



## Fact Sheet on PVT

### **Introduction**

The Institute for Education in Democracy (IED) is a non-governmental organisation that has for the past sixteen years provided non-partisan leadership in monitoring the electoral processes in Kenya and Africa through programmes in the electoral process, civic voter education, research, advocacy, and provision of technical assistance. IED is not affiliated to any political party, pressure group or religious organization. IED is an associate member and the Regional Resource Centre of the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network which is a joint endeavour between nine key international development partners within the field of elections. IED is also a certified Election Observer institution under the Network for Enhanced Electoral and Domestic Support (NEEDS).

IED's vision is: *'Empowered citizens and institutions engaged in democratic elections'*

Our mission is: *'to promote democratic elections in Kenya and the Africa region through monitoring and observation of all aspects of the electoral and democratic processes; provision of civic/voter education; technical support to key institutions of governance; and research and advocacy'*

In order to enhance and improve the electoral process in Kenya, IED has developed an SMS system that will be used to among other things, transmit the provisional statistical elections results from all the polling stations around the country to a central data processing centre and thus enable IED to provide Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT).

The SMS system will also support the civic engagement through interaction with citizens by disseminating voter education messages; support research through conducting opinion polls and strengthen interaction with citizen through receiving feedback from the public.

### **1. What is Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT)**

This is an election observation methodology that is employed for independent verification of official election results. It involves observation of the voting and counting of ballots at the polling stations, collection of official polling station results and independent tabulation of these results, parallel to election authorities. (Definition adapted from the ACE website)

### **2. When was PVT first used?**

IED first used a PVT in 2002 during the general elections and in the 2005 referendum on the Constitution. The only difference was the methodology. In the 2002 General Elections and 2005 Referendum (observed by KCSOP)<sup>1</sup>, IED collated the provisional elections results and data and manually recorded them and posted them to the website. IED has since moved away from that methodology and for the last one-year, IED has been using SMS system to receive and collate the provisional electoral results from observers in the field. These are then processed analysed and posted to the website.

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<sup>1</sup> IED took the lead and mobilized some 40 civil society organizations to form a coalition known as the Kenya Civil Society Observation Programme (KCSOP). The programme was supported with funds from IED, CRECO and Urgent Action Fund-Africa

### **3. Where else has PVT been used?**

PVT is gaining momentum around the world. It has also been used in Albania, Chile Bangladesh, Belarus, Indonesia, Georgia, Kenya, Macedonia, Slovakia, Mozambique, Peru and Ukraine. Closer home, it has been used in Burundi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Ghana.

It was first used in Philippines during the 1986 Presidential elections by the Philippine National Citizen Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL).

### **4. Why PVT?**

- PVT is intended to deter fraud in the counting process.
- PVT will be important for verifying vote counts in transitional or post-conflict elections such as Kenya after the 2007 elections.
- PVT are more reliable than exit polls
- PVT is intended to provide political parties, candidate and the Kenyan public with a mechanism for building credibility and confidence in the accuracy of the official elections results. Therefore PVT supports in building integrity and legitimacy in elections outcome.

### **5. How will the PVT work?**

IED will deploy over 210 poll watchers in both Shinyalu and Bomachoge Constituencies. The poll watchers will be responsible for recording the official count of the polling station after having observed voting, counting and announcement of result. This information is then sent to IED via a short message using a mobile phone. It will be processed, analyzed and posted to IED's website i.e. [www.iedafrica.org](http://www.iedafrica.org)

### **6. Important Note**

IED will rely on result that have been announced and made public at all the polling station. IED will also rely on the results that have been announced and made public by the Returning Officer at the tallying center. Although IED will cross-check and verify the results at every stage, it is important to note that electoral results remain provisional until they are finally and officially announced by the Interim Independent Electoral Commission (IIEC). Therefore, the final Official results will only come from the IIEC.

#### **Contact Details**

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