

AN ASSESSMENT OF GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES AFFECTING COUNCILLORS IN KENYA'S LOCAL AUTHORITIES: (A CASE STUDY OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF ELDORET)

MARK MOROGO SAINA, MASTER OF ARTS IN GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS

SUPERVISOR: DR. JAPHETH AFWAYI KHAMASI

ABSTRACT

Kenya is going through an important phase in its history, experiencing dramatic political and economic changes. Kenyans are therefore concerned about establishment of good (new) governance systems characterized by the principles of governance. Strong civic leadership is an essential component of this kind of governance. This has come along with a lot of challenges hence the necessity of this research.

This study conducted an investigation to find out the challenges that affected the councilors in exercising the principles of governance in Kenya's local authorities. It sought to assess the extent to which the challenges affected the councilors and also sought to find out the mechanisms available to and used by the councilors in dealing with the challenges. Through an extensive review of related literature, the study further sought to find out ways of contextualizing local governance challenges elsewhere in the world in order to improve governance in Kenya's local authorities. To carry out this study, the research employed case study research design based at the Municipal Council of Eldoret and used questionnaire and interview as instruments in collecting the data with the target population of all the 20 councilors at the Municipal Council of Eldoret. The findings of the research were quantitatively and qualitatively analyzed using tables so as to come up with recommendations for adoption by the relevant stakeholders. The study established that the councilors faced several challenges associated with exercising the principles of governance. The challenges experienced always included Men Dominancy, Lack of Ward Public Office and Lack of Ward Auditing. The challenges experienced almost-always formed the majority of the problems identified and included Poor Infrastructure, Lack of Quality and Quantity Information, Personal Interest, Hostility and Intolerance. However, the study identified several mechanisms for dealing with the same problems.