

Independent Study                      The Role of Criminal Investigators in the  
Prosecution of Election Offences

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**Abstract**

The purposes of this study are; to study the prosecution of criminal investigators on election offences, to study factors (i.e., criminal investigators themselves, electoral candidates/political parties, electors and prosecution process) affecting the prosecution of criminal investigators on election offences, and to test the hypothesis that factors affecting the criminal investigators, electoral candidates/political parties, electors, and prosecution process are interrelated in the prosecution.

The method of study involves both qualitative and quantitative techniques. The findings suggest that factors

affecting most the prosecution are in the following order : the political parties, the prosecution process, the electoral laws, the electoral candidates, the investigators, and the electors.

Criminal investigators are fairly satisfied with their responsibilities, prefer to continue their works; are satisfied with their past performances, and are proud of doing the job. However, it is found that the supports they receive are fairly low. The least is material support, training, and advices from superiors, in order. Problems they find most on prosecution are judging the offences, assessing the offences, gathering the evidences, and feeling that the investigation is a burden. Some candidates/parties exert influences over the prosecution because they belong to big parties or used to be in power. Level of competition between the candidates or familiarity between the candidates and the investigators also play a major role.

This study suggests that criminal investigators should be committed with their principle ;determined to perform their tasks fairly, cautiously,and unyielding to any influences ; attempt to understand more about related rules and regulations. Besides the criminal investigators should share among their colleagues experiences or train their staff for better understanding of the matter. Higher level investigators should play more important role i.e., participate in the investigation , supervise and train new staff in the prosecution of an

electoral offence, protect investigators from outside influences, give information to the public , convince political parties to cooperate with the prosecution, and most of all, not to take part in any underworld influences. Related rules and regulations should also be improved. It is necessary to recognize that the prosecution of electoral offence differs from other general offences. There should be specific and appropriate procedures for prosecution of electoral offence.