



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



The *Journal of African Elections (JAE)* is the only internationally accredited journal that is devoted entirely to African elections. It is published twice a year and is distributed in Africa and beyond, and is available in both print and electronic format. Founded in 2002 and run by the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), the *JAE* seeks to engage scholars and practitioners in the field of elections in Africa.

The November 2018 edition will be a special edition entitled *The State of Electoral Justice in Africa*. This edition will seek to analyse the role of the judiciary in election disputes and the implications for the consolidation of electoral democracy on the continent. The edition will consider the judiciary's familiarity with electoral processes and good electoral practices and how this impacts on the outcome of electoral petitions placed before it. The special edition will also interrogate the role played by political parties in electoral justice by looking at whether aggrieved contesting political parties have the necessary access and capacity to contribute to effective and stronger electoral justice in Africa.



The past few years have seen an increase in the number of election-related legal challenges in several African countries, including Côte d'Ivoire (2010 presidential election), the Central African Republic (2015-2016 presidential and parliamentary elections), Gabon (2016 presidential elections), Kenya (2017 general elections), Liberia (2017 general elections) and Sierra Leone (2018 general elections).

In Côte d'Ivoire, no presidential candidate won the required majority after the first round presidential elections in 2010. As a result, the candidates with the two highest votes, Gbagbo and Ouattara, contested the second round presidential elections. While the independent electoral commission declared Ouattara the successful candidate, the Constitutional Court declared Gbagbo the winner. Following the outbreak of a civil war that resulted in more than 3 000 deaths, President Ouattara was sworn in with support from French and UN peacekeeping forces.



In Central African Republic's 2015 presidential and National Assembly elections, no candidate received more than the legal requirement of 50% of the vote. After the annulment of the National Assembly election results by the Transitional Constitutional Court, a second round presidential election and a re-run of the National Assembly elections took place on 14 February 2016, with run-off National Assembly elections on 31 March 2016.

In Gabon violence broke out after the election management body declared President Ali Bongo the winner of the 2016 presidential election. The opposition rejected the outcome of the election which they challenged before the Constitutional Court. The Court confirmed the victory of President Ali Bongo based on a fresh partial tally of the votes. The rejection of the Court's decision by the opposition plunged the country into chaos.



More recently litigation has had a prominent place in the August 2017 Kenyan presidential election, the Liberian October 2017 presidential election and the March 2018 Sierra Leone presidential election. The Kenyan election saw over a dozen pre-election cases filed in court, in particular by the NASA coalition. These were followed by a post-election petition that resulted in the presidential election on 8 August being nullified by the Supreme Court of Kenya on the basis of irregularities in the conduct of the election by the electoral authorities, and consequent tensions. The Liberian Supreme Court halted preparations for the 7 November 2017 presidential run-off following the filing of an election complaint by one of the opposition parties. This was backed by the former ruling Unity Party on the grounds of alleged irregularities and fraud, pushing the run-off to December 2017. Similarly, in Sierra Leone a number of pre-election petitions led to delays in the presidential run-off of 31 March 2017. Following the outcome, a petition was lodged with the Supreme Court by Samura Kamara, who had contested the presidential elections against the successful candidate, Julius Maada Bio.



The *JAE* is inviting contributions in regard to, inter alia, the quality and legitimacy of the judiciary's decisions on election petitions, the role of political parties in electoral justice, and the impact of decisions by the judiciary on electoral integrity. Contributions should be sent to **The Managing Editor at JAE@eisa.org.za** by no later than **4 September 2018**. For further information on the *JAE*, including contributors' notes, visit www.eisa.org.za/jae.php