



TERMS OF REFERENCE (TORs)

I. Working Title: Youth participation in elections in Africa – a study of the 2015 parliamentary, national and general elections

II. Background

African youth constitute an important group whose demographic superiority, if leveraged, could determine the outcome of elections and quality of leadership and governance across the continent. The Mandela Institute for Development Studies' (MINDS) Youth Programme in Elections and Governance (YPE&G) is one of the three core programmes implemented by the organization. The programme targets young people between the age of 18 and 45 years in Africa. Under the YPE&G, two main activities are currently implemented namely; the annual youth dialogue and civic education training workshops in elections and governance. These are platforms created by MINDS to enable young people in Africa, especially those who have shown potential or interest in leadership, to meet and debate governance and leadership related issues with a view to developing authentic African solutions to African problems. The activities also aim to increase the number of young people peacefully and actively participating in African elections and governance processes based on an appreciation of the significance of their demographic superiority. Youth active participation in governance processes, and ongoing engagement with leadership and governance processes can potentially hasten the transformation of the continent to realize the socio-economic and political progress needed to improve conditions and living standards of the African society.

III. Specific context

According to an African Union report released in 2012, 60% of the one billion people in Africa are youth under the age of 35 years. This huge percentage is however never translated into any significant action that could determine the outcome of leadership through elections. In fact, youth have been accused of being apathetic in elections, as such, they do not capitalize on their superior numbers to influence decisions that could improve their state in regards to issues directly impacting their lives such as unemployment, exclusion from leadership positions, lack of education and/or skills, and inaccessibility to resources.

Over a dozen African countries were scheduled to go for parliamentary, national or general elections in 2015. To ensure robust and informed debate and discussions about these and other elections, MINDS is commissioning research into the participation of youth in these elections.



IV. Overall objective (s) of the research/ study

The main objective of the study is to provide an understanding of youth participation in elections in these countries and to establish a set of baseline variables on which youth participation in elections can be measured and compared across different jurisdictions in Africa. The research aims to draw comparisons and conclusions on, amongst other things, the:

- Attitudes and perceptions of youth about these elections.
- Demographic superiority of youth vs. their ability to influence election outcomes.
- Voter education/ literacy among African youth and its impact on election outcomes.
- The nature and effectiveness of youth participation in the full electoral cycle in these particular elections, noting the contextual and/ or historical nuances that affect youth participation in the electoral cycle.
- Youth ownership of the outcome of these elections.

V. Scope of research/ study

The geographic scope of the study includes Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central Africa, Comoros, Cote d' Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Zambia. These are some of the countries that were scheduled to hold elections in 2015. Specific research questions will be included in the updated Terms of Reference as per the approved proposal on which MINDS will base its decision to appoint the research organization.

VI. Research methodology

MINDS recommends a mixed methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative methods as is applicable. The research organization is expected to use their experience and innovation in conducting the study and compiling the report.



VIII. Expected outputs

The study will culminate in a research report detailing among other things, the findings of the research. A list of expected outputs will be provided to the appointed research organization. The outputs will be matched to project phases.

VII. Ownership rights

The outputs/ work produced shall become property of MINDS in its entirety and may not be presented and/ or published whatsoever without written permission from MINDS. The 'work produced' includes but is not limited to:

- The final proposal on which MINDS will base its decision to appoint the research organization.
- Data collection tools developed and used for the project.
- Responses from research subjects including focus groups.
- Analytical data outputs.
- Draft versions of the report that are submitted to MINDS.
- The final version of the report.
- An Engagement Summary Report detailing the lessons learnt from the engagement.

VIII. Role of the appointed research organization

- Sign the contract and submit interpretation of TORs and an outline of the research paper according to the stipulated timeline.
- Collect and analyze data, produce a report, edit and submit draft report within the stipulated timeline. This version of the report must be edited by a suitably qualified language editor, with experience in editing academic documents before it is submitted to MINDS.
- Revise and edit draft report integrating feedback by MINDS and submit final copy in word and PDF formats as per the stipulated timeline. This version of the report must be edited by a suitably qualified language editor, with experience in editing academic documents before it is submitted to MINDS.
- Present the paper to MINDS.



- The research organization undertakes to submit the outputs above with strict adherence to the stipulated timelines. Failure to do so will attract penalties of at least 10% of the contracted amount.
- The research organization also undertakes NOT to plagiarize any of the contents of the research paper. The research organization undertakes to reference each and every component of the research paper that does not belong to them (the consultant), and to adhere strictly and consistently to an internationally accepted academic referencing style.

IX. Role of MINDS

- Prior to contracting, MINDS will update the Terms of Reference to include specific details as per discussions held with the appointed research organization.
- Support the research organization by facilitating access to information/materials from sources that MINDS may have access to. This entails responding timeously to the research organization's queries/ suggestions and offering any reasonable support that may be required. Reasonable support shall refer to things that MINDS may be able to assist with, without spending much time and funds than was allocated for the activity e.g. giving contacts/ references or emailing a document in MINDS possession that may be required by the research organization; and timely provision of feedback as required. (Timely provision of feedback means within a period of not more than five days).
- Make the necessary payments as agreed and stipulated in the contract in reasonable time.
- Review the draft and final versions of the report and provide feedback timeously.

IX. Proposed timelines

It should take the research organization no longer than six (6) months to successfully complete the engagement and submit all of the agreed outputs.

X. Remuneration

A remuneration schedule based on the agreed contracted amount will be drawn up prior to contracting. The schedule will be matched to agreed project milestones.



XI. Qualifications

The ideal research organization must:

- Be a registered, compliant legal entity within at least one African country.
- Have at least five (5) years' organizational experience conducting and publishing academically acclaimed research on African youth, African elections and/or related fields.
- Have a diverse team or proven access to a team with demonstrated research-related working experience in at least two of the five regions of the African continent.
- Be able to write and fluently present in English. The ability to collect data, write and present in other African languages especially French and/ or Arabic will be an advantage.
- Have a demonstrated track record of applying both qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- A demonstrated research track record or interest in governance in Africa, African youth or African economies will be an advantage.
- Be flexible to travel, should that be necessary. An extensive, accessible network across Africa e.g. offices in different African countries will be an advantage.

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