC (2008) which found out that lack of capacity within political parties can be an issue, as was the case in Kenya, 2007. There, it is argued that the inability of political parties to properly handle the nomination process spurred violence. As such, programmes to support capacity building of political parties can be beneficial in preventing violence.

Respondent indicate that only the means of communication with 90% response was followed by the delimiting body. However there is quite a big percentage who indicated that they had no opinion. This can be interpreted to mean that they did not know the delimitation requirements hence the need for civic education to be done before any delimitation is done. Due to the non conformance to the requirement for delimitation conflicts were experienced during many of the

IEBC review of the boundaries meeting and there are cases which are in court which are yet to be determined concerning delimitations in Kenya which if not taken care of could degenerate to election conflicts. This is so because according to UNDP (2009) one of the most contentious issues in electoral system design which affects the overall electoral formula is the delimitation of boundaries. If voters and other stakeholders suspect that the electoral boundaries have been unfairly manipulated to produce a particular political outcome, this will affect the credibility of the delimitation process and the legitimacy of the electoral outcome itself could be questioned.

All the District Commissioners 100% were in agreement that the EMB which is the IEBC in Kenya, prevents election related conflicts by having rules to guide election process. The other way was through ensuring that all registered voters were in the voter register by the time voting commenced with a 66.7%. Also through asking for security agents from the government with 100% response. Coupled with that was training all the election officials on how to conduct election peacefully which attracted a smaller percentage of 33.3%

As for the state the DCs indicated with 100% that it provides security through the EMBs and 33.3% deters conflict through prosecutions in courts. As for media the DCs only showed that it prevents election related conflicts by calling on all to be peaceful 100%. Civil societies provided civil education 100% as political parties and their candidates were expected to abide by the by-law given by IEBC. They also indicated that delimitation should be done as per the guidelines given in the constitution.

5.3. Conclusions of the study

This study concludes that;

Despite all the attempts which have been made (including affirmative action) to ensure gender balance in the political scene in Kenya women are still disinterested in participating in politics. This is because the study attracted only 28.9% of the stakeholders who were representatives of different political interest groups in Kitui West Constituency. Unlike the women the youth formed the majority of the stakeholders. So it can be concluded that the EMBs have a lot of influence in deciding whether elections will be peaceful and in making decisions concerning election conflicts especially through consultations and by providing security.

EMBs were found to be one factor that influences prevention of election related conflicts. In Kenya EMBs developed election security tools to support the planning and implementation activities with but the only half agreed to that showing that more needs to be done by the IEBC especially in the area of ensuring that all those who took part in elections abide by the by-laws and stringent measures be given to those who did not abide. It is shown from the literature studied that one of the roles of the EMBs is to provide civic education but in Kitui West that role is left mainly to civic bodies and other organizations. The IEBC acts as a monitor

In Kitui West and in Kenya generally courts are not seen to be independent because they do not respond to the process of electoral complaints promptly coupled with the backlog of cases which

are lying in courts. The media informs the voter about situation that might lead to conflicts as well as guarding against corruption.

The work of civil societies was found to be providing social service where conflicts occur and are the primary providers of basic social service in war torn societies. Very few were seen to be involved in mitigating conflicts and building peace process because according to the stakeholders they them they hear of the civil societies coming in when the situations have escalated to conflicts distributing food, tents and beddings to the affected but not before.

There is a general feeling that only the means of communication was followed by the delimiting body. However there is quite a big percentage who indicated that they had no opinion. This can be interpreted to mean that they did not know the delimitation requirements hence the need for civic education to be done before any delimitation is done. The study also concludes that most of the political parties do not stick to the Code of Ethics provided.

5.4. Recommendations and suggestions of the study

This study makes several recommendations which include that;

That the IEBC should conduct itself in a manner that will be seen to be independent and neutral to the citizen in areas of all abiding to their laws irrespective of whether the concerned person held a powerful office or not in order to prevent conflicts.

IEBC should also be on the first line in providing civic education to the citizen so that the citizenry is informed of what their duties and responsibilities are in peaceful election as well as their rights.

There is need for the election officer to be trained fully on the election process so that they act in conformity to the election laws so as to prevent any election related conflict.

There is need to ensure that the delimitations were done in accordance to the laid down regulation so that there is contentment.

Also the cases which are in courts over delimitations should be determined before the next general election to avoid conflicts arising as a result.

There is need also for IEBC to prosecute those who go against the laws governing the election process

5.5 Suggestions for further study

There is need to conduct further study on;

1. Types of election related conflicts and their influence on the election process.
2. There is also need to investigate the causes of election related conflict and how they can be eliminated.

REFERENCES

- Babbie, E. R. (2007). *The Basics of Social Research* (4TH Ed.). Wadsworth Pub Co.
- Bajraktari, Y. and Hsu, E., (2007). 'Developing Media in Stabilisation and Reconstruction Operations', United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC
<http://www.gsdr.org/docs/open/CON73.pdf>
- Bardall, G. & White, C. (2010). *A Conflict Cycle Perspective on Electoral Violence*. Research centre for democracy and elections. International Foundations for Electoral Systems. (IFES)
- Benesch, S. (2011). *Election-Related Violence: The Role of Dangerous Speech*. Accessed on 21st march 2012 at <http://voicesthatpoison.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/benesch-elections-and-ethnic-violence.pdf>.
- Berman, B., Eyoh, D. and Kymlicka, W. (2004) 'Introduction'. *Ethnicity and the Politics of Democratic Nation-building in Africa*. In Berman, B., Eyoh, D. and Kymlicka, W. (eds.) *Ethnicity and Democracy in Africa*. Oxford/Athens (Ohio): James Currey/Ohio University Press. Accessed at <http://www.accord.org.za/publications/book-reviews/639> on 1st April.
- ECK RECORDS (ECK Annual report 2007). *Republic of Kenya*.
- Ekiyor, T. (2008). *The role of civil society in conflict prevention: West African experiences*. accessed @<http://www.unidir.org/pdf/articles/pdf-art2835.pdf> on 5th April 2012.
- Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa. (EISA). (2010).
- Ettang D. Ouma-Nzovu, B.&Osula- Bakwesegha, M. (2011). *Managing Election-related Violence: Elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo*
- Fandrych, S. (2003). *Conference on conflict prevention and management experiences in the SADC region* Accessed on 27th March 2012 at http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/angola/hosting/upd03_04confl_en.pdf
- Fischer, F. (2002). *Electoral Conflict And Violence A Strategy For Study And Prevention*
- Fomunyoh, C. (2009). *Mediating election-related conflicts*. Background paper. Accessed on 1st April 2012 @ <http://www.hdcentre.org/files/Election.pdf>
- Gillies, D. & Kwamie, N. (2009) *Elections and Conflict: Promoting Good Practice in Electoral Conflict Management*. Workshop and Panel Discussion Report

Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC), (2008). Election Related-Conflicts.accessed on 4th April @ <http://www.gsdr.org/docs/open/>

Grinnel, M.R.J.R. (1993). *Social Work Research an Evaluation*. 4th Ed. Illinois: F.E

Hoeffler, Anke & Marta Reynal-Querol, (2003). '*Measuring the Costs of Conflict*', Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford.

Hoeffler., Anke & Marta R. Q. (2003). '*Measuring the Costs of Conflict*', Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford.

Hoffman, B. & Smith, E. (2010). Preventing post election violenc in Africa. USAID

Höglund, K. (2006). '*Elections in War-Ravaged Societies: The Case of Sri Lanka*', in *Power Sharing and Democratic Governance in Divided Societies*. Oslo: Peace Research Center Oslo.

IEBC REPORT. (2012).*Memoranda presented during public hearing on the preliminary report on the preliminary report to the delimitation of boundaries of constituencies and wards-Kitui county*

Kanno, T. (2010) *Can Civil Society Prevent Election Violence?: Burundi IT Election Warning Project*

Klopp, J. M., Githinji, P. & Karuoya,K. (2010) *Internal Displacement and Local Peacebuilding in Kenya*. Challenges and Innovations

Larserud, S. (2007). *UNDP guidelines on prevention of election violence*. The Electoral Knowledge Network.

Manny, M. (2007).Philippine Police Warn of Rising Poll Violence', Reuters, 24 April

Nhema, A. & Zeleza, P. T. (2008).The resolution of Africa conflict.The management of Africa conflict and Post conflict resolution. Ohio University Press

Nkwachukwu, O. (2003), '*Conventional*' *Notion of Civil Society, International Civil Society Organisations and the Development of Civil Society in Africa*. Ebonyi State University Press, at www.gdnet.org/fulltext/orji.pdf .accessed on 4th April 2012.Peacock Publishers, Inc.

Steward, E. (2001).*Conflict Prevention: Consensus or Confusion?*

Strem lau, N. and Price, M. E. (2009). ResearchMedia, Elections and Political Violence in Eastern Africa: Towards a Comparative Framework. An Annenberg-Oxford Occasional Paper in Communications Policy.

The African Union Series. (AU). (2010). *Election-Related Disputes and Political Violence. Strengthening the Role of the African Union in Preventing, Managing, and Resolving Conflict* report of the au panel of the wise. International Peace Institute (IPI)

United Nations Development Program. (UNDP). (2009). *Elections and Conflict Prevention: A Guide to Analysis, Planning and Programming*. Newyork

United Nations. (2005). *The Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers*.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: LETTER TO RESPONDENTS

Dear Respondent,

I am a graduate student of the University of Nairobi. I am conducting a study on the factors that influence the prevention and management of election related conflicts. This is in fulfilment of the degree in Masters of Arts in Project Planning and Management. You have been selected to participate in this study. I would very much appreciate if you would kindly assist me by responding to all the items attached in the questionnaire. Your name and that of your organization need not to appear anywhere in the questionnaire unless you wish. The information you provide is anonymous and will be used for academic research purposes only.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

The completed questionnaire will be picked from you two weeks after delivery.

Thankyou in advance.

Yours faithfully,

Kiema Kitonga

Email: kitongak@yahoo.com

Post graduate student

APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE STAKE HOLDERS

SECTION A: Information about the stakeholder

1. Indicate your Gender.

Male Female

2. Indicate your age (in years) in the appropriately box

(a) 21- 30 (b) 31 – 40

(c) 41 –50 (d) 51 – 60

3. What is your highest Academic qualification?

(a) KCSE / KCE (b) Diploma

(c) Degree (d) Others (specify)-----

4. Are you a registered voter?

Yes No

5. Below are some statements about the causes of election conflicts. Please indicate how you agree with each statement concerning the causes of election related conflict (use the scale below)

1.Strongly Disagree - (SD) 2.Disagree - (D) 3. No Opinion - (NO)

4. Agree - (A) 5. Strongly Agree - (SA)

6. Listed are ways in which election related violence can be anticipated. Please tick in the spaces provided to show whether you agree or disagree with them

	Agree	Disagree
Collection and analysis of information from areas of crisis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development of strategic responses to crisis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doing situational analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharing of information among agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular meeting to discuss the situation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of government intelligence reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Please indicate how you agree with the following statements about the influence of the selected factor on prevention and management of election related conflicts.

Factor	SA	A	NO	D	SD
IEBC					
Develop election security tool to support the planning and implementation activities					
Provision of civic education					
Training of election officials					
Interpretation of law					
Should have autonomy/be independent					
It should be a source of consultations					
Election courts					
Ensure access to justice by the ordinary citizens					
Be independent					
Speedily respond to and process electoral complaints					
Media					
Serve as a check against corruption					
Informing the voter					
Determining the integrity of the selection process					
Media regulation					
Monitoring of SMS for hate speech					
Dialogue and cooperation within the media					
Foretelling of situations threatening to escalate objectively					
Engaging conflicting party in "interest based" discussions					

Provide early warning of situation that might lead to conflicts

Stimulate conflict resolution mechanism

Political

Monitor election process especially voting and counting of ballots

Train party monitors

Stick to the Code of Ethics provided

Ensure they have capacity to handle party nominations

Civil society

Provide social service where conflicts occur

Primary providers of basic social service in war torn societies

Mitigating conflicts and building peace process

CSOs (community based organizations) are key in addressing social-economic disparities in societies.

They also assist in humanitarian relief

Their proximity to local population has also made them critical to mediation, reconciliation, and other community peacekeeping initiative

At national level csos raises awareness of arms production.

Boundary delimitation

That the following were considered in delimiting the constituency

- i. Density of the population
- ii. Population trends
- iii. Means of communication
- iv. Geographical features
- v. Community interest

There is a broad consensus and measure of support among the political parties regarding the existing electoral units' boundaries in Kitui West.

The body that did the delimitation is impartial independent, professional and not aligned with a particular political party

The existing boundaries of electoral units favour one political party

The involvement of EMB is likely to impinge upon the impartiality and independence of the body

--	--	--	--	--	--

APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

1. Show how the following factors influence the prevention and management of election related conflicts

- a. Independent Electoral And Boundaries Commission (IEBC)-----

- b. Election courts-----

- c. Media-----

- d. Political parties-----

- e. Civil society-----

- f. Boundary delimitation-----

- g. Religious organizations-----

5. How can election related conflicts be managed?

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
KIKUYU LIBRARY
P. O. Box 30197
NAIROBI