



STRENGTHENING THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN KENYA (SEPK)
Increasing Women's Leadership and Participation in the 2017 Elections in Kenya

Long Journey to Women's Political Participation: Analysis of Women's performance in Kenya's 2017 General elections (Interim Report)

The country held its 6th General Elections since multiparty democracy on 8th of August 2017.

International observers including African Union, European Union, the Common Wealth and the Carter Center released preliminary statements generally terming the elections peaceful, fair, credible and transparent.

The local observer group, Elections Observer Group (ELOG) also released a statement concurring with the international observers. ELOG further released a Parallel Voter Tallying (PVT) report, which concurred with the official results released by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).

Notably, during voting, pregnant women, mothers with small babies, the elderly, sick and People with Disability were given priority to cast their votes. A few days after elections, the situation was calm but characterized by tension across the country.

Kenyans in the diaspora (in East Africa and South Africa) and prisoners were given an opportunity to vote for their preferred presidential candidates.

The main opposition coalition National Super Alliance (NASA) rejected the results by IEBC on 11th August 2017 declaring Uhuru Kenyatta, the incumbent, as the President elect after attaining 8,217,251 votes (54.17%) votes with Raila Odinga of (ODM) coming second after garnering 6,816,979 votes (44.94%). This rejection by NASA led to an outbreak of violence in a number of areas of the country. These were mainly Mathare and Kibera informal settlements in Nairobi, Migori, Kisumu and Homabay, all ODM (Orange Democratic Movement party– a NASA affiliate) strongholds. The situation has however returned back to relative calm.

The violence has resulted in deaths and cases of sexual violence are being reported, however official statistics are yet to be released by Government of Kenya. The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights estimates put the figure at 24 people dead in confrontation between police and protesters since August 8th. The Kenya Red Cross has recorded 177 injuries countrywide¹.

NASA has released a statement stating that they will be filing an appeal in the Supreme Court against the presidential results. The international community (e.g United States and United Kingdom), and Kenyan stakeholders have generally applauded NASA for following the constitutional process of contesting results through the Supreme Court.

¹ Kenya Red Cross Society Post-Election Response Update, 14 August 2017

According to figures from IEBC, the percentage of women who were registered in 2017 dropped from 49% in 2013 to 47% in 2017. The number of registered youth voters in 2017 stood at 51%. The overall number of registered voters in 2017 however increased. In 2013, IEBC registered 14,388,781 (Biometric 14,352,545, Non Biometric 36,236) voters while in 2017, the total number of voters rose to 19,611,423.

Voter turnout in 2017 however dropped to 79% compared to 85% in 2013.

To conduct the elections, IEBC recruited a total of 362,858 officials to oversee the process in 40,883 polling stations across the country. According to the Elections Observer Group (ELOG), women who participated as officials during voting day accounted for 33.5% while men were 66.5%.

Notably, all the 8 presidential candidates were male and 7 of them had male running mates with only 1 fielding a female running mate.

Performance of women candidates

In 2017, women who were elected to various positions in general improved compared to the 2013 baseline.

UN Women provided support to all 150 women candidates who secured political party tickets who were vying for various seats. The support ranged from materials, media profiling, party agents training, providing media platforms to engage voters, direct town hall meetings with voters, and mitigation strategies to counter violence and Electoral Gender Based Violence (EGBV).

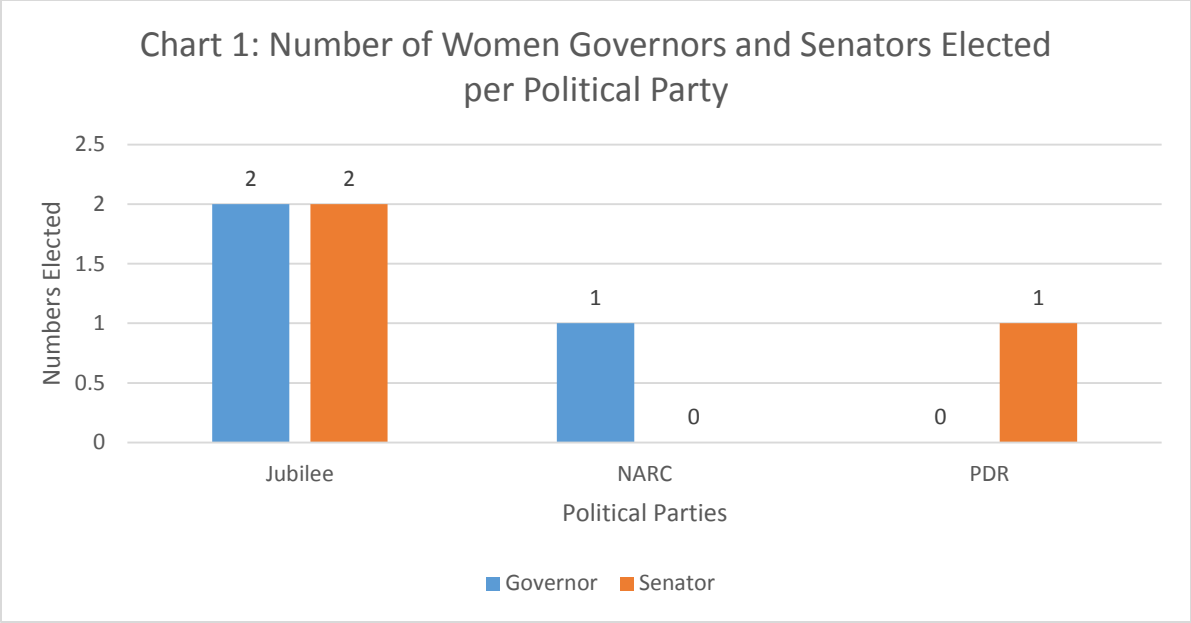
The tables and charts below provide an analysis of women’s performance.

Table 1: Women’s performance in comparison to men’s for 2017

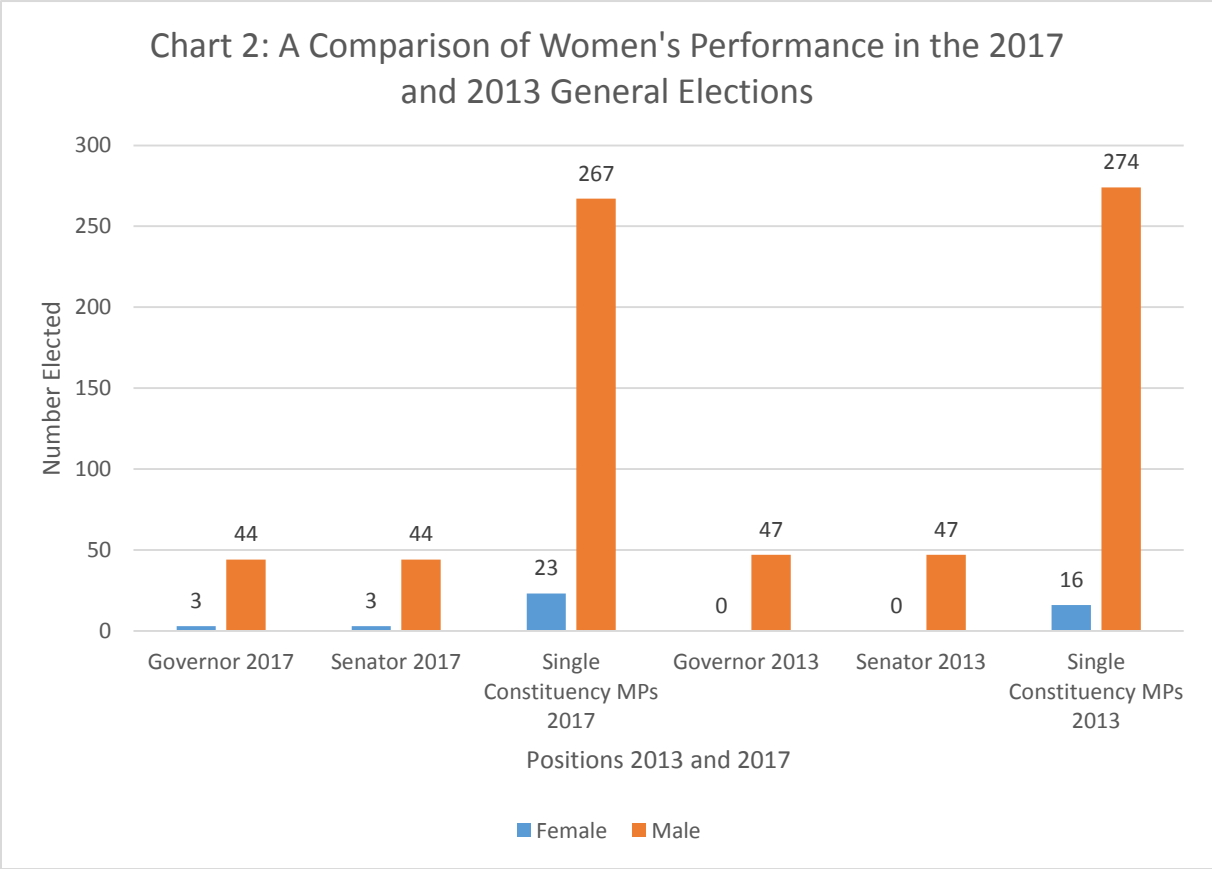
	GOVERNOR			SENATOR			SINGLE CONSTITUENCY MPs		
	Vying	Elected	%Elected	Vying	Elected	%Elected	Vying	Elected	%Elected
2017 GENERAL ELECTIONS									
Men	202	44	21.78%	236	44	18.64%	1,761	267	15.16%
Women	9	3	33.33%	20	3	15%	131	23	17.56%
Total	211	47		256	47		1,892	290	
% Men	95.73%	93.62%		92.19%	93.62%		93.08%	92.41%	
% Women	4.27%	6.38%		7.81%	6.38%		6.92%	7.59%	

The diagram below shows the gender distribution of various political seats in Kenya’s 2017 and 2013 general elections. There has been notable improvement in terms of performance from 2013. For the first time, Kenyans elected 3 women Governors. The governor position is quite key in development administration at local level.

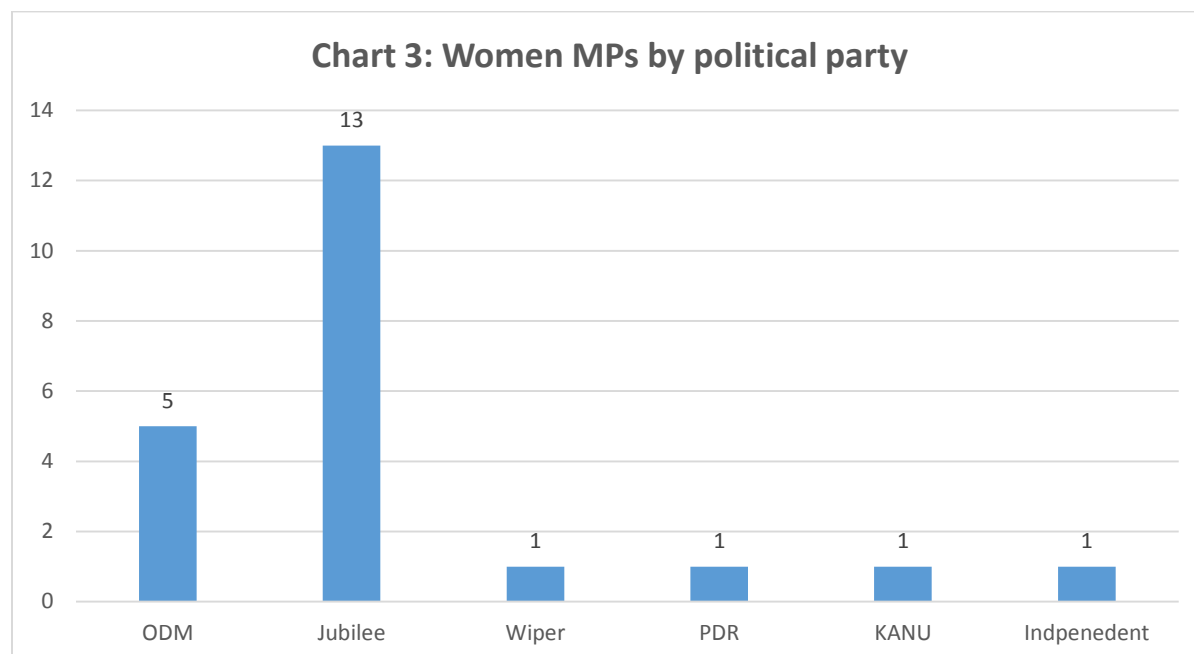
3 women Senators were elected out of a possible 47. Among the three, the Jubilee Alliance Party won 2 seats as demonstrated below:



In 2017 general elections, women performance improved compared to 2013. The chart bellows shows the comparison of women performance in 2013 and 2017:



The number of women elected to constituencies were 23 out of a total number of 290 seats (7.9%). Majority were from the Jubilee party. The chart below details the distribution of seats to parties.



In terms of retention rate and transition from a previous position into another, the performance was mixed. Of the 16 previously elected women MPs, 7 transitioned to MP and 1 to a governor seat, while 8 lost. The table below provides further information on their profile. This is a 50% retention rate.

Table 2: Previous experience profile of all elected women

PERFORMANCE OF WOMEN IN THE 2017 GENERAL ELECTION (GOVERNOR, SENATE AND MPS)

	ELECTED WOMEN LEADERS - 2017	CONSTITUEN CY/ COUNTY	POLITICAL PARTY	TOTAL	% 2017	2013 ELECTED	2013 NOMINATED	2013 WOMAN REP
GOVERNORS								
	Charity Ngilu	Kitui	NARC	3/47	6.38 %	0%		
	Anne Waiguru	Kirinyaga	Jubilee					
	Joyce Laboso	Bomet	Jubilee					
SENATORS								
	Margaret Kamar	Uashin Gishu	Jubilee	3/47	6.38 %	0%		
	Susan Kihika	Nakuru	Jubilee					
	Fatuma Dhulo	Isiolo	PDR					✓ Senate
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (SINGLE CONSTITUENCY)								
	ELECTED WOMEN LEADERS - 2017	CONSTITUEN CY/ COUNTY	POLITICAL PARTY	WON/ LOST	NEW (1 st time MP)	2013 elected	2013 nominated	2013 woman rep

1	Mbalu Jessica Nduku	Kibwezi East	Wiper	Won		✓		
2	Hon. Millie Odhiambo	Mbita	ODM	Won		✓		
3	Hon. Peris Tobiko	Kajiado East	Jubilee	Won		✓		
4	Hon. Alice Wahome	Kandara	Jubilee	Won		✓		
5	Hon. Naomi Shaban	Taveta	Jubilee	Won		✓		
6	Hon. Grace Kipchoim	Baringo South	Jubilee	Won		✓		
7	Hon. Charity Gathambi	Njoro	Jubilee	Won	✓			
8	Hon. Jane Kihara	Naivasha	Jubilee	Won	✓			
9	Hon. Wanjiku Kibe	Gatundu North	Jubilee	Won	✓			
10	Hon. Beatrice Kones	Bomet East	Jubilee	Won	✓			
11	Hon. Mercy Gakuya	Kasarani	Jubilee	Won	✓			
12	Hon. Wangare Mwaniki	Kigumo	Jubilee	Won	✓			
13	Hon. Mary Njoroge	Maragwa	Jubilee	Won	✓			
14	Hon. Martha Wangari	Gilgil	Jubilee	Won	✓		✓ Senate	
15	Sarah Paulata Korere	Laikipia North	Jubilee	Won	✓		✓ MP	
16	Hon. Mishi Mboko	Likoni	ODM	Won	✓			✓
17	Hon. Aisha Jumwa	Malindi	ODM	Won	✓			
18	Hon Dr. Lilian Gogo	Rangwe	ODM	Won	✓			
19	Hon. Obara Eve Akinyi	Kabondo Kasipul	ODM	Won	✓			
20	Hon. Naisula Lesuuda	Samburu West	KANU	Won	✓		✓ Senate	
21	Hon. Sophia Abdinoor	Ijara	PDR	Won	✓			
22	Hon. Janet Rotich	Turbo	Indep.	Won	✓			
23	Hon. Nyamai Rachael	Kitui South	Jubilee	Won		✓		
INCUMBENT WOMEN MPS WHO LOST								
1	Hon. Alice	Thika Town	Jubilee			✓		

	Ng'anga							
2	Hon. Hellen Sambili	Mogotio	Jubilee			✓		
3	Hon. Mary Emaase	Teso South	Jubilee			✓		
4	Hon. Regina Nthambi	Kilome	Jubilee			✓		
5	Esther Gathogo	Ruiru	Jubilee					
6	Mary Wambui	Othaya	Jubilee					
7	Cecily Mbarire	Runyenjes	Jubilee			Vied for governor		
8	Esther Murugi	Nyeri	Jubilee					
INCUMBENT WOMEN MPS WHO VIED FOR OTHER POSITIONS OTHER THAN MP								
	Dr. Joyce Laboso	Sotik	Jubilee			Elected Governor		
	TOTAL ELECTED MPs	23 out of 290						
	PERCENTAGE 2017 FOR MPS	7.93%	23/290 (Increase of 43.75% as compared to 2013)					
	PERCENTAGE 2013	5.52%	16/290					
	RETENTION OF WOMEN MPs	8² out 16 (50% retention)						

Table 3: Performance of previously elected female MPs

	NAME	CONSTITUENCY	COUNTY	CURRENT STATUS
1	Hon. Dr. Joyce Laboso	Sotik	Bomet	Current Governor for Bomet
2	Cecily Mbarire	Runyenjes	Embu	Contested for Governor but lost
3	Naomi Shaaban	Taveta	Taita Taveta	Back in Parliament as MP
4	Hon. Alice Wahome	Kandara	Murang'a	Back in Parliament as MP
5	Hon. Grace Kipchoim	Baringo South	Baringo	Back in Parliament as MP
6	Hon. Peris Tobiko	Kajiado East	Kajiado	Back in Parliament as MP
7	Hon. Jessica Mbalu	Kibwezi East	Makueni	Back in Parliament as MP
8	Hon. Millie Odhiambo	Mbita	Homa Bay	Back in Parliament as MP
9	Rachael Nyamai	Kitui South	Kitui	Back in Parliament as MP
10	Mary Emaase Otuch	Teso South	Busia	Lost MP Seat
11	Hon. Alice Ng'anga	Thika Town	Kiambu	Lost MP Seat
12	Hellen Sambili	Mogotio	Baringo	Lost MP Seat
13	Esther Murugi	Nyeri Town	Nyeri	Lost MP Seat
14	Mary Wambui	Othaya	Nyeri	Lost MP Seat
15	Regina Nthambi Muia	Kilome	Makueni	Lost MP Seat
16	Esther Gathogo	Ruiru	Kiambu	Lost MP Seat

Key messages:

² One of the retained, Joyce Laboso, moved to a more senior position, that of gubernatorial for Bomet County

- (1) For the first time, 3 women were elected governors. The women unseated male incumbents.
- (2) For the first time, 3 women were elected senators.
- (3) Retention rate for women MPs in 2017 was 50%, a bit lower than the retention trend of women which has always been above 60% since 2002. However this may be mirroring the national trend in 2017 which saw a high rate of 2013 MPs, Governors, Woman Representatives removed.
- (4) Increased number of elected women MPs from 16 in 2013, to 23 in 2017 (increase of 43.75%).
- (5) 7 out of 23 elected women MPs in 2017 were those who already held positions in parliament in 2017 (one of the sitting MP, Joyce Laboso, was elected Governor).
- (6) 16 out of 23 elected women MPs are newly elected- meaning a new crop of women are coming into political leadership.
- (7) Jubilee Party performed extremely well compared to other parties. Jubilee has 2 women governors, 2 senators, 14 MPs. Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) has 5 MPs. Wiper, Kenya African National Union (KANU), Party of Development and Reforms (PDR) parties have one woman MP each. One of the women was elected MP on an independent ticket.
- (8) According to a statement from the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), about 96 women³ out of 1,450 (6.62%) were elected to the Member of County Assembly (MCA) seats, compared to 85 (5.86%) in 2013 (12.94% increase). IEBC is however yet to release official MCA data and this number could vary.
- (9) According to the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), Kenya will still have to spend close to Ksh. 2.19 billion (\$21,262,136⁴) to meet the shortfall in the county assemblies, to meet the not more than 2/3 constitutional threshold for counties. About 387 women will have to be nominated in counties to meet the minimum 1/3 constitutional requirement.
- (10) 7 women were elected as deputy governors, compared to 9 in 2013, a drop of 22.22%.
- (11) One independent woman MP won in the Jubilee strong hold area of Turbo Constituency.
- (12) The Northern Kenya frontier region, and the pastoralist communities of the Maasai and Samburu have made history electing 1 senator and 5 MPs.
- (13) North Eastern Kenya, for the first time, has elected 1 woman MP and 1 senator.
- (14) The regions of Baringo, Samburu and Laikipia faced a lot of insecurity before and during the elections period, and were classified as hot spots areas. However 3 women still secured MP seats. In Laikipia there was also open intimidation and hostility against the female candidate for MP who eventually won.
- (15) 9 out of 23 nominated women in the 11th Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) have been elected in 2017 compared to only 1 (one) out of 8 nominated male members. This shows that given space through nomination and other affirmative action programmes, women can easily excel and are good learning political skills quickly. Below is the list of elected women who were previously nominated to serve in the 11th Parliament:
 - i. Janet Teiya (Nominated MP) Woman Rep Elect Kajiado County;
 - ii. Sarah Korere (Nominated MP), MP Elect Laikipia North Constituency;
 - iii. Zuleiha Juma (Nominated MP), Woman Rep Elect Kwale County;
 - iv. Naisula Lesuuda (Nominated Senator), MP Elect Samburu West Constituency;
 - v. Fatuma Dullo (Nominated Senator), Senator Elect Isiolo County;
 - vi. Liz Chelule (Nominated Senator), Woman Rep Elect Nakuru County;
 - vii. Godliver Omondi (Nominated Senator), MCA Elect cholera Ward;

³ <http://www.ngeckkenya.org/news/7189/general-elections-2017-statement-on-participation-of-special-interest-groups> Results may however change as a results of petitions expected in courts of law

⁴ Current exchange rate of KSH 103 to the US Dollar.

- viii. Martha Wangare (Nominated Senator), MP elect Gilgil Constituency; and
 - ix. Janet Ongera (Nominated Senator), Woman Rep Elect Kisii County.
- (16) Despite the good performances listed above, the numbers **are still way below** the not more than 2/3 threshold as set out in the constitution.

The 2017 Elections: Peace and Security

Although the period leading up to elections was relatively peaceful, there were isolated incidents of violence particularly around the political party primaries. Voting on August 8th was carried out in a peaceful manner. Local and international observers were able to carry out their duties and many of their preliminary reports, noted that the process went on relatively unmarred by major disruptions. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) was quick to respond to any issues related to delays, absence or mix up in the distribution of materials. Notably, five election observer missions; the African Union Election Observer Mission (AUEOM), European Union (EU), the Carter Centre, IGAD and International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in their preliminary statements found that the voting process had been credible and transparent. They recommended that any disputes be challenged through appropriate legal avenues.

On August 11th, the IEBC declared the incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Jubilee party the winner of the presidential elections. Following the rejection of the results by the opposition NASA Coalition Presidential candidate Raila Odinga, incidents of violence were reported in mostly the informal settlements in Nairobi and Nyanza (Kisumu, Migori, Homa Bay).² UN Women partners have received and responded to cases of sexual violence in Nairobi, but the figures for these are not yet available. The National GBV Hotline 1195 remains a key avenue for the public to receive help.

The 2017 Elections: Electoral Gender Based Violence

The main challenge now is to ensure that survivors particularly in informal settlements can safely get assistance within 72 hours and that the responders have easy access to medical and forensic rape kits to treat survivors, collect and preserve forensic evidence for future prosecution. UN Women is working with others to facilitate these connections.

Significant efforts were made by diverse stakeholders to put in place sufficient mitigation strategies towards EGBV prior to the elections. This was primarily through the protection cluster within the humanitarian coordination structure led by the Government. Mapping of available resources to respond to GBV was completed through the support of UN Women under the leadership of the National Gender and Equality Commission, the National Gender Based Violence working group, Africa UNiTE Kenya Chapter and other stakeholders. A directory of all GBV related service providers countrywide was made available to key state and non-state actors. Since the announcement of the results on August 11th responders have received numerous calls and responded to some cases of sexual violence – providing rescue services and medical attention.