

THE ROLE OF POLITICS ON INFLUENCING ETHICAL GOVERNANCE IN KENYA'S
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

THE CASE OF KENYA PORTS AUTHORITY - KISUMU

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MGE/NRP/102/0007

A thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Award of the Degree of
Master of Arts in Governance and Ethics of Mount Kenya University

JUNE, 2015

ABSTRACT

The research investigated the role of politics in influencing ethical governance in Kenya Ports Authority Kisumu with the aim of understanding how politics influence ethical governance in KPA Kisumu given that ethical governance has been seen as a panacea to governance related challenges in developing countries Kenya included. The paper argued why laws alone cannot convert the institution which has perfected the art of unethical practices even with the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks aimed at curbing unethical practices. The study discussed how independent variables namely transparency, accountability, legal framework and institutional leadership structure (organogram) influence the dependent variable (ethical governance). The study adopted three theories namely; theory of consequentialism, theory of deontology and theory of virtue ethics to explore why leaders should play important role in influencing ethical behavior and why it is imperative for them to model the desired behavior. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods for data collection. Questionnaire, interview guide and observation were used as tools for data collection. The study targeted four hundred and twenty participants. Proportional and simple random sampling techniques were utilized to draw a sample size of two hundred and forty respondents from four hundred and twenty targeted for the research. The sampled respondents consisted of managers, supervisors, technical and support staff of the KPA Kisumu as well as security, vendors and community representatives. Quantitative data was analyzed through the use of descriptive statistics while qualitative data was analyzed through content analysis. Tables, figures and percentages were used for data presentation through the help of Microsoft Excel package. The researcher applied personal observations to triangulate the findings according to the objectives of the study. The study findings revealed among others that the participation response was satisfactorily high with 90% full participation and 10% partial. Male participants were the majority at 60% and female at 40%. Further, majority of the respondents at 45% were people between the ages of 36-45 years while the least participants were people of the age of 55 years and above at 5%. Largest percentages of respondents were people who have served the institution for a period of between 10 and 19 years. Diploma holders were the majority participants while certificate were the least. Consequently, the study revealed that management level were the most involved in unethical practice with Pilferage of petroleum being the most form of unethical practice in the institution. Mechanism for ensuring both transparency and accountability was found to be effective while existing legal framework was found to be good enough to influence ethical governance in the institution. Finally, the study found out that the existing institutional leadership structure was fairly effective to influence ethical governance in KPA, Kisumu. In conclusion, the study made several recommendations applicable not only to KPA, Kisumu, but also other public institutions in Kenyan sectors. The study was carried out in KPA Kisumu between the period of November 2013 and January 2014. The institution is located along Kibos Road in Kisumu County in the Republic of Kenya.