

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Kenya International Conference on Rethinking Democracy Held on 13th to 15th November 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya

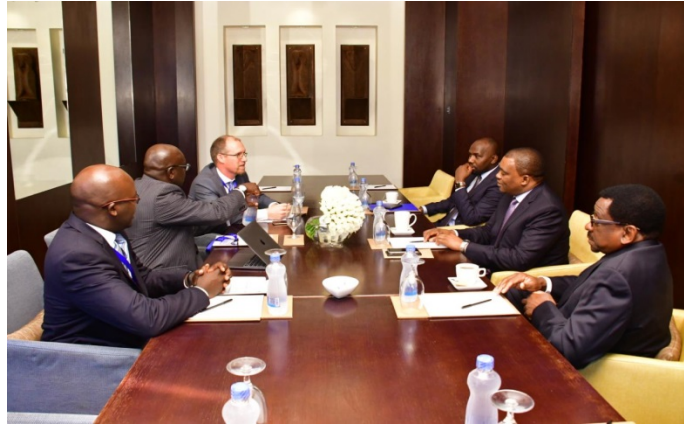


On 13th to 15th November, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Kenya (KAS) organized an international conference on Rethinking Democracy themed ***'International Trends in Elective Systems.'*** This conference brought together political leaders, distinguished scholars, authors, media practitioners, election managers, university students and civil society representatives to deliberate and contribute to the discourse on best practices and insights on electoral management and experiences from different countries across the world.



It underscored the need for honest leadership and increased citizen participation inclusive of the youth participation in matters of governance. It also called for better election management as practiced in experienced democracies.

It emerged that African elections should not only be frequent, but also uphold integrity. Political parties should embrace internal democracy and be built on ideals that outlive their leaders.



For Kenya and Africa to create better democratic spaces, elections should be better managed, political parties funded and campaigns financed to help candidates who are often locked out due to prohibitive election costs. The youth, women and other marginalized groups are still not wholly represented in political governance, an issue that most African states still struggle with and need to implement in order to ensure inclusivity and equality. To be truly democratic, African states need to cease ethnic politics, violence and repression of democratic processes such as peaceful protests and illegal constitutional changes to remain in power.

The three day International conference was thus concluded with a draft communique that called for deliberate initiatives to address issues on electoral reforms.

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