ICT and Elections

THEMATIC WORKSHOP

Information Technology and Elections Management
Informed Decisions for Sustainable Outcomes

ICT and Elections

HIGH-TECH (EVR) IMPLEMENTATION – OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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OUTLINE

➢ Introduction – Context

➢ EVR – Operational Tasks

➢ EVR – Operational Challenges

➢ Conclusion

CONTEXT

➤High-Tech VR (EVR) refers to the use of ICTs in the entire process of producing a voters' register.

➤Also synonymous with BVR - physical traits of voters are captured and used in the production of a voters' register.

➤EVR is implemented in the context of:
  ○Active Voter Registration
  ○Continuous & Periodic

Operational Tasks

Assuming decisions made, EVR system procured

➢Recruitment & Training

➢Awareness campaigns (Civic/Voter Education)

➢Deployment & Field operations

➢Data Consolidation/Sanitization

➢Production & Display of Provisional Register

➢Production of Final Register

Operational Challenges

1. Capacity building
   - ❖ EMB staff (is everyone on same page?)
   - ❖ Field Staff :
     - ▪ Right people
     - ▪ Right attitude (more than just skill)
2. Logistics:
   - ❖ Bulky, New set of consumables
   - ❖ Safety issues – Handling fuel in case of generators

Operational Challenges

3. Field/First line Support
   - ❖ Equipment failure/Inventory tracking
   - ❖ Operational support (legal & procedural issues)
   - ❖ Security – personnel/equipment
   - ❖ Data backups
4. Communications Infrastructure:
   - ❖ Limited channels
   - ❖ Alternatives – Flash disks, CD/DVD ROMS

Operational Challenges

5. Data Issues:
   - ❖ Missing records
   - ❖ Finger prints - may not always be captured
   - ❖ Portraits – Cultural/Religious Considerations

6. Turn out
   - ❖ EVR may necessitate canvassing strategy change. How do eligible citizens tell which reg. centre is open
   - ❖ If reg. period is short – how flexible is it w.r.t polling Station allocation?
   - ❖ How to get many to validate prov. Reg.

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Operational Challenges

7. Lead Time:
   - ❖ To produce provisional list (RUN FULL AFIS & Human action on results)
   - ❖ Produce final – Address errors, Objections/Challenges
   - ❖ Printing
8. Stakeholder buy-in
   - ❖ EMB Staff & Commissioners
   - ❖ Ext. Stakeholders (Observation, Audit)

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Broader Challenges

9. Sustainability
10. Synergy with Civil Register and Census Agencies
11. Stakeholder perception

Conclusion

Adhere to best practices:

o Conducting feasibility studies before introduction of EVR;

o Ensuring that tech. specs are developed in line with the country's needs and considering comparative experiences;

o Selecting a solution that is adapted to the country's electoral legal and operational framework;

o Introducing technology in good time

o Adequate training of EMB and the necessary field operations support framework; and

o Civic/Voter education aimed at increasing all stakeholders' trust in the technology.

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