

Assessing the applicability of International Electoral Standards in strengthening democracy in Uganda: A case study of Entebbe Municipality, Uganda

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Introduction

At the global level, every continent and country has gone through unique political and electoral experiences, specifically elections that have shaped their democratic development (Banks, 1995). The study, therefore, sought to assess the applicability of International Electoral Standards in strengthening democracy in Uganda.

Objectives

1. To assess the democratic features in Uganda's voting procedures in Entebbe Municipality
2. To examine the application of international voting procedures in Entebbe Municipality
3. To establish challenges of strengthening electoral Democracy in Entebbe Municipality

Methodology

This study adopted a case study design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches. It used a population of 424 and a sample size of 206. Simple Random and purposive sampling techniques were used to select the sample. Self-administered questionnaires and an interview guide were used as data collection instruments.

Key findings

The study revealed that there were democratic institutions, universal adult suffrage, and regular, free and fair elections. The study found that public accountability was always shown in the voting process, the civil society was allowed to participate in the electoral process and that judicial institutions reviewed the voting exercise. It was further discovered that the electoral system of Uganda was based on international treaties and declaration. It also revealed that the influence of political participation, popular expectations and state capacity, corruption among the electoral actors, inadequate rules and procedures regarding the voting, ignorance from the public and weak institutions are some of the challenges of strengthening democracy in Uganda.

Key recommendations

The study recommended that the Ugandan government and grassroots organisations should implement nationwide sensitisation and early response mechanisms to minimise threats to democracy including hate speech, libel, slander or any form of defamatory utterances. Legal and judicial reform should become a core component of a democracy's governance portfolio. There should be governance systems reform aimed at achieving effective separation of powers and independence of the judiciary to the impartial administration of justice.

Key references

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