



FACT SHEET: 2014 ELECTION RESULTS AUDIT AND RECOUNT

Following Election Day, the Independent Election Commission (IEC) carries out audits of electoral material and results in order to deter those who seek to defraud the electoral process, and detect any attempts at fraud. Audits are targeted checks of data and are scheduled to begin as soon as materials arrive at provincial offices. Audit teams are staffed by IEC provincial staff, but may request additional assistance from the IEC Headquarters. The IEC Board of Commissioners makes a decision, based on audit findings.

Audits are initiated in response to results received at the National Tally Center. Following the retrieval of results at the National Tally Center, there will be cases of results being held for a variety of reasons. In addition to audits that are triggered by results received at the National Tally Center the IEC may order audits or recounts as a result of complaints or reports from observers or agents. Audit teams may inspect the following documents for signs of incorrect handling or fraud:

- Results forms
- Ballot papers
- Polling Station journal and number of agents listed
- Other forms and documents as required

If, for instance, the total number of ballots does not match the number of issued ballots in the reconciliation forms, or the number of votes does not match with numbers recorded in the results sheets, a decision is made as to whether evidence indicates a simple miscount or fraud. Based on the findings, audit teams will prepare a report, and submit to IEC management the decisions of the Commission. The audit will result in one of three recommendations to the Commission:

- Accept the result as valid;
- Conduct a recount and produce a new results form; or
- Disqualify the result.

Recounts may also be conducted on the instruction of the Commission before an audit is initiated.

Any corrections to preliminary results on the basis of audits or recounts will be published on the IEC website and where a results form is changed after a recount, the revised form will be posted with the original and an explanation given as to the reason for the change.

The IEC has decided to include the following as criteria to audit ballot boxes:

1. Polling stations where the total number of unused, invalid, spoiled and used ballots is greater than 600, with the acceptance of 1% tolerance, shall be re-counted.
2. Polling stations producing results forms that are not stamped and signed by the Polling Station Chairperson, shall be audited.
3. Polling stations where the results form is stamped and signed by at least two agents, but is not signed by the Polling Station Chairperson, will be accepted as valid, and will not be audited or re-counted. But, in the case that forms are signed by the Polling Station Chairperson but not the agents, the results of such stations shall be audited.

4. In case of discrepancy between the numbers recorded on the results form with figures and those recorded in words, the numbers recorded in words shall prevail; unless the numbers tally above 600 in words, in which case the numbers recorded in figures shall prevail.
5. Those polling centers, within cities, where new polling stations were established prior to 12:00 pm shall be audited;
6. Those polling centers located in remote areas or located out of the city, where new polling stations are established prior to or after 12:00 pm shall be audited;
7. In cases where the 600 votes are equally distributed among certain candidates, those votes shall be audited;
8. Polling centers/stations where IEC staff, observers and agents have reported the occurrence of any irregularities, and or where staff of the Commission have faced physical assault or violence, shall be audited;
9. Where the result forms of any polling stations are sent without putting them in the proper TEBs, and have been delivered to the IEC National Tally Center, they shall be reported to the IEC for its decision;
10. Where the results are provided on paper other than the specified results forms provided by the IEC, even if they are signed and stamped by the relevant Polling Station Chairperson and the agents, would be dealt as invalid. In case, the results of any polling station are recorded on a ballot paper, those results will not be included into the count process, and shall be forwarded to the IEC for its decision;
11. Where the results of two polling stations are recorded on one results form, such cases shall be forwarded to the Commission, for its decision. In case the stamp and signature of the Polling Station Chairperson and the signatures of the agents are tampered with, or they are not visible, the votes on such result forms shall be invalidated.