Role Of Political Pluralisim On Democratic Governance In Nairobi County, Kenya

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Abstract: Pluralism is connected with the hope that this process of conflict and dialogue will result in a quasi-common good. This common good is not an abstract value or set in stone, however, but an attempt at balancing competing social interests, and will thus constantly shift given present social conditions. Political pluralism was a strong current in the formation of modern social democracy (to balance socialist and capitalist ideals), For pluralism to function and to be successful in defining the common good, all groups have to agree to a minimal consensus that shared values are at least worth pursuing. The most important baseline value is thus that of mutual respect or tolerance. If no such dialogue is possible, extremism and physical coercion are likely inevitable. literature review delves inpluralism in the devolved government structure of the constitution of kenya 2010 County Administration and Political Pluralism,Political Parties and democratic governance Political Party Frameworks Citizen Participation and county administration ,How Political Pluralism Influences Democratic Governance, Relationship between Political Pluralism and Democratic Governance.The paper examines the role of political pluralism on democratic governance in Kenya. It specifically focuses on the influence of political parties, political party frameworks and citizen participation on county administration in Nairobi county Kenya.

Keywords: Political Pluralism, Democratic Governance

I. INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Pluralism as a political philosophy is the recognition and affirmation of diversity within a political body, which permits the peaceful coexistence of different interests, convictions and lifestyles (Kozhikode & Li., 2003). While not all political pluralists advocate for a pluralist democracy, this is most common as democracy is often viewed as the most fair and effective way to moderate between the discrete values (Richard E. Flatham, 2005). In the classic developmental state, individual hegemonic parties often, though by no means always, played a key role. Pluralism recognizes that certain conditions may make good faith negotiation impossible, and

therefore also focuses on what institutional structures can best modify or prevent such a situation. Pluralism advocates institutional design in keeping with a form of pragmatic realism here, with the preliminary adoption of suitable existing socio-historical structures where necessary.

However, parties make a very limited contribution to the emergence of new democratic developmental states, in terms of either democracy-building or policy-making, recruitment, ensuring accountability or policy implementation. (Malin Hasselskog, 2018) Reasons include weak institutionalization and the prevalence of clientelism. External assistance, nevertheless, is likely to be limited in impact and, given the importance of autonomous party development, should ideally be indirect. Philip Keefer, (2015).

Political pluralism is a participatory type of government in which the politics of the country are defined by the needs and wants of many. Political pluralism is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

B. GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE OF POLITICAL PLURALISM AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

The United States of America asserts that "In our politically pluralistic society there is no majority" The basic ideas of government are seen through the ideas of individuals and groups to ensure that all the needs and wants of society are taken care of. There is no right or wrong idea Everyone's ideas are valid. A pluralistic culture includes: Stable democratic principles, Standards of life, Consistent directives, vital practical democratic norms and Skills and traditions. A politically pluralistic society develops a tolerance for divergent thinking.

This means that all ideas and beliefs of the people are valid. Political pluralism seems on the surface to be an effective form of running and governing a country: In reality, it depends on whose viewpoint you are looking at. Since there are no longer any societal norms, everybody is free to set up their own norms for running their life and their social group. In the past few years, democracy has scored a number of strategically and symbolically important advances. In 1999, democracy was introduced in two of the largest and most influential developing countries (with among the largest Muslim populations), Indonesia and Nigeria, even while democracy was breaking down that year in Pakistan. In 2000, Mexico completed a transition to democracy with the peaceful electoral overthrow of seven decades of hegemony by a single party.

That same year, one-party hegemonic regimes were also brought down at the ballot box in Senegal, Serbia, and Ghana, while Taiwan (already a democracy) experienced a historic breakthrough to a more competitive system with the defeat of the long-ruling KMT. In each of these countries, the victory of the opposition party signaled the arrival or deepening of democracy, with promising long-term implications for the regional status of democracy.

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF POLITICAL PLURALISM

However, beyond the leveling off of democratic expansion since the mid-1990s, there have been four other major caveats to the democratizing trend. First, as democracy has spread rapidly in the world, it has become a more shallow phenomenon. The quality of governance and the rule of law have actually deteriorated in some existing democracies, and the more recently established democracies have tended to be less liberal and more corrupt. Second, the spread of democracy has been far from uniform across regions and sub-regions. While some regions of the world are now overwhelmingly democratic, others have been only very partially touched by the democratic trend, while the Arab world remains without a single true democracy.

Third, many of the regimes (particularly in Africa and the former Soviet Union) that once appeared to be "in transition" from authoritarian rule have settled into varying shades and forms of authoritarian rule that fall well short of democracy. Finally and cause for perhaps the greatest concern many of the democracies that have come into being in the past two decades exhibit growing problems of governance that are eroding their legitimacy among the public and undermining their stability.

With the breakdown of democracy in Pakistan in 1999, the recent economic and political crisis in Argentina (which could spread to other Latin American states), and mounting citizen disgust with corruption worldwide, the global democratic trend is at greater risk of reversal than at any time since the end of the Cold War. With reform of the electoral process, mobilization by civil society, and relative unity among opposition forces, this uncertainty can mutate into the surprising defeat of once hegemonic parties, as has happened in recent years in Mexico, Senegal, Serbia, and Ghana. But the mere fact of regular, multiparty elections does not put these regimes on a path to democracy.

Unless, there are fundamental changes in the nature of the regime to permit free and fair elections and greater civic and political space, a transition to democracy is most unlikely. Political Pluralism The broader definition of pluralism is a belief in or a commitment to diversity or multiplicity. As a descriptive term, pluralism may be used to mean the existence of party competition, a multiplicity of ethical values or a variety of cultural norms. In a democracy, government is only one thread in the social fabric of many varied public and private institutions, legal forums, political parties, organizations, and associations. This diversity is called pluralism, and it assumes that the many organized groups in a democratic society do not depend upon government for their existence, legitimacy, or authority.

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE OF POLITICAL PLURALISM

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 is explicit that devolution is meant to foster national unity by recognizing diversity, and also to promote and protect the interests and rights of minorities and marginalized communities. These two specific objectives leave no doubt as to the pluralism intentions of the Constitution as regards devolved government. The first objective recognizes that the lack of recognition of ethnic diversity has led to disunity and conflict in the past. Accordingly, the active promotion of pluralism in the current Constitution has the ability to promote national cohesion and political stability. Ethnic-based exclusion has always been identified as a cause of political violence and conflict in Kenya. One of the national values and principles of governance is "human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized". The effectiveness of pluralism, however, is dependent on the prevailing context within which political and governance structures operate. Where the primary aim for the exercise of powers and resources is benefit for one group, minorities are bound to be excluded.

There has to be a clear policy to pursue inclusiveness and diversity. Like most African states, a common feature of the Kenyan governance system is the centralization of power.

While the 2010 Constitution aims at geographical distribution of power, there is little doubt that the political and institutional culture will impact on democratic governance .in Nairobi County Kenya.

C. RESEARCH PROBLEM

Political pluralism and democratic governance, beside market reforms are the new puzzle words on the global agenda. This study problematizes the issues of political pluralisim and democratic governance in Kenya. The struggle for democratic governance in Kenya has relevance not only in liberalizing the political party formations and institutions and achieving civil and political liberties, but also to ensure better living standards and social welfare for the people (Adejumobi 1996, Mamdani 1987, Lisulo 1991).

This paper reflects on political party pluralism from one single party state to miltipartisim in the context of democratic change and good governance which fathoms Politicization of resource distribution and corruption. Corruption clearly threatens and violates the rule of law, democracy, human rights, undermines governance, fairness and social justice. It distorts fair competition, hampers economic growth and endangers institutions and the moral foundation of a society (KNCHR 2006).

The infamous section 2(A) of the Constitution of Kenya was repealed in December 1991, the Parliament elected in 1992 was largely expected to revise the constitution and amend the laws to give room to the new trend of multiparty politics, constitutional reforms and participatory democracy in Kenya. However the Kenyan state has undergone significant transformations, marked by suppression of political space, gagged freedom of expression by state machinery and massive human rights violations through the three administrations since Independence. Ethnic affiliations and attachments are a politically relevant signifier in contemporary Kenya,. Kenyans, contest, revive, create, negotiate and renegotiate their ethnic identity politically.

The existence of human rights - civil/political or economic/social and cultural is one thing; far from their accessibility and enjoyment by the potential beneficiaries is a totally different matter. Kenya is party to some seventeen international human rights conventions. Yet complaints by various ethnic groups are genuine concerns in terms of deprivation and destitution they suffer in the hands of the state, a major factor behind these problems lies with the use of political power in Kenya. Through abuse of power, decisions have been made in the past that subject some communities to suffering, crime, and evictions from settlements.

The struggle for political power that renegades to ethnic political divides is the reason whose outcome is malicious for democratic development in the country. this fiasco has framed Kenya's political parties to leadership wrangles and internal struggles of power, which has not helped nurturing a democratic political culture. The ethnic differences and abuse of political power in Kenya is therefore a key factor contributing to the heightened levels of ethnic division that play out during elections, the process of forming and aligning to political parties and ultimately an eyesore to democratic governance. It is in this backdrop that the paper seeks to investigate Role of Political Pluralism on Democratic Governance in Nairobi County, Kenya.

D. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The general objective of the study is to determine the Role of Political Pluralism on Democratic Governance in Nairobi County, Kenya.

a. SPECIFIC RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

✓ To examine the influence of political parties, political party frameworks on county administration in Nairobi county Kenya
✓ To evaluate the level of citizen participation in democratic governance in Nairobi county.

Significance Of The Study

These research paper study findings may be beneficial to the following:

County Governments And Policy Makers

The study will inform policy makers on formulating and implementing policies, programs, projects and a basis of assessment and determining the role of political pluralism in democratic governance in Kenya. It shall give incentive to political parties to interrelate and yield public security and public good. The study shall contribute to further knowledge in understanding of the role political pluralism in democratic governance in the setup of Counties in Kenya. Researchers can use this study to help develop their research inquiries and also to aid in conceptualization of their studies

I. LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This section presents a review of theoretical and empirical literature on the role of political pluralism on democratic governance in Nairobi Kenya the study is grounded on pluralist theory and theories of democracy.

PLURALIST THEORY OF GOVERNMENT

Pluralism is the theory that many different groups run a country, rather than individuals. Pluralism critiques direct democracy and instead puts power in groups, such as unions, civil rights groups, lobbies and coalitions. This theory does not necessarily mean that all groups are equal or have the same amount of power. Pluralism is especially relevant for the United States government, which has a decentralized government with many powers given to individual states, which then give powers to local governments to further decentralize power. Within each level of government there are also different branches that control different parts of the system so that no one person or group has too much power. Separation of power and the system of checks and balances is

an essential part of both pluralist theory and the United States government.

In pluralism, the central government acts as a mediator rather than an all-powerful position that rules unchallenged. This fits well in the original creation of the United States, where the Founding Fathers wished to move away from the very centralized, elite government of England. Pluralism encourages competition between groups as they try to come up with the best way to deal with issues, so the society continues to move forward. Although there is value to theory, it is not an official system recognized by the United States government.

A. PLURALISM IN THE DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF KENYA 2010

Regardless of the reasons advanced by the CoE, the 47 county boundaries, more or less, coincide with ethnic boundaries. The 47 county boundaries are adopted with some minor modifications from the colonial administrative units that were ethnically defined. While some changes due to rural-urban migration, mixed ethnic settlements in rural areas, etc. have happened, the key characteristic of the current boundaries is that there are ethnic majorities in almost all the 47 counties. Furthermore, many of the counties have the names of the dominant ethnic communities. However, the decision to adopt the 47 counties and the naming has little to do with a deliberate policy choice to pursue pluralism in the structuring of devolved units in Kenya (Oloo, 2011). Rather, it appeared to be a pragmatic choice by the CoE, which has an inevitable impact on recognition and accommodation of ethnic diversity.

B. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL PLURALISM

County government administrative and representative structures provide an appropriate avenue through which the county's diversity can be represented. The composition of the county assembly should represent the diversity of a county's populace. This is the reason why the Constitution and enabling legislation provide for not only members of the assembly elected by the assembly, but also other special members representing members and groups in the county that may not make it through popular election or representation (Reilly B. 2004). The electoral system is indeed "the most powerful lever of constitutional engineering for accommodation and harmony in severely divided societies".

The ideal electoral system is one that can faithfully translate an electorate's diversity (or voting groups) to the proportionate seats in the representative assembly. Scholars recommend the Proportional Representation (PR) system of elections as one which can do this, and thus, suitable for societies pursuing pluralism in politics. This system is usually contrasted with the majority system where the candidate with most votes, which are cast in single member constituencies, wins the seat

Kenya's electoral system, especially at the county level, is inherently inimical to pluralism. The county governor (with the deputy governor as a running mate) is elected without any

requirement of a margin of votes. The MCAs are also elected through wards and lists (as explained above) in a process that favours majority groups. The end result is that the composition of county assemblies and the county governor usually reflect the county majority groups.

While this is an aggregated result, it still shows the general trend that dominant parties and communities within counties secured a vast majority of county seats. Non-dominant political parties (and independent candidates) were left to share the remaining 26 percent of county assembly ward seats. Cottrell and Ghai (2014) who also carried out an analysis of the county elections in 2013 also arrived at the same conclusion; that the major parties took the lion share of the county assembly seats. It is not possible to ascertain the ethnicity of all elected MCAs in the country due to the lack of disaggregated information. However, there are a number of positive points based on a general observation of the trends.

First, the "home counties" of some of the ethnic minorities (at the national level) such as Turkana, Samburu, Isiolo County, Lamu, and Tana River counties, etc. These counties contain communities who are considered ethnic minorities and generally fall under the marginalized communities. Cottrell and Yash Pal Ghai (2013). The county system has, thus, provided an avenue for representation and inclusion of a number of communities at the periphery. However, across the country there are also intracounty minorities who may have been overshadowed by the county based majorities. County Governments Act. Furthermore, the IEBC, which is tasked with demarcating ward boundaries, did not consider minority groups and marginalized groups in ward demarcation. In its report on boundary demarcation, the IEBC noted "boundaries delimitation does not resolve issues regarding representation of marginalized groups" and called for other means (other than boundary delimitation) to accommodate minorities and marginalized groups.

This is not entirely true. While it is difficult to enhance representation of minorities and marginalized groups, especially those who are dispersed within larger or dominant voter groups, it is possible to accommodate geographically concentrated groups. The Elections Act provides for special representatives from marginalized groups and minorities in county assemblies,. However, the names appeared to be more random than well thought out. Indeed, in many of the counties, the category of marginalization was not indicated. The IEBC report on the filling of special county assembly seats did not have clear categories or areas of marginalization that they were being nominated under. Furthermore, there was a conflict between two laws, the County Governments Act 38 and the Elections Act, which placed special representatives of the counties at 6 and 4 respectively. The IEBC chose to go with the Elections Act and nominate 4 representatives.

DEMOCRATIC THEORY

Democratic theory is an established subfield of political theory that is primarily concerned with examining the definition and meaning of the concept of democracy, as well as the moral foundations, obligations, challenges, and overall desirability of democratic governance. Generally speaking, a commitment to democracy as an object of study and

deliberation is what unites democratic theorists across a variety of academic disciplines and methodological orientations. When this commitment takes the form of a discussion of the moral foundations and desirability of democracy, normative theory results. When theorists concern themselves with the ways in which actual democracies function, their theories are empirical. Finally, when democratic theorists interrogate or formulate the meaning of the concept of democracy, their work is conceptual or semantic in orientation. Democratic theories typically operate at multiple levels of orientation. For example, definitions of democracy as well as normative arguments about when and why democracy is morally desirable are often rooted in empirical observations concerning the ways in which democracies have actually been known to function. In addition to a basic commitment to democracy as an object of study, most theorists agree that the concept democracy denotes some form or process of collective self-rule. The etymology of the word traces back to the Greek terms demos (the people, the many) and kratos (to rule). Yet beyond this basic meaning, a vast horizon of contestation opens up. Important questions arise: who constitutes the people and what obligations do individuals have in a democracy? What values are most important for a democracy and which ones make it desirable or undesirable as a form of government? How is democratic rule to be organized and exercised? What institutions should be used and how? Once instituted, does democracy require precise social, economic, or cultural conditions to survive in the long term? And why is it that democratic government is preferable to, say, aristocracy or oligarchy? These questions are not new. In fact, democratic theory traces its roots back to ancient Greece and the emergence of the first democratic governments in Western history. Ever since, philosophers, politicians, artists, and citizens have thought and written extensively about democracy. Yet democratic theory did not arise as an institutionalized academic or intellectual discipline until the 20th century. The works cited here privilege Anglo-American, western European, and, more generally, institutional variants of democratic theory, and, therefore, they do not exhaust the full range of thought on the subject.

C. POLITICAL PARTIES AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

In most of the electoral democracies and competitive authoritarian regimes, political parties are a major problem. Quite often they are corrupt, insular, internally undemocratic, detached from societal interests, and ineffective in addressing the country's problems. When one weighs their performance against high citizen expectations for performance and accountability after authoritarian rule, it is perhaps no surprise that they are held in astonishingly low repute.

It is tempting in these circumstances to write off political parties; they are not very serious about governing, not very democratic, and so we should focus on strengthening "purer" actors in the state or civil society. Such a blanket dismissal would be a grave mistake. In a modern society, democracy cannot function without political parties. It is political parties that structure electoral competition, organize government, and recruit leaders. And even if parties are only one among many vehicles for stimulating political participation and representing interests, they remain essential to the overall functioning of democracy. To the extent that they are feckless and corrupt, so is democracy itself.

Democratic political parties must become more capable and mature as organizations, more internally competitive and transparent, and more externally responsive and accountable. At the same time, international assistance and cooperation effort must serve the larger goal of creating a representative and competitive multiparty system, which offers citizens choices of leaders and policies, responsiveness to their concerns, and a means for exercising vertical accountability. For both of these broad strategic aims, work with political parties must be ongoing, not just a temporary program a few months in advance of an election. Party assistance programs should continue to focus on three traditional objectives while intensifying work in two more innovative arenas.

D. POLITICAL PARTY FRAMEWORKS

The pursuit of stable and effective democratic governance will entail different sequences of political reform and development in different countries. In some cases, the basic framework of multiparty democracy is in place, but it needs to be deepened and made more effective and accountable in a variety of ways. Some emerging democracies suffer from more particular obstacles to consolidation such as the institutionalization of the rule of law. In some repressive, corrupt, and closed regimes, multiparty competition, if it exists at all, is largely a façade, but the reform of the economy and the strengthening of moderate forces in civil society might be more viable near-term steps than an immediate transition to electoral democracy. It is impossible to offer a general strategy or sequence of political reforms to fit such widely varying cases. That is why careful assessment must be done of the current state of democracy and governance in each country. There is no one sector that provides the key to fostering democracy and good governance.

Good, democratic governance is the key to development, and to aid effectiveness. Unless states can be made more responsible, competent, efficient, participatory, open, transparent, accountable, lawful, and legitimate in the way they govern, stagnating and poorly performing countries will experience the kind of vigorous, sustained development that transforms levels of human development and permanently lifts large segments of the population out of poverty

E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

In most countries where development has failed or stalled, the most important missing ingredient is the political will of the nation's leaders to improve the quality of governance. "Political will" is the commitment of a country's rulers to undertake and see through to implementation as particular policy course. At its most resilient, political will here involves a broad consensus among ruling elites, across parties and sectors of government, in favor of democratic and good governance reforms. But consensus is always imperfect, and will is most important at the top levels of government (among

major political leaders and senior civil servants). There, political will must be robust and sincere. That is, reform leaders must be committed not only to undertake actions to achieve reform objectives, but also "to sustain the costs of those actions over time."

Without a robust commitment to fundamental reforms to control corruption, open up the economy, enhance the rule of law, respect basic civil and political rights, and allow independent centers of power both within and outside the government foreign assistance will fail to ignite sustainable development. Children may be inoculated, only to find that they have no access to education, and then no jobs that lift families out of poverty. Schools may be built and then destroyed in civil war. Clinics may be constructed and then not be sustained because there is no access to medication. Participation may be stimulated at the local level, but improvements in local governance may be overwhelmed and vitiated by national context of predatory government. Opposition political parties may be strengthened organizationally only to be marginalized by massive electoral fraud. Judiciaries may be assisted technically and then corrupted and intimidated by the national leadership.

F. HOW POLITICAL PLURALISM INFLUENCES DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

The rise of political parties in Kenya can be seen in the wider context of the reaction by Kenyans to colonial rule. Ideally, political parties were at that time formed to revolt against colonial patronage and rule. Right from the introduction of multi-party politics in 1992 through the 1997 general election, the number of political parties in Kenya went up to 27 in 1997 partly because of the pre-election agreement by the Inter-Parties Parliamentary Group (IPPG in 1996).

In December 2008, registered political parties were as many as 300, most of which never had representation in parliament. With the introduction of the new Political Parties Act of 2008, which came into force in January 2009, the number of parties that have so far met the requirements of the Act are at around 40 parties. Accordingly, with the legislation of the Political Parties Act, the role and management of political parties in Kenya seems to be significantly changing owing to requirements the parties have to meet, or if failing to meet them they will be de-registered.

Since independence, the Kenyan political scene has been a struggle on how to share the 'national cake', which unfortunately has been directly proportional to regional political affiliation and support for the government. Regions that have produced most influential national leaders aligned to the government of the day have been rewarded by a larger share of the cake, by getting big projects financed by the government; people from those regions have had better employment opportunities than their counterparts from other regions.

This is surely ironic in view of the fact that the so-called 'national cake' is a product of the revenue collected from all tax payers and stem from natural resources in the entire country. It is often conceived by the public that opportunities to make concrete an agenda of social justice and ethnic tolerance have been wasted by nonresponsive governments

composed of self-serving politicians. The argument for change has not quite been adhered to in spite of successive governments riding into power on the high tide of change. In part, this is seen as result of the bankruptcy of economic theories and governance practice of the politics that care not to ameliorate the subjugated conditions of the poor masses. Resistance to non-responsive government has persisted despite the government's efforts to suppress initiatives aimed at addressing critical reform areas such as the constitution, land and infrastructure.

Kenya restored political pluralism in 1991. This was seen as a paradigm shift from what had largely been a de jure one party state since 1982 and a de facto one-party state since 1969. With the legislation of alternative political parties in 1991, political parties have increasingly shaped the Kenyan political landscape, a landscape that has been anything but transformative. Ethnic clashes, which first broke out in 1991, have emerged as one of the most serious human rights issues in Kenya. Such clashes have always characterized every general election since the 1992 elections with the 2002 elections being a positive exception (Andreassen et. al. 2008).

Troubled multi-ethnic interaction and exchange arising from years of political repression, poor economic management, poverty and inequality face a myriad of institutional, governance and systematic challenges to the Kenyan nation. These challenges are largely rooted in the personalities entrusted to leadership (Nguzo za Haki 2007). It remains clear that even the distribution of public service appointments has generally been skewed in favor of the regions that provide political support to the government of the day.

G. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL PLURALISM AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

In 1998, the Institute of Education for Democracy postulated that it is difficult for voters to distinguish what the different parties stand for, far from the aspiration to form a government (IED, 1998). According to the IED Election Report (2002) parties are often endowed with financial muscle and individuals with economic might do not hesitate to buy voters. This discredits development of sound policies or credible manifestos on which individuals and parties can mobilize. A number of political parties are formed along ethnic orientations/leanings or regional structuring.

The Political Parties Act 2008 is bound to foster transparency and accountability in the management of political parties, and create constructive policy commitments given that all registered parties need to have a national outlook and image as one of the requirements for funding besides filing annual returns with the registrar of societies. The funding shall be from the exchequer. However, not all political parties are represented in the present parliament. It is in view of the above that the political party pluralism has been touted by scholars and jurists to lack political will, national outlook accentuated by international interference and weak civil society that has always been rebuffed by the government of the day the County Governments Act provides the county public service, which is in charge of establishing offices and hiring county public service, should ensure that at least 30

percent of all county positions in the county public service are reserved for communities from outside the county.

This is one of the provisions that seek to ensure that counties do not transform into exclusive ethnic enclaves as a result of the current composition of a majority of the counties. There is little doubt that where inclusion is pursued in such a manner, counties may become a means through which pluralism and ethnic accommodation are achieved. The National Cohesion and Integration Act, which applies to all public institutions generally including the counties, also provides that no public institution (which includes a county government) should have more than one third of its employees from the same ethnic community. These two provisions seek to ensure a balanced representation in the county governments. A survey done by the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) in 2016 on recruitment patterns of county public service boards from 2013 shows that a majority of the counties are far off the statutory mark.

In the report, the NCIC observe that only 15 out of the 47 county governments have ensured that at least 30 percent of vacancies in the county public service are given to persons from communities that are not dominant in the county. 50 On the other hand, 68.1 percent of county governments, representing more than half of the 47 counties, have more than 70 percent of their county government workforce from one community (usually the dominant one in the county). In a general pattern observed by the NCIC, counties with more multi-ethnic composition were found to have complied more with these rules than counties with a largely homogenous

II. METHODOLOGY

The study sought to determine role of political pluralism on democratic governance in Kenya using Nairobi County as a study area. For the purpose of the study, political pluralism is linked helping the county governments to achieve democratic governance. The researcher find adopting a single case study appropriate since all the 47 county governments in Kenya are hundred percent operating under the auspices of the central / national government even though independently established by the provisions of the constitution. A multi-analysis and participatory approach was adopted throughout the study. Intensive and extensive consultations and discussions were undertaken. A comprehensive review of documentation made by other researchers, governmental organizations and institutions were also conducted. The study adopted qualitative techniques which involved document analysis, collection, collation and analysis of other secondary data. The main sources of information included: Policy papers, Government of Kenya Statutes, Commission reports and other publications of NGOs engaged in democratization and civic education, Organizational journals and magazines Discussion papers series, The Kenyan constitution \Magazines and newspapers Commentaries and Critical editorial analyses in view of accuracy of data.

A. THE TARGET POPULATION

The target population for the study involves political parties'. Political party leadership, tribal organizations, political party caucuses, tribal/regional enclaves governors senators members of parliament members of county assemblies woman representatives, expert opinions and the electorate in Nairobi county.

B. SAMPLING SELECTION

Aggregated democratic Governance Indicators (The World Bank Institute; also known as KKZ according to abbreviation of authors' names) are based on hundreds of individual variables measuring perceptions of governance, drawn from 25 separate data sources constructed by different organizations, and cover 47 counties.

SOURCES OF GOVERNANCE

Data obtained either polls of experts or cross-county officials or citizens in general. Indicators based on the survey present averages by country of the responses of a large number of respondents to a variety of questions related to democratic governance. Typically, survey respondents are asked to rate aspects of governance on a categorical scale. Some sources focus on the opinion of the county officials, members of parliament MCAs others focus on the opinion of professionals, business communities and some are broad-based surveys of citizens. Thus obtained individual measures of governance are assigned to categories capturing key dimensions of democratic governance and aggregated to six governance indicators with estimates ranged between –2.5 (worst governance)and +2.5 (best governance). I have selected three such indicators:

✓ *VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY* – evaluation of various aspects of political process, civil freedoms, political rights and media independence;
✓ *GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS* – perception of the quality of public services provided, of public administration, competence of civil servants, independence of state administration and credibility of government;
✓ *CONTROL OF CORRUPTION AND RULE OF LAW* – perception of corruption classically defined as the discharge of public authority for private gains, also measuring the frequency of "incentive payments so matters are successfully resolved" etc., impact of corruption on business activities, and measuring large-scale corruption in politics and ultra vires principle in administrative of justice

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE INDEX

This reveals the extent to which governments and important political actors have been consistent and determined in pursuing a market based economy (Bertelsmann Foundation 2004). This comprises five criteria (reliable pursuit of goals, effective use of resources, governance capability, consensus-building, international cooperation) evaluated in two rounds of

expert assessment on a scale ranging from one (criterion not fulfilled) to ten points (criterion fulfilled). The results are firstly adjusted within regions and then by international comparison. In the last step, the criteria for the quality of management are weighted by the difficulty level of transformation processes in each country (the difficulty level of an initial situation and limitation of resources) Evaluation considers the current reform policies of a government in the power at the time of observation and its management achievements during the five-year period and is based on self-collected qualitative performance data. (Hartmann 2004).

Polity IV is a database of political regime characteristics and transitions. The Polity project was originally formulated by Ted Robert Gurr to test the durability of states. It includes democracy and autocracy indicators for over 160 countries for the purposes of comparative, quantitative analysis**.** for the purposes of this study , I have selected the following two variables:

- ✓ *Political competition concept* which is based on two dimensions of political competition: the degree of institutionalization, or regulation, of political competition and the extent of government restriction on political competition. Within the first dimension is judged the existence and extent of"if, when, and how" rules and political preferences are organized and expressed. The second dimension, the competitiveness of political participation, refers to the extent to which alternative preferences for policy formation and leadership roles can be pursued in the political arena. The political competition concept combines these two dimensions and is scaled to roughly correspond with the degree of democracy of political competition within the polity. It identifies 10 broad patterns of political competition from suppressed competition to institutionalized open electoral participation. (Marshall and Jaggers 2002)
- ✓ *Regime durability* counts the number of years since the most recent regime change (defined by a three-point change in the Polity score over a period of three years or less) or the end of a transition period defined by the lack of stable political institutions. The first year during which a new (post change) polity is established is coded as the baseline "year zero" (value = 0) and each subsequent year adds one to the value of the variable consecutively until a new regime change or transition period occurs. Values are entered for all years beginning with the first regime change since 1800 or the date of independence if that event occurred after 1800. (Marshall and Jaggers 2002)

Political party frameworks (Database of Political Institutions, Office of the registrar of political parties) counts the number of veto players in a political system, adjusting for whether these veto players are independent of each other, as determined by the level of electoral competitiveness in the system, their respective party affiliations, and the electoral rules. (Beck at al. undated). l have opted for the office of the registrar of political parties to characterize institutional factors of political Pluralism– Voice and accountability – and the concept variable of Political competition from the Polity IV project.

The performance indicators are Government effectiveness, abuse of office and rule of law. All the verified relationships have been controlled for democratic governance.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

ROLE OF POLITICAL PLURALISM ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

There is a growing perception among practitioners and stakeholders that political parties play a crucial role in fostering home-grown democratic processes. Support for the development of viable, democratic and representative political parties is necessary not only to bring about a change towards a democratic political culture, but also contributes to the success of other democracy support activities. Democratization processes are rendered sustainable not only by relying on support to state institutions or civil society, but also when political parties are fully integrated in this process. Equally, whilst the enforcement of civil society contributes to the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, it cannot replace political society (of which political parties are a constituent part). Political parties act as the mortar that binds the two levels together to create a truly democratic polity.

Following the Arab Spring the EU has strengthened its engagement with political parties due to the crucial and multiple roles which they play in fostering a democratic system. The EU has only engaged with political parties that share democratic values, on the basis of a non-partisan approach and indirectly, through trainings, platforms for dialogue and other capacity-development activities (direct funding of political parties is prohibited under EU rules). Support is often provided within broader electoral assistance projects or through support to parliaments. The EU is also supporting the introduction of legal or constitutional frameworks that empower democratic political parties and allow them to act as all-inclusive vehicles of representation. Presently, the EU is increasingly putting a stronger focus on political party support as stand-alone item in the EU's comprehensive democracy support agenda.

Yet, in many developing and democratizing countries, political parties are often not able to fully play their role in the democratic process and to aggregate the citizens' interests, to provide political choices, develop policies and implement them, to engage citizens in the democratic process and act as a bridge between civil society and political society/institutions, to advance government accountability (through opposition parties) and strengthen legislatures. The above is the case established in Nairobi county Kenya.

INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL PARTY FRAMEWORKS ON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION IN NAIROBI COUNTY KENYA

The City of Nairobi falls under the Nairobi City Council one of the counties in Kenya. Like all other counties in the country, the administrative and political structure of governance in Nairobi is established under the county

Government Act. Politically, Nairobi has eight electoral constituencies. These are Makadara, Kamukunji, Starehe, Langata, Dagoretti, Westland's, Kasarani and Embakasi. These constituencies are represented in parliament by their elected Members of Parliament, currently from two dominant political parties: NASA and Jubilee Party A constituency is further sub-divided into various electoral wards, each represented by an elected Member of county assembly. A large majority of the MCAs in Nairobi come from the two dominant parties. Being the capital city and an important socio-economic and political centre, Nairobi is important in party politics. Most political parties want to be associated with as much political representation as possible in Nairobi both at the constituency and ward levels. As such all the constituencies and wards in Nairobi are important for the political parties and political party frameworks for generating very stiff competition during the electioneering period.

The Level of Citizen Participation In Democratic Governance In Nairobi County, Kenya. Citizens' participation in Kenya finds its early roots in development projects that benefited local communities. Throughout the post-colonial era, the country took legislative steps to provide ways for citizens to be active participants in the governing of their country. Most of these ways, however, were limited to local authorities and the implementation of laws incorporating citizen participation did not reach their full potential because citizens did not fully understand their rights or embrace the opportunity. Finally, county government authorities struggled to promote local funding and planning processes to citizens, like the county   Authority Service Delivery Action Plan (LASDAP) and the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF).Citizens' or Public participation is a prerequisite for successful policy and decision-making and is a precondition for transparent, open and democratic governance. Citizens Participation and Governance implies the involvement of citizens in a wide range of policymaking activities, including the determination of levels of service, planning, budget priorities, establishment of performance standards and the acceptability of physical construction projects in order to orient government programs toward community needs, build public support, and encourage a sense of cohesiveness within neighborhoods. Citizen engagement in devolved government's systems implies the involvement of citizens in planning, decision-making process of the County Governments' measures and/or institutional arrangements so as to increase their influence on service delivery, equitable distribution of devolved resources, enactment of favorable policies and programmes to ensure a more positive impact on their social and economic lives. It entails sound public sector management (efficiency, effectiveness and economy), accountability, exchange and free flow of information (transparency), and a legal framework for development (justice, respect for human rights and liberties).

Citizen participation is the key determinant factor to the success of devolution and good governance at the county level. This is only attainable if the citizens have understanding of devolution and a realistic idea of how duty bearers (elected/appointed leaders) should perform. It is only then that the citizen will be able to hold their county government to account. The Constitution of Kenya 2010, in Article 1 states that all sovereign power is vested to the people of Kenya. This power can be expressed through direct participation or indirectly through elected representatives. Various pieces of legislations list the principles of citizen participation, for instance, Part VIII of the County Government Act, 2012, 2nd Schedule of the Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011 and as one of the principles of public service in the CoK, 2010. The constitution places the citizens at the Centre of everything and promotes the aspect of participation and involvement as a key factor to enhance its successful implementation and good governance.

Citizen/public participation is a two-way process where the government provides opportunities for citizen involvement and the citizens choose whether or not to utilize these opportunities based on their interest among other things. It is also in the interest of county governments to enact appropriate legislations/frameworks and provide conducive environment to encourage active participation from citizens/public so that they can make valuable contributions to the decision making processes. Participation can be at individual level but is more effective if done in organized groups such as youth groups or even Civil Society Organizations. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 provides the citizen with various avenues for participation in governance. Citizens may organize themselves into the citizen fora as provided for in the County Government ACT, 2012, Urban Areas and Cities Act, 2011, county planning, budget preparations and validation fora and citizens' fora provided.

The citizens may also participate in: the identification of community needs and development planning for the county; county budget preparation and validation; implementation of development projects at the local level and in the actual monitoring and evaluation of projects or programs being implemented through public funds in the county. The public can support mechanisms of social accountability by participating in Local referendum, town hall meetings, and visiting development project sites. They may also participate by applying for tenders to supply goods and services to the county government. The Public Finance Management (PFM) Act, 2012 provides for public participation in public financial management and in particular: the formulation of the Budget Policy Statement, County Fiscal Strategy Paper and the Budget Estimates; the preparation of Division of Revenue Bill and County Allocation of Revenue Bill. The County Budget and Economic Forum provides a platform for public participation in county planning and budgeting.

IV. CONCLUSION

It is not very bold to claim that where there is a more open and competitive political pluralism and its institutional environment gives more space for democratic governance, there is generally a more adept and efficient government together with more adept and efficient important political actors in the game and vice versa. Within such political systems government works effectively, interests of people are better mediated and so the quality of public services is higher. Hand in hand goes more efficient and independent public administration with competent civil servants, credible

government and less corrupted politicians and officials The more interesting finding is the important role that political participation plays in the transformation process.

Even in the counties with difficult starting conditions could develop towards market-based democracy governed effectively if there is more open and wide space for political pluralism. However, strengthening and deepening of political participation is not the general solution for all counties and under all conditions. Used indicators aggregate a wide range of different assessments and as such must be interpreted. Different counties with different conditions are supposed to select own solutions and strategies which match best to them.

With respect to Influence of political parties, political party frameworks on county administration in Nairobi county ,Kenya continues to use all manner of strategies including violence, defections, violations of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs), mobilization along tribal and regional lines and other undemocratic methods to gain power, and also disenfranchise women. Use of violence has been institutionalized and it's used as a strategy to intimidate rivals and marginalized groups such as women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Political parties have been used by politicians as vehicles for articulating personal and ethnic interests as opposed to societal and national interest. Despite the promulgation of a progressive and inclusive Constitution in 2010, there has been little change in the management and administration of political parties in the country. VAWG is not only experienced by women aspirants, but also female voters. While, the 2013 elections proceeded without escalations of violence, nonetheless, there was heavy ethnic and political tension. Kenyans painful memories of 2007, and especially the atrocious violations against women and girls who suffered most, are surfacing as politicians, across the board exhibit the same traits during this period. Mistrust around elections is widespread, and as the election date draws nearer, there have been allegations of rigging starting from voter registration.

Internal Party nominations are already pointing to serious possibilities for VAWP (Violence Against Women in Politics) and this may go into the campaigns, the voting day, vote tallying and after. Public anxiety and concern around a volatile political environment ahead of the 2017 general elections is already visible. An increase in inflammatory political speeches (disguised as "voter registration drives"), personalized verbal attacks between leading politicians, including structural patronizing sentiments, and ethnic-based political mobilization are prominent. As key players in the electoral process, strengthening political parties internal democracy, with a focus on VAWG mitigation is crucial in alleviating triggers and causes of electoral violence, and holding political parties accountable.

Prevention of violence, based on objective risk assessment and development of disaster preparedness plans is therefore essential in the process of the electoral build up to 2017 elections, and political parties, being critical actors, have a strong role to play in ensuring proper VAWG mitigation structures and systems are in place to promote prevention and redress. Political Parties have the obligation under the Constitution and the law to ensure that gender equity and equality as envisioned by the Constitution and the international and regional conventions are respected.

However, this is yet to be attained in political parties because of differentiations, entitlements and responsibilities of men and women brought about by socio-cultural factors like patriarchy, socialization, gender stereotyping, and lack of societal awareness on gender issues, as well as societal perceptions about women and politics. It is essential that on this basis of equity and justice, Political parties commit to the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women in political parties and the dismantling of existing gender disadvantages for women voters and aspirants. This is essential to the full enjoyment of the political rights of men and women. For the 2017 pre-election period, grievances over resource distribution, feelings of disenfranchisement by minority populations especially women, and intense competition for elected positions at the county-level are areas of concern and indicators for electoral violence.

Strengthening political party internal democracy for inclusive and effective enablement of participation of the women and other vulnerable groups in political and electoral processes and improving campaign and political environment that is conducive for a level playing ground for all candidates irrespective of gender, disability, tribe and age will significantly address the Gender Based Violence (GBV) which is mainly associated with electoral campaigns and undemocratic party primaries processes. Parties that are able to conduct free and fair nominations prevent violence and fall outs that may be occasioned by dissatisfied members. Free and fair party elections will also ensure that the will of party members is respected. Training political party boards and representatives of presidential and gubernatorial campaign teams on the peaceful management of elections campaigns will not only remove fear from women but will also propel and increase confidence in them to campaign for political seats they are interested in. This has a positive effect of increasing their representation in political leadership after the 2017 general elections.

As concerns citizen participation the study establishes that Kenya recognizes the importance of Public Participation in all matters affecting them and at all levels. This promotes good governance of resources, fair and equitable distribution of resources. There a believe that rapid and enduring change is possible when communities and development stakeholders are empowered with appropriate resources including information (Knowledge &Skills) to be able to make informed decisions, initiate their own solutions, actively participating in addressing development challenges affecting them and their communities, working together as well as harnessing and tapping available resources from other networks & Partnerships that offer solutions. This is achieved through capacity development which includes civic education, advocacy to influence enactment of supportive policies, partnerships building and building of linkages. It's therefore with this in mind that every effort is being made to ensure that all the citizens in all counties supported, understand the venues and methods through which they can actively participate to enhance service delivery, promote accountability and good governance, for improved living standards and realization of sustainable development.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

This paper recommends that there is need to harness and collate the diversity of political party pluralism not only in terms of tribal affiliations and attachments but also embrace religiosity, cultural differentiation, gender parity, age class and race among others. Wholesomely political pluralism is essentially an important aspect of democratic governance within the spectrum of constitutionalism and absolute adherence to the law.

FURTHER READINGS

The study suggests that there is need for scholars to research more on the impact of political pluralism on democratic governance and further to elucidate on the challenges facing political pluralism in democratic governance

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