

## **Democratic Governance and Urban Development in Rwanda: A Case of Kigali City**

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### **Key Words**

**Democratic governance:** *Development, Urban Planning*

### **Introduction**

The study on “The Impact of Democratic Governance on the Development of Urban areas in Rwanda, a Case of Kigali City” is premised on the understanding that democratic governance in terms of participation, decentralization, elections and human rights affect the development of urban areas. It was based on the fact that demonstration of good democratic governance principles, go hand in hand with the development of urban settings. The overall objective of this study was to analyse the impact of democratic processes on the development of urban areas.

### **Study Objectives**

It's to find out how democratic processes affect development, taking into consideration political parties, elections and decentralization as key elements to promoting democracy. It's also to assess the implementation of decentralization policy in relation to other democratic processes in Kigali City, to analyze the impact of democratic processes on the development of

Kigali City and to assess the development challenges of Kigali city.

### **Methodology**

A sample of 159 respondents availed data for this study and through qualitative and quantitative approaches. The questionnaire, interview guide, observation, focus group discussion, group discussion and documentary review were the main instruments and tools used to collect data. Data processing for both qualitative and quantitative data was conducted before actual analysis. Editing of data was done by the author to check for and eliminate obvious errors such as omissions, duplications, illegibility, and inconsistencies. Coding of categories, assigning numbers/codes to particular data was done by the data analyst. Quantitative data was entered into a computer software package – Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) in preparation for data analysis. It was then analysed by use of descriptive statistics namely, frequencies and percentages. Frequency tables were used to show the relationship between variables and to generate percentage differences among the variables. Cross tabulations and Pearson Chi-Square Analysis were done relating democratic processes as the independent variable and development as the dependent variable. Qualitative data were analysed on the basis of themes and sub-themes drawing a subjective conclusion from the verbatim responses generated from the field.

## **Findings**

The results showed that the city functions and activities were less decentralized, the human rights and freedom are less accorded yet the state of political elections is poor. It however found a certain level of participation in decision making. Results also showed that democratic processes particularly permitting participation in decision making, some degree levels of decentralization, better state of elections alongside according to human rights and or freedom have got a positive significant impact on economic development, socio-cultural development and infrastructural development but no significant impact on political development.

## **Recommendations**

Through its thorough analysis of data, comparison and scrutiny of facts, the outcome of this study contributes to community-based development and policy formulation participating in decision making. The study invested much in discovering the effectiveness of policies that enable democratic governance to impact the development of urban areas and the gaps were found between governing bodies and citizens which centred on the down-top approaches to political and development factors. Decentralized entities lack efficiency in carrying out their daily routine tasks and also it found the financial deficiency in supporting the implementation of some policies at local government; hence the study recommends the following;

- In regard to political freedom, there should be some

- changes to allow people to feel free to discuss their daily political issues;
- Democratic Governance is an important element in promoting democracy's principles; this should be given weight to the extent that a government has not only to adopt policies regarding governance but also to implement them democratically for having all stakeholders involved in policy formulation and policy-making;
  - Development is a process, a government has to enforce development policies considering local ground realities by allowing citizens to participate in development planning;
  - Appropriate measures, financial resources should be availed in regard to human resource training at local government in order to help local entities staff carry out effectively their respective works;
  - The research recommends that the government through respective policymakers should encourage political leaders and various development partners to use the PRECADD Model to appropriately implement the democratic governance, and therefore this can promote the development of urban and rural areas

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