

15TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SEMINAR ON THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND ELECTORAL LAW IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Kenyatta University, School of Law 5th to 8th February 2019



The 15th international seminar was attended by students from Europe and Kenya who presented varied papers on various topical issues relating to election systems in their respective countries. The theme of the conference was “*The Right to Vote and Electoral Law in a Comparative Perspective*”. The conference offered European and Kenyan students an opportunity to share and gain knowledge and understanding of the various electoral laws as well as consider some of the best practices therefrom. It also offered them a grand opportunity to engage in intercultural dialogue.

Among those who addressed the students include, Prof. Tomasz Milej on behalf of the Seminar Organizing Committee, Ms. Caroline Mwaura, Acting Dean of the Kenyatta University School of Law, Vice-Chancellor of Kenyatta University Prof. Paul Wainaina and Dr. Arne Wulff, Director of KAS’ Rule of Law Program for Sub Saharan Africa.

The four days conference deliberated on some of the critical issues under the following topics;

- I) International Standards and Constitutional principles of electoral law.
- II) Translating votes into seats in an electoral democracy
- III) The integration of minorities in national governance through elections
- IV) Election petitions and resolution of election disputes

The participating universities were University of Łódź from Poland, University of Pécs from Hungary, University of Cologne from Germany, Vilnius University from Lithuania, Moscow State University from Russia and the host Kenyatta University from Kenya.

In addition to the formal conference sessions, the students had an opportunity to visit the offices of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to acquaint themselves with the operations of the Commission. They were addressed by some of the highest ranking officials of the Commission led by the Director of Legal Affairs Mr. Crispin Owiye.



Meeting with IEBC officials

They were also hosted to a reception by the Polish Ambassador to Kenya at his residence and had an opportunity to visit the Nairobi National Park.