



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

Eldoret: Training for Prosecutors and Stakeholders on Election Offences and Hate Speech

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) kicked-off countrywide sensitizations in Eldoret, on Election Preparedness for prosecutors and stakeholders in the electoral circle from Rift Valley, Nyanza and Western regions.

In his speech, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Noordin Haji, said that his Office has adopted an efficient data capture and relay platform which will allow for continuous and expedited relay of data on election-related offences from the 139 ODPP Court Stations. “This system will enable the Office to capture real-time information on election offences, thus enabling us to map out the most affected areas”, said the DPP.

This data will allow for proactive responses and policy decisions from the ODPP, law enforcement agencies and other key policy makers in government and partner institutions for effective coordination, planning and intervention. The ODPP recognises the value of joint training and sensitisation exercises as they reinforce the mandates of the various agencies involved in the electoral circle. “This particular training seeks to build the capacity of our focal point counsel and key stakeholders for the entire electoral cycle. This will ensure that the integrity of our elections is safeguarded and that the rule of law is upheld,” added the DPP.

The training will also ensure that respect for fundamental human rights is maintained, and that cooperation and collaboration is at the forefront of ODPP strategies. Part of the key areas that the training on is the definition and ingredients of Hate Speech and other electoral offences, the elements and evidence needed to prove election related offences in court, implementation of the decision to charge, human rights issues during the election period, the trial process and the role of stakeholders in Electoral Justice, among other factors.

The ODPP has also instituted an Election Preparedness Secretariat which, in conjunction with the Hate Speech and Electoral Justice Division, has been tasked with the compilation of the relayed data and the generation of a report on all election and

hate speech related offences. It has also developed the ODPP Elections Compendium 2022 for reference by prosecutors and stakeholders.

The ODPP, through the Prosecution Training Institute and our Judicial Review Division, will identify key gaps in legislation from the data collected and propose legislative reforms towards the enhancement of electoral justice.

The DPP reminded investigators and law enforcement agents that successful prosecution of electoral offences is reliant on strong and impartial investigations. He urged them that there is need for us all to work as a team. He also acknowledged the role of the media in shaping the public's opinion and their perception of the elections. He added that it is for this reason that we are actively engaging with the media to carry out nationwide civic education through radio and television interviews, including ODPP digital media platforms, such as the ODPP Cafe.