

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI

THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY

FIRST ASSEMBLY- FOURTH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND CO-ORDINATION OF COUNTY AFFAIRS

REPORT ON THE ASSESSMENT HELD FROM 11TH TO 14TH MARCH 2016, ON THE IMPACT OF CIVIC EDUCATION ON VOTER AND IDENTITY CARD REGISTRATIONS IN KITUI COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2016

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PREFACE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

It is my pleasant privilege and honour to present to this Honourable House the Report of the Committee on Administration and Coordination of County Affairs on assessment of the impact of civic education on voter and identity card registrations.

Mr Speaker Sir,

Committee Membership

The Committee comprises of the following members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Hon Mwove Kinyala | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon Benard Munyasya | Vice Chairperson |
| 3. Hon Stephen Kithuka | Member |
| 4. Hon Catherine Kasimu | Member |
| 5. Hon Phoebe Kisee | Member |
| 6. Hon Nelson Kitema | Member |
| 7. Hon DeiysMukala | Member |
| 8. Hon Hussein Mwandia | Member |
| 9. Hon Daniel Kimanzi | Member |
| 10. Hon Johnray Ngava | Member |
| 11. Hon Jane Mutua | Member |

Mandate of the Committee

Mr Speaker Sir,

Pursuant to Standing Order No. 190 (5) the functions of the Committee are to, inter alia:

- a) Investigate, inquire into, and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management, activities, administration, operations and estimates of the assigned departments;
- b) Study the programmes and policy objectives of departments and the effectiveness of implementation;
- c) Study and review all county legislation referred to it;
- d) Study, assess and analyze the relative success of the departments as measured by the results obtained as compared with their stated objectives;
- e) Investigate and inquire into all matters relating to the assigned departments as they may deem necessary and as may be referred to them by the County Assembly;

- f) Make reports and recommendations to the County Assembly as often as possible, including recommendation of proposed legislation;

Legal Basis

The Committee's mandate in respect of the assessment of the impact of civic education on voter and identity card registrations is derived from Article 185(3) of the Constitution 2010, which states that a County Assembly, while respecting the principle of the separation of powers, may exercise oversight over the county executive committee and any other county executive organs.

Article 174 of the Constitution 2010 partly states that one objective of devolution is to give powers of self-governance to the people and enhance their participation in the exercise of the powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them. Schedule four section 14 of the Constitution further mandates County governments to ensure that communities participate in governance, enhanced citizen participation and development of the requisite administrative capacity.

Civic education plays a key role in ensuring that the power of self governance and enhanced citizen participation are achieved. As per section 99(1) of the County Government Act (CGA) 2012, the purpose of civic education is to have an informed citizenry that actively participates in governance affairs of the society on the basis of enhanced knowledge, understanding and ownership of the Constitution. Further, section 99(2) of the CGA states that one objective of civic education is to ensure enhanced knowledge and understanding of electoral system and procedures.

Section 100 (1) of the CGA requires each county to implement an appropriate civic education programme, and establish a civic education unit.

Civic education falls under the Ministry of Administration and Coordination of County Affairs and in adherence to Article 185(3) of our Constitution and Standing Order 190(5), this Committee is under a duty to oversight the Ministry.

Background

On Monday 15th February, 2016, His Excellency the Governor, Dr Julius Malombe launched the civic education exercise at Ithookwe Show Ground, which was to go hand in hand with the voter registration exercise running from 16th February 2016 to 15th March, 2016.

Civic education was meant to sensitize citizens on the importance of voter and identity card registrations to ensure that they participate in the electoral process in the forthcoming general elections.

County funds were spent on the civic education exercise and therefore there was need for oversight to assess the impact of the exercise on voter and identity card registrations and report back to the Assembly.

In exercise of its oversight mandate, the Committee resolved that there was need to assess the impact of civic education on voter and identity cards registrations, as civic education falls under the Ministry of Administration and Co-ordination of County Affairs. The oversight exercise took place as from 11th to 14th March, 2016, in line with the terms of reference outlined below.

Terms of Reference

The assessment was meant to determine:

1. The impact of civic education on voter registration and identity card registration;
2. Citizens response and feelings towards the civic education exercise;
3. The number of voters registered;
4. The number of new IDs registered;
5. Challenges experienced during the exercise;
6. Prudence in the cost incurred;
7. Any other relevant matters;

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Report is divided into three distinct parts:

Part one outlines the preface, mandate of the Committee, legal basis, background, executive summary and the acknowledgement.

Part two deals with the Committee's findings regarding the various Sub Counties visited.

Finally, part three of the Report outlines the conclusion reached and recommendations drawn from the findings in chapter two.

General Findings

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee made the following key findings:

a) Voter registration

1. Annex 1 outlines the total number of voters registered for the 8 Sub Counties and 40 Wards of Kitui County.
 - i) Voter registration was generally successful in the County as it was able to register 57,655 voters, translating to 61.47% against a target of

93,800 voters. Further, all Sub Counties were able to attain above 50% of the set targets.

- ii) Kitui South Sub- County recorded the highest voter registrations at 80% of the set target, while Kitui West Sub County recorded the lowest voter registrations of 51.64% of the set target.
- iii) Wards with high voter registrations include: Ngomeni- 87%,Kivou- 72%, Mbitini- 76%, Voo/ Kyamatu- 72%, Mutomo- 80%, Mutha- 90%, Ikutha- 87%, Kanziko- 80%, Athi- 83%, etc.
- iv) Wards with low voter registrations include: Nuu- 47%,KwaMutonga/ Kithumula- 49%, Endau/ Malalani- 38%, Mutitu/ Kaliku- 48%, etc.

2. Challenges faced during the voter registration exercise include:

i) Transportation

While the Clerks were facilitated with Kshs. 300 per day for transport, the amount was insufficient as they were often required to travel long distances across various vast villages.

ii) Lack of identity cards.

- Some adult citizens do not possess identity cards and therefore could not register as voters;
- Some ID cards had not been dispatched from the national government. For instance, in Matinyani Ward, identity cards had not been dispatched since November last year up to the time of the Committee's oversight exercise.
- Some identity cards were dispatched to the wrong Wards.
- Delays by citizens in collecting their identity cards.

iii) Exportation of voters.

This was particularly the case in Mwingi West, whereby it was alleged that there was exportation of voters from areas in Mwingi West bordering Mwingi Central. These areas include: Katalwa, Mumbuni, Nzeluni and Kisovu.

iv) Improper co-ordination between the National and County governments.

Key stakeholders especially Ward Administrators desired to work hand in hand with the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs but these officers were uncooperative, alleging that there had been no official communication regarding the exercise.

b) Identity card registration

1. Annex 2 outlines identity card registrations for the 8 Sub Counties and 40 Wards of Kitui County.

- i) Identity card registration was generally successful in the County as it was able to register 17,599 identity cards translating to 59% against the set target of 29,640 identity cards.
- ii) Kitui Rural Sub County recorded the highest identity card registration at 99% against a target of 3,000 identity cards while Kitui South Sub County recorded the lowest identity card registration at 22% against a target of 4,920.
- iii) Wards with high numbers of identity card registrations include: Kyuso- 76%, Nguutani- 98%, Mwingi Central- 99%, Mui- 124%, Mutonguni- 89%, Kauwi- 87%, Matinyani- 101%, Kisasi- 110%, Mbitini- 108%, KwaVonza- 94%, Kanyangi- 84%, Kanziko- 80%, etc.

Wards with low numbers of identity card registrations include: Mumoni- 48%, Tharaka- 43%, Migwani- 29%, Nguni- 39%, Nuu- 46%, Waita- 36%, Miambani- 32%, Township- 37%, Kyangwithya East- 18%, Nzambani- 43%, etc.

- iv) No identity card registrations were recorded for the following Wards: Ikanga/ Kyatune, Mutomo and Mutha during the entire registration period.

Other areas that did not have the privilege of registering for identity cards include:

- i) Nzunguni village in Voo/ Kyamatu
 - ii) Yiku/ Kithua and Ndetani villages in Endau/ Malalani
2. There are very many people in various villages, including senior citizens, without identity cards. This was evidenced by the large crowds of people that the Committee members found waiting to register for their identity cards, for instance in Muthale at Kangondi village.
3. Some of the challenges faced in identity card registration as highlighted to the Committee include:

- i) Restrictive legal requirements.
The legal requirement for persons over 23 years to produce affidavits to prove their age led to less registration as most people cannot afford the advocates fees or are afraid to appear before magistrates to swear the affidavits due to unfounded fear of arrest and ignorance. This legal requirement led to less ID card registrations.
- ii) Lack of necessary tools of work like stationery and electronic gadgets. These include forms, photographic material, cameras, etc. For instance, Kithumula and KwaMutonga share the only available special camera for identity cards registration photograph despite being highly populated.
- iii) Ignorance by some citizens on the importance of holding identity cards, which affirms the importance of civic education.
- iv) Vastness of some Sub Counties and or Wards.
The vastness of various Wards disadvantaged some Sub Counties like Mwingi North Sub County making it difficult to meet the set targets. The general feeling was that the vast Sub County was being marginalized when treated in the same manner as Mwingi Central, Kitui Central, etc.
- v) There was shortage of staff to register citizens for identity cards leading to less identity card registrations, despite citizens' willingness to register themselves.

c) Civic education:

1. The County Government engaged seven (7) civic educators per village working for 2 days a week and paid Kshs. 1,000 for the 2 days. Most were de-motivated by the meagre pay leading to poor performance and generally considered themselves engaged as volunteers.
2. Lack of proper briefing may have contributed to the educators' poor performance. The briefing done at Ithookwe showground during the launch of the civic education exercise was not replicated in some areas like Kitui West and Mwingi West. This would have ensured that the educators clearly understood what was expected of them.

3. Planning and/ or preparation for the exercise did not involve consultation of other key stakeholders like Ward Administrators, and it was done without field visits to some Wards. While this is the case, key stakeholders should have been involved from the start as they were the executors and understood any related issues better.
4. Some of the challenges faced during civic education include:
 - i) Ignorance and negative attitude by citizens.
 - Most citizen seemed to hold a negative attitude towards voter registration and did not seem to understand the importance of possessing identity cards.
 - Some citizens expressed desire to be paid to register as voters or for identity cards.
 - ii) There was also poor public turn up during civic education barazas.
5. There were allegations of misuses of civic educators to advance the exportation of voters and political interests by conducting campaigns, this was particularly the case for Mwingi West.

d) Expenditure incurred by the County Government- see Annex 3

- i) As evidenced by annex 3, the County Government spent Kshs. 60,543,030 in engaging civic educators, recruiting more clerks to assist in the voter registration exercise, etc, which expenditure was alleged to be a wastage of public funds.
- ii) However, the County's good performance in the voter registration exercise justifies this expenditure. As evidenced by annex 1, it performed quite well, better than Machakos and Makueni Counties. It also performed considerably well in the Eastern Region as well as nationally. Had the County Government not got involved in the exercise, very little would have been achieved due to the initially limited number of IEBC clerks and lack of awareness by the citizens.
- iii) Further, civic education led to a better understanding of the Constitution and roles of the County government. It also ensured that more citizens were informed of the importance of registering themselves as voters. There is therefore need for continuous civic education to ensure that Kitui County has an informed citizenry that actively participates in the governance and political process.

General Recommendations

Mr. Speaker Sir,

Based on the above findings, the Committee makes the following key recommendations:

1. The County Government should come up with a legislation to provide the necessary institutional framework required to facilitate and implement civic education programmes and establish a civic education unit as mandated by section 101 and 100 of the County Government Act, 2012.

A good benchmark is the Marsabit County Civic Education and Public Participation Bill, 2015, which establishes the Office of the Director of civic education and public participation. It also provides for the following civic education and citizen participation forums:

- i) The Village Civic Education Forum
- ii) The Ward Civic Education Forum
- iii) The Village Citizen Participation Forum
- iv) The Ward Citizen Participation Forum
- v) The Sub County Citizen Participation Forum
- vi) The County Citizen Participation Forum
- vii) The Affirmative Action Programmes

2. Civic education and identity card registration should be continuous exercises in the course of this year, especially in areas where there was low identity card registrations.

Continuous identity card registration will ensure that during the next voter registration exercise, these potential voters are able to register as voters and exercise their political right during the general elections.

These exercises will also aid in attainment of citizen participation in the governance and political process.

Further, dispatch of ready identity cards should be done expeditiously in the course of this year to ensure that the identity cards are available for voter registrations.

3. The County Government should, at its own expense, avail commissioned affidavits in bulk to be used by persons at the grassroots to encourage mass identity cards registrations. This will ensure that more potential voters are registered during the next voter registration exercise and that citizens are able to exercise their political rights.

4. In future, planning and preparation for important exercises like civic education should involve Ward administrators and other key players as they are much more informed on issues that need to be addressed.

In addition, the youth as opposed to retirees/ pensioners, should also be engaged as civic educators so as to empower them noting that some do not have sources of income. Further, vastness of various Wards should always be a key consideration in allocation of resources to ensure that some areas are not marginalized.

Acknowledgments

Mr. Speaker Sir,

The Committee is grateful to the Offices of the Speaker and Clerk of Assembly, without whose support and facilitation the assessment would not have taken place.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the Honourable Members of the Committee who participated in the activities of the Committee and whose dedication and fortitude saw the completion of this report.

The Committee also extends its appreciation to the Sub County Administrators, Ward Administrators and members of the public without whose participation and input, the Committee would not have been able to collect the information contained in this Report.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I wish to confirm that the recommendations in this report were adopted by the Committee as undersigned by the respective Committee members.

It is therefore my pleasant duty, on behalf of the Committee on Administration and Coordination of County Affairs, to table this report and recommend it for consideration and adoption by the House.

SIGNED.....

HON. MWOVE KINYALA, M.C.A.

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION OF COUNTY AFFAIRS

DATE.....

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE

We, the undersigned Members of the Committee on Administration and Coordination of County Affairs, having considered this Report on the Committee's Assessment of the Impact of Civic Education on Voter and Identity Card Registrations, do hereby confirm our agreement with the contents of the Report and request the Chairperson to present the Report to this House for adoption.

<u>Members' Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Signature</u>
1. Hon Mwove Kinyala	Chairperson	.....
2. Hon Benard Munyasya	Vice Chairperson	.....
3. Hon Stephen Kithuka	Member	.....
4. Hon Catherine Kasimu	Member	.....
5. Hon Phoebe Kisee	Member	.....
6. Hon Nelson Kitema	Member	.....
7. Hon DeiysMukala	Member	.....
8. Hon Hussein Mwandia	Member	.....
9. Hon Daniel Kimanzi	Member	.....
10. Hon JohnrayNgava	Member	.....
11. Hon Jane Mutua	Member	.....
Clerk in attendance- Mercy Mbinya		.....

2.0 COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS

2.1 KITUI WEST SUB- COUNTY- MUTONGUNI WARD

The Committee visited Kitui West Sub County on Friday 11th March, 2016 and consulted with:

- i) Jacinta Kasyoka- Deputy Sub- County Administrator, Kitui West;
- ii) MrYaniga- Ward Administrator, Matinyani;
- iii) Georgina Kalunda- Ward Administrator, Mutonguni;
- iv) Members of the public at Muthale, Tulia and Kakeani.

Findings

a) Voter registration

1. General performance:

As at Thursday 10th March, 2016, the Sub County had registered 4,204 voters against a target of 46,240 voters translating to 9.1%. This performance speaks for itself as to the success or otherwise of the exercise in the Sub County as at that date.

Voter registration per Ward is as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Kitui West Sub County: voter registration as at 10th March, 2016

No.	Ward	Actual registered no.	Target	%
1.	Mutonguni	1,284	12,060	10.6%
2.	Kauwi	1,124	12,060	9.3%
3.	Kithumula	751	10,060	7.5%
4.	Matinyani	1,045	12,060	8.7%
	Total	4,204	46,240	9.1%

2. Challenges faced during the voter registration exercise include:

i) Transportation

While the Clerks were facilitated with Kshs. 300 per day for transport, the amount was insufficient as they were often required to travel long distances across various vast villages.

ii) Lack of identity cards.

- Some adult citizens do not possess identity cards and therefore could not register as voters;

- Some ID cards had not been dispatched from the national government. For instance, in Matinyani Ward, identity cards had not been dispatched since November last year at the time of the Committee's oversight exercise.
- Some identity cards were dispatched to the wrong Wards.
- Delays by citizens in collecting their identity cards. In such cases, the identity cards were sent to the villages to ensure easier collection.

b) Identity card registration

1. Identity Card registration was successful, particularly in Mutonguni Ward which had a target of 2,760 identity cards and had been able to register 2,248 identity cards as at 10th March, 2016, translating to 81.4%. The success rate was largely attributed to the registration of high school students in their schools.
2. There are very many people in various villages, including senior citizens, without identity cards. This was evidenced by the large crowds of people that the Committee members found waiting to register for their identity cards. For instance in Muthale at Kangondi village.
3. Some of the challenges faced in identity card registration as highlighted to the Committee include:
 - i) Restrictive legal requirements.
The legal requirement for persons over 23 years to produce affidavits to prove their age led to less registration as most people cannot afford the advocates fees or are afraid to appear before magistrates to swear the affidavits due to unfounded fear of arrest and ignorance. This legal requirement led to less ID card registrations.
 - ii) Ignorance by some citizens on the importance of holding identity cards, which affirms the importance of civic education.
 - iii) Lack of stationery and electronic gadgets.
For instance, Kithumula and KwaMutonga share the only available special camera for identity cards registration despite being highly populated.

c) Civic education:

1. The County Government engaged seven (7) civic educators per village working for 2 days a week and paid Kshs. 1,000 for the 2 days. Most were de-motivated by the meagre pay leading to poor performance and generally considered themselves engaged as volunteers.

2. Lack of proper briefing may have contributed to the educators' poor performance. The briefing done at Ithookwe showground during the launch of the civic education exercise was not replicated in some areas like Kitui West and Mwingi West. This would have ensured that the educators clearly understood what was expected of them.
3. Planning and/or preparation for the exercise did not involve consultation of other key stakeholders like Ward Administrators, and it was done without field visits to some Wards. While this is the case, key stakeholders should have been involved from the start as they were the executors and understood any related issues better.
4. Some of the challenges faced during civic education include:
 - iii) Ignorance and negative attitude by citizens.
 - Most citizens seemed to hold a negative attitude towards voter registration and did not seem to understand the importance of possessing identity cards.
 - Some citizens expressed desire to be paid to register as voters or for identity cards.
 - iv) There was also poor public turn up during civic education barazas.

2.2 MWINGI WEST- MIGWANI WARD

The Committee visited Migwani Ward on Saturday, 12th March, 2016 and consulted with:

- i) Mr Danson Musee- Deputy Sub County Administrator- Mwingi West.
- ii) Mr Benard- Ward Administrator, Migwani

Findings

a) Voter registration

1. Performance

As at Friday 10th March, 2016, the Sub County had registered 5,107 voters against a target of 14,040 voters translating to 36.4%.

Table 2: Mwingi West Sub County: Voter Registration as at Saturday 12th March, 2016

No.	Ward	Actual	Target	%
1.	Migwani	1, 375	3,240	38.2

2.	Nguutani	1,451	3,780	38.4
3.	Kyome Thaana	1,244	3,780	32.9
4.	Kiomokyethani	1,037	3,240	32
	Total	5,107	14,040	36.4

2. Some issues related to voter registration as highlighted to the Committee include:
- i) Exportation of voters from Mwingi West to Mwingi Central, especially in areas bordering Mwingi Central. These areas include: Katalwa, Mumbuni, Nzeluni and Kisovu.
 - ii) Misuses of civic educators to advance the exportation of voters and political interests, especially conducting political campaigns.
 - iii) Inadequate facilitation for the transportation of BVR kits.
The general feeling was that Kshs. 300 per day was insufficient noting the vast distances to be travelled within various villages.
 - iv) Improper co-ordination between the National and County governments.
Key stakeholders especially Ward Administrators desired to work hand in hand with the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs but these officers were uncooperative, alleging that there had been no official communication from the Deputy County Commissioner.
 - v) Lack of identity cards by some citizens led to low voter registration.

b) Civic education

1. The County Government engaged Seven (7) civic educators per village paid Kshs. 1,000 per week, and working for 2 days a week. Most were demotivated by the meagre pay leading to poor performance and generally considered themselves engaged as volunteers.
2. Lack of proper briefing may have contributed to the educators' poor performance. The briefing done at Ithookwe showground during the launch was not replicated at the grassroots. This would have ensured that the educators better understood what was expected of them.
3. There were allegations that some of the educators were advancing exportation of voters from Mwingi West to Mwingi Central and also advancing political interests by conducting campaigns during the civic education exercise.

2.3 MWINGI NORTH SUBCOUNTY- KYUSO WARD

The Committee visited Mwingi North Sub County at Kyuso Ward on Sunday, 13th March, 2016 and consulted with:

- i) MrCosmasMwanzia- Deputy Sub County Administrator- Mwingi North.
- ii) Mr Joshua Muimi- Ward Administrator, Kyuso.

a) Voter registration

1. Challenges faced during the voter registration exercise include:

i) Vastness of Kyuso Ward

The IEBC did not consider the expansiveness of some Wards like Kyuso in deciding to engage only two Clerks per Ward. Therefore, the County government resolved to engage 58 additional Clerks for the Sub County, at its own expense. Therefore, had the County government not stepped in, very little would have been achieved due to the initially limited number of Clerks.

ii) Delay in dispatch of BVR kits

The IEBC delayed in dispatch of extra BVR kits after employment of other Clerks, leading to less voter registration in the first week.

iii) Transportation

Clerks were facilitated with only Kshs. 300 per day for transport despite the vastness of some villages.

iv) Poor inter-governmental relations.

Despite the willingness of Ward Administrators to work with Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs and other stakeholders at the grassroots, they were mostly uncooperative during the voter registration exercise.

v) Lack of identity cards.

- Some adult citizens do not hold identity cards, which led to less voter registration.
- Some ID cards had not been dispatched from the national government.
- Delays by citizens in collecting their identity cards.

b) Identity card registration

1. Challenges faced during the exercise include:
 - i) Improper co-ordination between the National and County governments.
During the first week, no identity card registrations were done as the Registrars of persons alleged that there had been no official communication from the District Registrars of persons regarding the exercise.
Further except for Mumoni Ward, the Deputy County Commissioner was also very unsupportive.
 - ii) Transport for the Registrars of persons.
Initially, Mumoni and Kyuso Wards did not have vehicles, which was an impediment to the identity card registration exercise.
 - iii) Lack of necessary tools of work.
During the first week, ID card registration Clerks lacked the necessary forms and photographic material needed, which hampered identity card registration.
 - iv) Vastness of Mwingi North Sub County.
The vastness of various Wards disadvantaged Mwingi North Sub County making it hard to meet the set targets. The general feeling was that the vast Sub County was being marginalized when treated in the same manner as Mwingi Central, Kitui Central, etc.
2. Most citizens lack identity cards, especially those in extremely rural areas. Others hold the old generation identity cards.

c) Civic education

1. The County Government engaged seven (7) civic educators per village working for 2 days a week and paid Kshs. 1,000 for the 2 days. Most were de-motivated by the meagre pay leading to poor performance and generally considered themselves engaged as volunteers.
2. The civic educators were not facilitated with transport, noting the expansiveness of some villages.
3. The County government's initial plan was to have 11 civic education templates but the educators were only availed with 2 templates. This hampered the effectiveness of the civic education exercise.

4. Civic education has led to a better understanding of the Constitution and roles of the County government. Further, it ensured that more citizens were informed of the importance of registering themselves as voters and therefore there is need for continuous civic education.

2.4 **KITUI EAST**

1. As at Monday 14th March, 2016, the tentative total voters registered were 6, 815, while identity cards registered were 1,967.
2. Registration in the sampled Wards is as shown below:

a) **Voo/Kyamatu**

Table 5: voter and identity card registrations in Voo/ Kyamatu Ward

Week	Voter cards	ID Cards
Week 1	275	5
Week 2	398	2
Week 3	391	166
Week 4	391	212
Total	1450	385

b) **Zombe/Mwitika**

Table 6: voter and identity card registrations in Zombe/ Mwitika Ward

Week	Voter cards	ID Cards
Week 1	259	50
Week 2	361	193
Week 3	358	121
Week 4	315	101
Total	1293	465

3. Challenges faced during the exercises include:

- i) Vastness of the Sub County

The vastness of some Wards was not considered when engaging civic educators, therefore disadvantaging them. This was particularly the case for Voo/ Kyamatu.

There was also no facilitation to traverse across the vast Wards.

- ii) The County Government engaged Seven (7) civic educators per village paid Kshs. 1,000 per week, and working for 2 days a week. Most were demotivated by the meagre pay leading to poor performance and generally considered themselves engaged as volunteers.
4. Identity card registration was also generally low in the Sub County. Various areas that did not have the privilege of registering for identity cards include:
- i) Nzunguni village in Voo/ Kyamatu
 - ii) Yiuku/ Kithua and Ndetani villages in Endau/ Malalani

2.5 KITUI SOUTH

1. The Sub County performed extremely well in terms of voter registration attaining 80% of the set target, but poorly in terms of identity card registrations, attaining 22% of the set targets.
2. Some of the Wards in the Sub County did not have the privilege of registering for identity cards and these are: Ikanga/ Kyatune, Mutomo and Mutha Wards.
3. There was shortage of staff to register citizens for identity cards leading to the low identity card registrations, despite citizens' willingness to register for their cards.
4. The Provincial Administration, particularly the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs, were not very supportive of the exercise.
5. Citizens responded positively to civic education and this could have contributed to the Sub Counties exemplary performance in terms of voter registration. The civic educators were however dissatisfied with payment terms of Kshs. 1,000 per week and lack of facilitation with transport.

2.6 PRUDENCE IN THE COST INCURRED

The County Government spent Kshs. 60,543,030 in engaging civic educators and recruiting more clerks to assist in the voter registration exercise. Further, each civic

educator was paid a total of Kshs. 4,000 during the period of engagement which is a minimal amount. The expenditure was alleged to be a wastage of public funds.

However, the County's good performance in the voter registration exercise justifies this expenditure. As evidenced by annex 1, it performed quite well and better than Machakos and Makueni Counties. It also performed considerably well in the Eastern Region as well as nationally. Had the County Government not gotten involved in the exercise, very little would have been achieved due to the initially limited number of IEBC clerks and lack of awareness by the citizens.

3.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As outlined in Section 99 of the County Government Act, civic education is meant to ensure that our County has an informed citizenry that actively participates in governance due to enhanced knowledge, understanding and ownership of the Constitution.

It is evident that had the County Government decided not to get involved in the civic education and voter registration exercise, very little would have been achieved in terms of voter registration. Further, most citizens at the grassroots do not quite understand devolution and civic education played a great role in enlightening citizens about roles of the County Government.

Continuous civic education and identity card registration will ensure that during the next voter registration exercise, more citizens are able to register as voters and exercise their political rights during the forthcoming general elections. This will aid in attainment of citizen participation in governance and the political process.

In conclusion, this Committee recommends that:

1. The County Government should come up with a legislation to provide the necessary institutional framework required to facilitate and implement civic education programmes and establish a civic education unit, as mandated by section 101 and 100 of the County Government Act, 2012.

A good benchmark is the Marsabit County Civic Education and Public Participation Bill, 2015, which establishes the Office of the Director of civic education and public participation. It also provides for the following civic education and citizen participation forums:

- i) The Village Civic Education Forum
- ii) The Ward Civic Education Forum
- iii) The Village Citizen Participation Forum

- iv) The Ward Citizen Participation Forum
 - v) The Sub County Citizen Participation Forum
 - vi) The County Citizen Participation Forum
 - vii) The Affirmative Action Programmes
2. Civic education and identity card registration should be continuous exercises in the course of this year, especially in areas where citizens do not possess identity cards. Continuous civic education will ensure that the objectives of civic education as outlined in section 99 of the County Government Act are attained. Continuous identity card registration will ensure that during the next voter registration exercise, these potential voters are able to register as voters and exercise their political right during the next elections.
 3. In future, planning and preparation for important exercises like civic education should involve Ward administrators and other key players as they are much more informed on issues that need to be addressed. The youth should also be engaged as civic educators so as to empower them noting that some are jobless. Further, vastness of various Wards should always be a key consideration in allocation of resources to ensure that some areas are not marginalized.
 4. The County Government should, at its own expense, avail commissioned affidavits in bulk to be used by persons at the grassroots to encourage mass identity cards registrations. This will ensure that more potential voters are registered and that citizens are able to exercise their political rights.
 5. Sufficient stationery and other gadgets used in identity card registration should be availed in future to ensure that more potential voters are registered. Further, dispatch (and follow up on such dispatch) of ready identity cards should be done expeditiously in the course of this year to ensure that every qualified citizen is able to register as a voter. The dispatch applies for both the national government and Chiefs who seem unwilling to dispatch identity cards to the villages.