



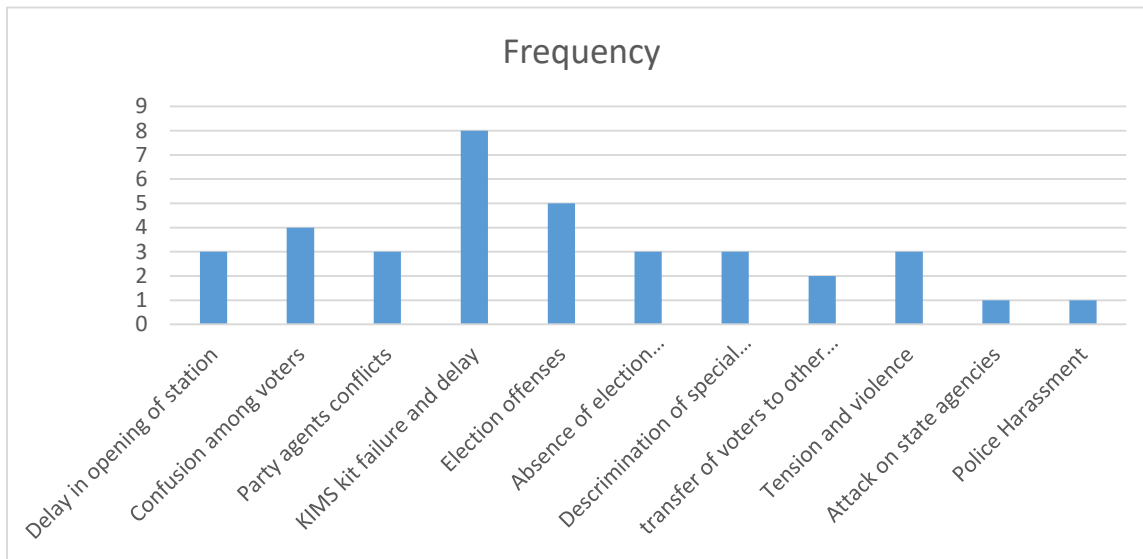
KENYA COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTER KENYA GENERAL ELECTIONS SITUATION BRIEF

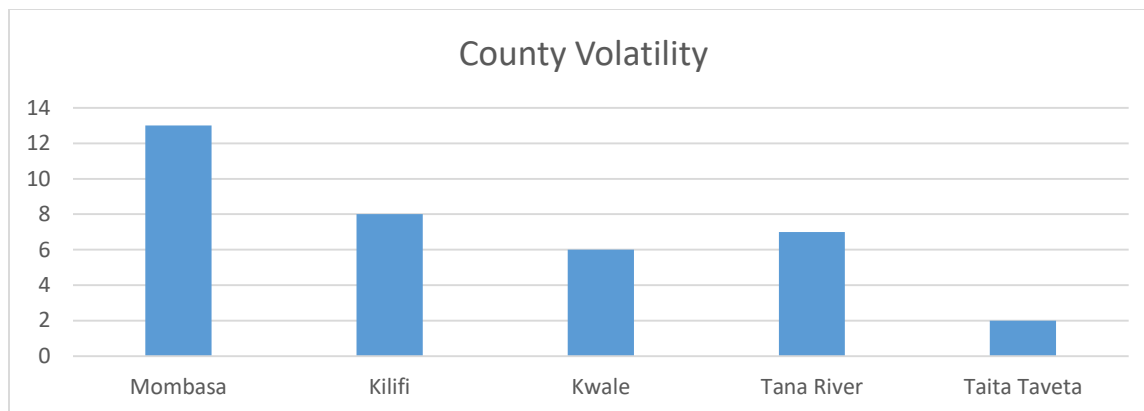
Introduction.

The general elections are ongoing for all elective seats in the coast region except for the gubernatorial seat in Mombasa county which was suspended by IEBC due to a mix-up in the ballot papers. The EWER system is supported by a robust team of staff, monitors and observers deployed in different locations in all counties. The team is observing and reporting to the EWER system. This brief has been produced from the data received on 9/8/2022 as from 6 AM to 12.00 PM.

Update on the current Situation.

Voting is going on most polling centers we are monitoring. However, so far the following concerns have been raised.





1. Voter turnout is relatively high in most of the polling stations. Women, youths, elderlies and PWDs have come out in large number to vote. In Saney Girls polling station, monitors have commended the turnout of women constituting of estimated 80% of all voters.
2. The major setback in the coast region and Kenya, in general, is the delay in the opening of the polling stations and that occasioned by the KIEMS kit. In Garsen Polling station, women with children and expectant mothers, elderlies and PWDs became hopeless due to the delay caused by the failure in the IEBC KIEMS kit. This saw them leave for home only to come back later as a crowd when the process became seamless. Police have now been deployed.
3. The monitors in various stations have reported delay in the opening of the polling stations. This was reported in Malindi Town primary and Sir Ali in Malindi sub-county in Kilifi County and Ngao in Tana Delta. The delay saw the voters complain and become anxious as some of them even left their polling stations (at Sir Ali primary)
4. The delay in the voting exercise resulting from the failure of the KIEMS Kits and network latency is the most reported so far. In some stations including, Garsen primary where out of 4 streams, only 1 is working. Other areas where the kits failed are Hadija in Nyali, St Elizabeth in Bamburi, Maweni primary in Mkomani, kadzandani and Kongowea primary polling stations. Similar experiences have been reported in Taita Taveta.
5. Lack of adequate voter education is also manifesting during the electoral process. Many voters are stranded and are spending a lot of time scanning through the voter register stuck on the walls. The first-timers are reportedly having a difficult time locating the relevant queues in accordance with their alphabet.
6. The peace monitors have also identified election offenses as potential precursors of conflicts. These offenses are characterized by the importation of voters (in Kijiwetanga), bribery at Kinango primary and Mariakani primary and campaigns at Bahwan polling. Some of these offenses have instigated violence in Kijiwetanga where 1 person has reportedly been injured when youth descended on a vehicle suspected to be ferrying people to the Kijiwetanga in Ganda ward.
7. Violence has been reported in Ganda ward in Malindi and Tudor polling station in the Mvita sub-county in Mombasa. In Ganda, angry youths attacked a vehicle over voter importation allegations while in Mvita, chaos erupted at the Tudor polling station where

an aspirant and his team became rowdy. In a video seen by the EWER, a group of people is arguing with the IEBC officials where they go on rampage and begin tossing the election materials as some exchange blows.

8. Special interest groups have also expressed their concern over the accessibility of the voting stations. PWDs, women with children, and the elderly are having a difficult time checking their names on the voter lists which have allegedly been displayed higher than they can observe. The SMS and verification portal are not working for most of them.
9. There is confusion among some voters who are being diverted to other polling stations where they did not register. This is intimidating to some voters as it is killing their morale in exercising their constitutional rights.
10. One incident of attack on a state agency was reported in Tudor polling station during chaos that erupted.
11. 1 incident of police harassment has been reported at Ganjoni primary where police were allegedly conducting unnecessary frisks on the voters hence intimidating them.
12. Most parts of Chonyi and Kilifi South have reported peaceful voting exercise apart from the delays experienced due to the KIEMS kit.

Responses so far.

One woman is in police custody after she was caught distributing cash on behalf of an alleged female aspirant at Mariakani primary school. This is after a peace monitor notified the police.

Three people including 2 candidates on a UDA ticket have been arrested in Mvita following the chaos that erupted at the Tudor village polling station.

Most of the polling stations where the delays were reported, voting is going on smoothly including in Kongowea, Mkomani and Maweni.

IEBC has committed to extending the voting time in the polling stations where delays in the opening of polling stations were reported.

Conclusion.

Despite the reported incidences of electoral violence and tension, the voter turnout is significantly high in most of the polling stations KECOSCE monitors are located. Citizens have come out to exercise their democratic right and choose leaders who will improve their livelihood and solve the economic burdens as depicted in the manifestos of different aspirants. Most of the citizens are looking forward to a peaceful transition.

