



International Newsletter – September 2017



From the Trustees...

The FITCAM collaborative flagship training programme BMF in Buea has had another highly successful session, but against a background of continuing low-level unrest in South-West Cameroon. Meanwhile, the elections in Rwanda and Kenya have been won by the incumbent – in both cases raising doubts about governance. In the case of Kenya, those doubts were bravely upheld by the Kenyan Supreme Court. IGI continues to play a small, but valuable role improving governance in all three of these countries, as in DR Congo. Please pray for an IGI international conference in Cameroon on November 25th.



As always, for more information, please go to www.igi-integrity.com, or join the discussion on our Facebook page.



Figure 1. Kenyan Supreme Court (courtesy BBC).

In this issue

- **Kenyan Elections**
- **Cameroon: Progress and Risks**
- **Rwanda Elections**
- **Prayer points**

Kenyan Elections

As most of you will know, the Presidential, legislative and municipal elections took place in Kenya on 8th August. The presidential result, returned the incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta (Jubilee) with a majority of 55% to 45% of votes cast. Although international observers proclaimed general satisfaction with the conduct of the election, the opposition challenged it in court. The Kenyan Supreme Court upheld the challenge and annulled the election, on the grounds that it was not held in accordance with the Constitution, in that it was neither transparent nor verifiable. A new election is to be held within 60 days (i.e., on 26th October).

The concerns surrounded failure to provide the required documentary evidence of the counts at the local election centres alongside other irregularities. Strange movements in the running total were also reported informally and the opposition NASA coalition claimed computer hacking, but this has not been verified.

We have also seen a copy of a memo dated 5th September from the Chairman of the Electoral Commission (IEBC) to the Chief Executive, demanding explanation of a dozen irregularities, from failure to use correct IT systems or forms to unexplained large numbers of rejected votes at hundreds of voting stations.

The provider of the complex computer systems for recording and transmitting the counted votes now claims that they may not have the equipment re-installed in time for the date set for the re-run. Also, the opposition are asserting that they will not take part unless certain changes are made. So there is now the risk of a substantial constitutional crisis, and, with tempers rising, the danger of renewed violence.

In the run-up to the election IGI was much involved in organising Aspirants' Forums for local candidates to present their positions to the electorate [Forums Report](#). On election day, 32 members of IGI-led Community Tax-Payers Associations took part as observers in eight counties. IGI Kenya has provided a useful summary of some of the abuses reported in the run-up to the election and on the day: [Interim Election Report](#)



Figure 2 Kenyans go to the polls.

Cameroon: Progress and Risks

The latest MUNICIPAL COUNCILS BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC SERVICE GOVERNANCE FELLOWSHIP conference took place in Buea 23-26 August.

Attended by 150 fellows, it addressed the theme of "Preparing Human Capital for Cameroon's Informal Sector Labor Market by 2035". Topics included entrepreneurship, the service ethos of local government, the principles of good governance, and the application of Christian values. Lectures on financial management and anti-corruption measures were also presented. Stephen Asek played a significant part as one of the organisers and lecturers. Government ministers and the mayor of Buea also lent support.

The BMF has a big role in developing the next generation of leaders in a country where half the population is under 18 years of age. [Report of BMF 2017](#) .

However, Cameroon faces continuing low-level unrest due to alleged discrimination by the Government in favour of the majority French-speaking community and against the Anglophone minority. The English speakers are predominantly in the coastal South West, the economic powerhouse of Cameroon, where also IGI mainly operates. There are press reports of 17 deaths due to soldiers firing on protestors.

Rwanda elections

Rwanda has now held its elections (4th August). Only three candidates were accredited by the National Electoral Commission: Paul Kagame, the incumbent since the year 2000, Frank Habineza of Green Party and Philippe Emayimana, the independent.

Apparently, 98% of the electorate voted and – to nobody's surprise – Paul Kagame won with 99%.

The elections were peaceful and well-organised (maybe too well organised, one might think), and there appears to have been no major protest, internally or abroad. The opposition candidates did suffer some harassment by the authorities, but apparently only locally, and there were a few arrests for minor local irregularities. The elections were monitored by African Union, East African Community, COMESA, Civil Society, political parties, and the National Human Rights Commission. [IGI Rwanda Report](#) .



Figure 3 Paul Kagame,

This result seems to be achieved by stifling dissent, through intimidating journalists and imprisoning significant opposition such as Diane Shima Rwigara (the daughter of a leader killed in 2015). Despite the achievements and stability of the Kagame years, one is left wondering at what price it is gained...

Please pray for...

- Peaceful and fair re-run of the Kenyan presidential election;
- Continued peace and freedom in South-West Cameroon;
- Success of education programmes in Rwanda and DR Congo;
- Safety of IGI activists and their families as they oppose vested interests;
- A good IGI international conference in Cameroon in November;
- Wisdom for the trustees seeking more support for the vital work of IGI.