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RESEARCH ARTICLE

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POST-ELECTION PHASE PROCESSES AND POLITICAL STABILITY IN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY STATES

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ABSTRACT

Background: The general objective of the study was to examine the role of political leadership in electoral process and political stability in the East African Community States. To achieve the general objective this study was evaluate the relationship between post-election phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States. This study adopted a quantitative approach of both descriptive and correlation designs. The target population consisted of 123 individuals working within the electoral commissions of different EAC Countries and the EAC Legislative Assembly. Primary data was collected using self-administered questionnaire. The study used primary data, which was collected using questionnaires. The questionnaires were both open and close ended. The study used email, phone calls and meeting procedure with the targeted respondent in EAC Countries and the EAC Legislative Assembly to follow up. Data collected from the field were coded, cleaned and categorized according to questionnaire items. A pilot test was conducted to detect weaknesses in design and instrumentation. The gathered data was analyzed using computer aided IBM Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 21 premium. Both descriptive and inferential statistics was used to analyze the data collected. Descriptive statistics involved computation of mean scores, standard deviation, percentages, cross tabulation and frequency distribution which described the demographic characteristics of the organization and the respondents. Inferential statistics was used to determine the relationships and significance between independent and dependent variable. Correlation and linear regression were used to analyze the data with F-test being applied to the test hypothesis at 5% level of significance. Content analysis was used for the qualitative data. The data was presented using tables, graphs and charts. The data was presented using tables, graphs and charts. Regression analysis was performed in order to determine whether the independent variable, election phase processes could be reliable for explaining the change in the dependent variable, political stability in East Africa region. Regression analysis was performed in order to determine whether the independent variable, post-election phase processes could be reliable for explaining the change in the dependent variable, political stability in East Africa region. The coefficients obtained indicate that the correlation coefficient (R) between the independent variable and the political stability was 0.811 which is a positive correlation relationship. Table 4.24 shows a coefficient of determination (R²) of 0.658, which means that this variable alone can explain up to 65.8% of the variations in the dependent variable, political stability. Recommendation for improvement can be drawn from the study conclusions; moderating role of political leadership was reported to be persistent in the study area, the government should consider extending the law branch to the rest of the east Africa community state through screening, supporting of law moderation groups locked out by stringent east Africa community state program approval procedures in order to ensure that most people are reached out in the program.

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INTRODUCTION

All most all African Countries including the East African Community member countries have multiparty democracy and have been holding elections regularly since independence (Odhiambo, 2009).

However, the process of holding elections has not been smooth, with the losers contesting the outcome despite the fact that the elections have been conducted within the legal framework and in line with international, African and regional treaties and standards. This section focuses on some pertinent issues related to the election process that are expected to be applied to make the election process more reliable:

Managing Post-Election Phases processes

Post-election processes can easily turn chaotic especially in cases where some interest groups have a feeling of having been short changed in the election and pre-election processes. The losers tend to contest the outcome despite the fact that the elections have been conducted within the legal framework and in line with international, African and regional treaties and standards. This section focuses on some pertinent issues related to the post-election process that are expected to be applied to make the election closure to be acceptable to all the stakeholders (Baets, 2011).

Election observation

It is now common for parliamentary elections to be observed by international and local observers, including the Commonwealth, the SADC, and local observers from civil society organizations. The process of election observation is provided for in the National Assembly Electoral Acts or the constitutions. Both local and international observers are allowed to observe various stages of elections.

Handling Post-Election Disputes

Adjudication of electoral disputes is still a problem in most developing countries including the East African Community States. According to Ayanda & Odunayo (2015), the use of the courts as a mechanism for resolving electoral disputes is not ideal. The researchers stated further that cases of this nature decided by the High Court are never on its substantive merits, but on technicalities that are hardly understood by a common person.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Electoral Processes

International advisers and monitors can play a useful role in countries merging from a past of authoritarian rule. Their duties and responsibilities ought to be clearly defined. Their reports should not be inspired by the political agenda of their country of origin (Mbaku, 2010). A clear distinction between peace monitors and election observers is crucial in order to avoid an unhealthy confusion between the interests of political stability and the requirements of democracy. In any case, the role of international observers is limited to the transition phase and to a limited sphere of activities, such as elections. The broader democratic process requires 'monitors of democracy', but this role is best left to local actors, notably independent media. This is therefore not a plea for either/or monitors or media: both have a role to play. But while much attention has recently been given to various forms of international involvement and intervention, the role of the media in Africa is much neglected. The donor community is narrowly focused on multi-party elections as the litmus test of democratization. A political conditionality which singles out multi-party elections as the crucial element without taking account of the wider environment, risks being counter-productive to the citizens may not be very relevant in maintenance of peace (Omilusi and Adu 2016). Indispensable for sustainable democratization are independent media. Governments not only in Africa have a tendency to dismiss media as 'irresponsible' and therefore not very relevant to the democratic process. Tension between

governments and media is however a normal condition in democracies (Stokes, 2013).

Objectives of the Study

General Objective: The general objective of the study was to examine the role of political leadership in electoral process and political stability in the East African Community States.

Specific Objectives: This study specifically sought to:

1. To evaluate the relationship between post-election phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States.

Research questions

The following research questions guided the study;

1. What is the relationship between post-election phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States?

Research Hypotheses

Ho3: There is no significant relationship between postelection phase and political stability in the East Africa Community States;

Conceptual Framework

The election processes stand out as the independent variable which has effect on the political stability of the East African Community States. The study considered the following indicators of the electioneering processes: pre-election phase processes, election process and the post-election processes which help in tracking progress, reviewing of results and modifying plans to harmonization of the political system in the EAC States. Political stability is thus, dependent on the design and prudent implementation of the harmonized electoral process that applied to all the EAC States. The variables and their relationship are shown in the Figure 1 below

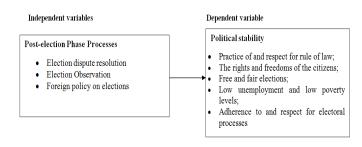


Figure 1. Conceptual framework

Research design This study adopted a quantitative approach of both descriptive and correlation designs. The designs suit this study since they enabled the researcher to establish the effect of the post electoral processes on political stability. The designs further provided opportunity for the status of electoral processes in the EAC region to be studied without affecting the research context and also ensure that the data collection procedures are fairly explicit in terms of adequately addressing the study objectives. Quantitative data was captured through the use of a questionnaire.

Target population

The target population consisted of 123 individuals working within the electoral commissions of the different EAC Countries and the EAC Legislative Assembly. Target population refers to the entire group of individuals or objects to which researchers are interested in generalizing the conclusions. The target population usually has varying characteristics and it is also known as the theoretical population (Kothari, 2011).

Regression Analysis for post-election phase processes

Regression analysis was performed in order to determine whether the independent variable, post-election phase processes could be reliable for explaining the change in the dependent variable, political stability in East Africa region. The coefficients obtained indicate that the correlation coefficient (R) between the independent variable and the political stability was 0.811 which is a positive correlation relationship. Table 1 shows a coefficient of determination (R²) of 0.658, which means that this variable alone can explain up to 65.8% of the variations in the dependent variable, political stability.

Table 1. Model summary showing post-election phase processes

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.811ª	.658	.656	.420123

Predictors: (Constant), Post-election phase processes

ANOVA for post - election phase processes

The results of an ANOVA test performed on the variable postelection phase processes are summarized in Table 2 which shows that the variable has a P-value equal to 0.000, indicating that the model is statistically significant in explaining the change in the dependent variable, considering that the P-value is less than 0.05 at the 95% level of confidence. Therefore, based on the empirical results presented in Table 2, the Alternative Hypothesis H3 is accepted and the null Hypothesis (H_03) is rejected and a conclusion reached that, at 5% level of significance, post-election phase processes significantly influence the political stability.

Table 1. ANOVA for post-election phase processes

Model	Sum Squares	of	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	51.431		1	51.431	293.042	$.000^{a}$
Residual	26.811		52	.617		
Total	78 242		53			

b. Dependent Variable: Political stability

c. Predictors: (Constant), Post-election phase processes

Conclusions

The third objective was to determine the relationship between the post-election phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States. From this objective, it was hypothesized that there is no relationship between postelection phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States. The results of this study showed a positive statistically significant relationship between postelection phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States. Therefore, hypothesis

H03: there is no significant relationship between post-election phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States was rejected and concluded that postelection phase processes have a significant effect on political stability. The findings therefore confirmed that post-election phase processes are a determinant of political stability in the East African Community States. The findings confirm that there is a statistically significant influence of post-election phase processes and political stability in the East African Community States. A positive increase in post-election phase processes leads to an increase in political stability in the East African Community States. It can be concluded from this study that election phase processes were statistically significant in explaining political stability in the East African Community States. The study concludes that polices on effective participation of stakeholders and their implementation have a moderating role. In addition, the study concludes that policies and stake holders' control of the agenda and their implementation. Policies on voting equality and their implementation have a moderating role. Lastly the study concludes that there is no need to harmonize the implementation of existing law and regulation on the use of state resources.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made with reference to the study findings. To enhance this, stakeholders should adopt an open-door approach that is decision making process. Research into issues in the program should be embraced in order to beef up on decision making process. To mitigate misappropriation, diversion and siphoning of East Africa Community state pre-election phases the stakeholder should do regular audit on the use of election law. They should further carry out monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure that monies were used for the intended projects. The government should sponsor frequent leadership conferences, seminars and workshops for leaders in order to fully polish their leadership in project management as well as group management skills.

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