

ELECTIONS The competition is too stiff—a recipe for tension

IGP says police all set for October 25

IGP says the Police Force has procured all the necessary equipment to contain any violence

By **Bernard Lugongo**
The Citizen Reporter

Dar es Salaam. Inspector General of Police Ernest Mangu said yesterday the force was fully prepared to maintain peace during the forthcoming General Election.

He said the force has procured all the necessary equipment to contain any possible incidents of violence during the polls on October 25.

“We have all the necessary equipment and my officers are prepared psychologically for the task ahead. In case of any violence, we will work overtime to contain any disturbance,” he said.

He was addressing a workshop on role of religious and political leaders for peaceful

campaigns and elections.

The event was organised by a Germany-based foundation—Konrad Adenauer Shifting—in collaboration with Tanzania Centre for Democracy (TCD) and Inter-religious Council of Tanzania.

“This year there is stiff competition compared to past elections; strong competition brings tension, and where there is tension violence may occur because each party is determined to win and could even violate regulations to

accomplish their victory dream, this is our challenge ahead,” he said.

He further noted that the violence could be an outcome of one party rejecting election results because it had convinced itself it would win.

He said, however, that the police force has taken measures to forestall the option of force by holding discussions with election stakeholders so that the country heads to elections peacefully.

Dr John Jingu, an expert on political science and public administration from the University of Dar es Salaam, said this year’s polls comes with increased political intensity and many people are in election mood, resulting in hot political discussions.

Dar es Salaam Chief Sheikh, Alhad Musa Salum, called on political parties to embrace mature competition by accepting election results for the sake of peace in the country.

MORE INFO: LOSER

Dar es Salaam chief sheikh says if the declared loser is not satisfied, it should follow proper procedures for contesting the results but not organizing people to demonstrate because that may lead to violence,” he said.