European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

Tabulation and Announcement of Results

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Iraq election commission rejects calls for vote recount

Iraq's election commission has rejected calls from the president and prime minister for a recount of votes cast in the general election on 7 March.

An election official said a recount of all votes would be impossible and was unnecessary because of checks on fraud.

Earlier, President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Nouri Maliki backed calls for a manual recount of votes.

Partial results indicate a close race between Mr Maliki and former Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

But the long delay in announcing the full results has led to growing allegations of fraud and demands for a recount.

"It can't be done, it can't, we can't start all over again and count the votes all over again," Mr Talabani said.

There have been complaints of fraud and irregularities in the vote counting.

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Principles of Results Management

Speed
Accuracy
Transparency
Integrity
Meltdown…
24 hours vs 30 days
Kenya vs DRC
Results Planning across the Cycle

- Legal/Operational Analysis
- Macro Design Procurement
- Needs Check Micro Design
- Testing Training
- Clear Databases
- Validation Management Announcement Petitions

- Post-Election
- Legal Framework
- Planning & Implementation
- Training & Education
- Registration & Nomination
- Electoral Campaign
- Voting Operations & Election Day
- Verification of Results
- Post-Election Period
- Electoral Period
The Source Documents are Most Critical!

• Forms for Counting, Results, Report & Ballot Papers

• Simplify, Simplify, Simplify!

• Reduce margin for errors/mistakes in field

• Party agents to “witness” through signature

• Report major decisions/observations

• Allow for simple mechanisms to investigate later
Spaces and Formats of Conflict

- Before the Election Day
- At the point of counting
- At the point of collation
- At the point of tabulation
- Before the results are announced
- After the results are announced

Formality
Most Common Mistakes

• Transparency
• Speed
• Accuracy
• Integrity
• Education of Media/Parties
• Weak/poor communication/coordination

• Complex procedures
• Lack of detail
• No risk/crisis plan
• Not getting the basics right
• Starting too late!