

The electoral commission of Kenya and the management of the electoral process in Kenya, 1992-2002

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Abstract:

This study inquires into the role and performance of the Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) in the management of the electoral process in Kenya between 1992 and 2002. The study employed the Modern theories that posit organizations as a structural process in which individuals interact for objectives. It exists to integrate the interests of the individual and the organization. This theory considers the individual, the organization suppliers and customers as part of the environment. This theory best illustrates the formal and informal aspects of the Electoral Commission of Kenya and how it relates with other institutions and individuals in its daily routine operations. The Modern theory is however limited in explaining the internal relations within the organization. The administrative theory is therefore employed to complement the theory. The administrative theory perceives organizations in the formal sense to denote order, and its corollary, and organised in orderly procedure. The theory conceptualizes organisations to operate under the principles of management, committee and functions pre eminent principle of administrative theory is coordination. The study utilised both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected by use of tools such as questionnaires, open discussions and interviews with persons deemed to have the information under search. A data field assistant was engaged. The collected data was analysed by the student researcher using the Statistics Program for Social Science. The study found out that the ECK as currently constituted is not able to manage a free and fair election. It also noted the scattered legal framework which needed to be consolidated for the electoral' code to be all inclusive and specific. The study made several recommendations, among them advancing more resources to the ECK, structural overhaul of the organization, de linking the electoral process form Public Service, Constitutional reforms and legal framework shift for the ECK. The study contributes enormously to existing literature on electoral process in Kenya, alongside opening new fronts for further research on electoral process in Kenya.