

TANZANIA

Research paper's abstract



Regarding Tanzania and Zanzibar, the study pays close attention to the following issues: identity politics (particularly religion and ethnicity/regionalism), election management bodies (EMBs), political parties' security groups, the role of youth in electoral violence, and the tension surrounding the constitution making process.

Research Questions:

- (i) How prevalent in terms of frequency, intensity, types and geographical spread are incidents of electoral violence in Tanzania in 2015?
- (ii) How can electoral violence in Tanzania be explained?
- (iii) What is the impact of electoral violence to democratisation and victims especially women, the disabled, and the marginalised groups?
- (iv) To what extent is the early warning system effective to address the problem of electoral violence?

Objectives:

- (i) Tracking and profiling incidents of electoral violence from 2010 to 2015;
- (ii) Providing a clear analysis of the causes of tensions, incidents, violence or conflicts that occur(ed); their structure, the actors, different motivations at play, their dynamics, complexity and interactions between different stakeholders;
- (iii) Assessing the current or potential impact of these tensions, incidents, violence or conflicts to victims especially women, the disabled and the marginalised groups as well as to democratisation; and
- (iv) Recommending concrete and implementable measures to anticipate (early warning system), prevent and mitigate incidents of electoral violence in future electoral events such as by-elections and referendum.

Methodology:

This study will be guided by Lederach's elicitive approach to conflict transformation. This approach is appropriate for Tanzania's circumstances as it entails utilising local resources by empowering people to make use of their experience, knowledge and insights to define, analyse, create, and evaluate appropriate measures to deal with their conflicts. This is the essence of a participatory research which is likely to be sustainable since it emanates from key stakeholders on whose implementation depends. Methodologically, the study will employ an interdisciplinary approach and make use of qualitative and quantitative research tools. Data collection will be solicited using a wide range of methods such as desk review, mini-survey for the selected areas, focus group discussions with key stakeholders, in-depth interviews, and observation. The SPSS tool will be used in processing data obtained from the min-survey.