

**AN ASSESSMENT ON THE CAUSES OF ELECTORAL
CONFLICTS AND VIOLENCE IN UGANDA.**

BY

**RWAKISHAIJA DUNCAN
REG. NO 207025093-00259
B. DVS. HONS. MUK.**

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Abstract

In Uganda, electoral conflicts continue to exist before, during and at the conclusion of National elections. In Kampala, various outcomes in form of court cases, processions, re-runs, violent behaviors and hostilities are observed during the electoral period. The study used a qualitative longitudinal research design to gather information from 78 different sources and respondents on the causes of election violence from the EC, the Police force, Media, Faith Institutions and the voters. The study notes that the younger population is more interested in the political situation in the country implying the younger age groups are most involved in the politics of this country and could also be the most vulnerable to election conflict and violence. The main causes of electoral conflict and violence were rigging and other irregularities such as ghost voters, bribery and corruption, non-acceptance of defeat. The current civic Education is not enough and therefore is needed to safeguard voters from being misled by the politicians. The research suggests the facilitation of an independent EC with the help of the judiciary where the judges appoint the Head of the electoral commission would be most appropriate. The full facilitation for the EC mandate and streamlining the functionality of the EC to make it non partisan would be appropriate. The value and tenets of civic education on the other hand should be emphasized routinely. Civic education needs to be incorporated into the routine school education curriculum. The influence of the police by the state; specifically the appointment of the Inspector General of Police should be dissolved by streamlining the appointment of such position under the Ministry of Internal Affairs and or the Public Service Commission. The study recommends an impartial, independent and institutionalized force led by a professional police officer to limit the influence and involvement of the army as well as redesigning the electoral commission to be under the whelms of the Judiciary led by the Chief Justice and releasing the Nshimye Commission on electoral violence was set-up after the 2001 elections.