

EXTENDED ABSTRACT FOR GRADUATION CLASS

MASTER OF ARTS IN SECURITY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES – NKUMBA UNIVERSITY

Title of the Paper: Conflict as a predictor of Security and Rule of Law; a Case of the Rwenzururu sub region in Western Uganda.

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Keywords: Conflict, Security, Rule of Law and Rwenzururu

Introduction:

The study investigates conflict as a predictor of security and rule of law; with reference to the case of the Rwenzururu sub region in Western Uganda. The main purpose of the study is to examine the influence of conflict on the provision of Security and observation of Rule of law; the case of Rwenzururu sub region in Western Uganda.

Study Objectives

Specifically, the objectives of the study are:

- i) To examine the drivers of conflict in the Rwenzururu sub region,
- ii) To assess the influence of conflict on security; and also
- iii) To examine the influence of Conflict on Rule of Law and security.

Methodology:

The methodology of the study is anchored on a case study design, under the qualitative research approach; relying mainly on secondary data and to some extent, primary data collected from various categories of respondents by way of interviews, focus group discussions and surveys; with a study population of 944,000 people, a target population of 403,181 people and a sample size of 400 determined by the Yamane formula. The study also reviewed documents/literatures including the constitution, and existing principal and subsidiary legislations. The study employed interview guide, focus group discussion guide, questionnaire and literature review checklist as data collection instruments/tools.

In order to control the data quality and have credible research; reliability and validity tests were performed. The information collated from respondents was send back to them for ascertaining; to ensure credibility of the information. The researcher collated information from 400 respondents in the Rwenzururu subregion districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko; covering the period 2009 to 2018.

Key Study Findings:

The study reveals economic, political, social and cultural factors as the main drivers of the conflict in the Rwenzururu sub region such as; unequal distribution of land, struggle for self-determination and struggle for political power among others. The conflict greatly influences rule of law and security in the area in that; during conflict there is economic insecurity, political instabilities and social insecurity; physical assaults coupled with loss of lives and property; children hardly go to schools and citizens hardly access social services such as health and clean water.

Recommendations:

The study recommends that, conflict in the Rwenzururu sub region can be effectively resolved by adopting liberal approach as opposed to the realism approach apparently employed by the State and non-state actors. This includes engaging in Alternative Dispute Resolution, political socialisation and dialogue; setting up the mediation, negotiation and reconciliation grounds to help end conflicts using peaceful means. All the actors should understand the drivers of conflict in order to establish the effective ways of resolving it and hence, attain lasting rule of law and security in the area. Historical injustices ought to be well traced, documented and addressed by the actors especially by way of reparations and physical compensation in case of lost lives and property. Mass sensitisation and civic education should be promoted so as to foster attitude change for social cohesion, commitment to promotion of unity for development, and respect for rule of law, cultural and other human rights.

Both State and non-state actors should be involved in the reconciliation and conflict resolution processes. All the line government MDAs and officials such RDCs and DISOs should be tasked; and other stakeholders encouraged to submit regular reports regarding conflicts generally. Reconciliation and enquiry committees should be set up to mediate the conflicts and there should be community-policing mechanisms that connect the community, and the State Security Agencies.

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