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NEWS

OSSREA Ranks in Nine Categories in the 2014 Global Go To Think Tanks Ranking Index

The Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) has featured very well in nine categories in the 2014 Global Go To Think Tanks Ranking Index.

The categories are:

1. Top Think Tanks Worldwide (U.S. and non-U.S.);
2. Top Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa;
3. Top Health Policy Think Tanks;
4. Top Global Health Policy Think;
5. Top International Economic Policy Think Tanks;
6. Top Social Policy Think Tanks;
7. Best Managed Think Tanks;
8. Think Tanks with the Best Use of the Internet; and
9. Think Tanks with the Most Significant Impact on Public Policy,

This is the third straight year for the Organisation to feature in the rankings. The previous year, it ranked in seven categories; it is energising that it ranked in two more categories in 2014. The OSSREA Secretariat acknowledges all those who enabled and helped OSSREA to achieve such heart-warming recognition.

OSSREA Attends the Knowledge Platform Meeting on Inclusive Development

Professor Mihyo, the Executive Director of the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA), attended the of the Platform for Knowledge Platform Meeting on Inclusive Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, which took place on the 20th and 21st October 2014.

Quoting the Chair of the Platform Professor Rob Bijl, Professor Mihyo reported that the objective of the meeting was to bring together all the teams that had successfully secured grants and those which have started research. It was also intended to seek the advice of the

platform members 75% of whom are based in African institutions on how best to make the platform successful.

The platform discussed, among other things, that principles that should govern research should be relevance of the research topics to the objectives of the platform: poverty reduction and inclusive development; topics' being based on serious policy engagement; coming up with practical solutions in research results ensuring research uptake. The keynote address by the Director of Research from The Ministry of Labour in Kenya Mr. Isaac Ombuki focused on the policy making processes in Kenya, and indicated that researchers could advise on whether these interventions were working or not. Robert Jan Scheirs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands welcomed the participants and explained how policies were made in The Netherlands.

The Executive Director of the African Economic Research Consortium Professor Lemma Woldeesenbet explained that there are three dimensions of AERC activities: capacity development, knowledge development and knowledge sharing. He added the network was formed to ensure informed policy making.

A presentation by Ms. Josine indicated that HIVOS (Humanist Institute for Cooperation in full, Dutch: Humanistisch Instituut voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking) had a research programme and different strategies for dissemination of different outputs that could be shared with policy makers. Dr. Nicholas Awortwi of PASGR presented on research uptake based on PASGR's experience, which included supply-driven approach, demand-driven approach, and stakeholders mapping. A presentation from WOTRO (Netherlands Foundation for the Advancement of Tropical Research) stated that it managed the platform funds and processes applications. It also worked through administrative measures to see if there could be research uptake; and the platform was said to be a forum for streamlining the practices.

Prof. Mihyo also indicated that there was also panel presentation by Research Consortia which had been awarded grants. The consortia introduced themselves, their topics and strategies for uptake.

The OSSREA Executive Director indicated that he also consulted with the Rector and Deputy Rector for Research and Academic Affairs of the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) on the intended training courses for Members of Parliament in Kenya. At this meeting, which was attended also by Dr. Nicholas Awortwi, the ISS expressed keen interest in working with OSSREA and CPST in Kenya on capacity development for Members of Parliament and

Members of County Assemblies. It was agreed ISS would provide materials on available courses that would be tailored to the needs of the trainees; and ISS and OSSREA would provide a number of trainers for each course and the teams would jointly develop courses and course materials including case studies.

OSSREA Takes Part in the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar of the East African Legislative Assembly

Professor Paschal Mihyo, the Ex-Executive Director of OSSREA was invited as a keynote speaker at the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). He noted that the theme of the workshop held 31st October –1st November, 2014 in Rwanda Kigali was ‘Insecurity and Terrorism as Threats to EAC Integration: How the EAC Can Develop and Common Position’. In the keynote speech, he raised the following issues.

- Terrorism is exerting severe impacts on stock markets in the region, affecting tourism, national cohesion, sovereignty, military expenditure, social services expenditure, the regional integration process, and human life in general.
- There are different types of terrorism, such as ethnic terrorism, eco-terrorism, bio-terrorism, technological terrorism (and catastrophic), radiological terrorism, infrastructure terrorism, and cyber-terrorism, with different manifestations.
- Possible common positions and strategies in the region include: reforming research, training and security; diplomatic responses; community and inter-community dialogue; and improvements in systems engineering; strengthening bio-safety systems; keeping a watch on failed states; combining human and state security; involving communities in security issues; exercising care in land transfers; taking measures to raise youth employment; reducing levels of illiteracy; re-writing history books to reduce distortions of history and ethnic biases; discouraging ethnic media; combating corruption; and strengthening democratic governance.

Other than attending the Assembly Seminar, Professor Mihyo also met with the Rwanda Minister of Education Professor Silas Lwakabamba and held a follow up on the earlier discussions with he and Professor Musahara had with the Minister. Professor Mihyo and Professor Lwakabamba agreed on the following:

- The Minister would keep on supporting OSSREA and help it to work closely with the University of Rwanda, several Ministries and the Rwanda Parliament;

- OSSREA would develop a proposal on RESSEA in Rwanda; short courses on science, technology and innovation, parliamentary issues and trade facilitation; an MA curriculum on management and post-conflict reconstruction; and a few other courses on demand.
- To enable the Minister to support OSSREA, it was suggested that a document be developed which outlines intended activities and modalities of their implementation with a road map and it be sent to him. Professor Mihyo reported that he thereon indicated OSSREA had already developed such a road map and would send it immediately.

Furthermore, Professor Mihyo reported his having had a meeting with Professor Verdiana Masanja, the Director of Research at the University of Rwanda and also a focal point of RESSESA. They discussed the need to organize advanced research methodology courses for PhD students and refresher courses for supervisors of postgraduate students. Professor Mihyo said they also agreed that:

- OSSREA could come in training of trainers on advanced research methodology courses for PhD students and refresher courses for supervisors of postgraduate students, tasks for which Professor Masanja, indicated that there were funds for such courses, and on which the University of Rwanda had already developed its own curriculum;
- There would be a call for tenders to train trainers and OSSREA could submit a tender. To do that effectively, the MoU signed a few years ago between OSSREA and National University of Rwanda would now be replaced by one between OSSREA and the University of Rwanda. Accordingly, they agreed that OSSREA would draft and send to the University of Rwanda a new MOU document and after that other processes would follow.

OSSREA Participates in the UNFPA Consultation on Developing the Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Research Agenda

OSSREA was invited to be part of the UNFPA Consultation on Developing the Regional Research Agenda for the Regional Programme in the context of ICPD beyond 2014 and post-2015 development agenda for Eastern and Southern Africa Region. The event was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 12th–14th, November 2014. Dr. Richmond Tiemoko welcomed the delegates. In her opening remarks, the Regional Director of UNFPA stated that:

- UNFPA developed a new approach in the way it worked, which included partnering with those at the centre of generating knowledge.
- UNFPA was interested in tapping the expertise and knowledge of various stakeholders, especially academic and research institutions (think tanks).
- UNFPA was re-looking at the CAIRO Agenda (ICPD) in terms of principles and plan of action. It was found that many countries had not put in place plans of action relating to sexual rights and human rights. They therefore needed to engage with governments. Further, many countries lacked evidence on various issues, especially the relationship between fertility and economic growth. Evidence, it was said, was critical because it could change a political ideological discourse and that trend analysis and scenario setting should be the focal points of researchers.
- Post-2015 would require quality research, data revolution for accountability and policy making. It was reported that there was also a need for data on inequalities of populations; reproductive sexual health was said not to be of good quality; and intellectual leadership should be more critical.
- There was also a felt need for a vision on data, research and analysis and writing of quality reports that would be understandable by policy makers.

Dr. Richmond's presentation focused on the new direction that UNFPA wanted to take for the next 4–5 years. His main questions were: "Has UNFPA provided the correct indicators to measure the performance of politicians on their commitment to the CAIRO Agenda? Why were women still dying? What can be done?" He noted that there was a dearth in professionalism in demographic data; but, since politicians did not accept the data, some demographers doctored it to please them. He further reiterated that think tanks should work with parliamentary committees on population and advise them accordingly. Climate change

and its effects on populations and disasters were suggested to be given priority and that research needed to focus on this area. Mental health was said to be forgotten and yet the amount of stress in the world today affecting populations was increasing and that this in turn was exacerbated by conflicts, disasters and unemployment. It was felt that this was a critical area that needed analysis but was being ignored.

The rest of the presentations focused on research gaps and how the parties present could ensure that there was research uptake, especially by policy makers and to make sure that countries were held accountable to decrees and protocols that they sign. Research gaps were identified on gender-based violence (GBV), early marriage, health (maternal health, family planning, reproductive health and child health services, sexual health, and sexual rights issue), adolescent and youth – civic and sexual education and demographic dividend, migration and urbanization, knowledge management and innovation. And the need to take these as research agenda was commended. The key points are summarised as follows.

Gender-based Violence (GBV): This was said to include: intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual harassment, sexual violence (rape), physical violence, emotional harassment; human trafficking for sexual purposes, economic violence, and other harmful practices, such as breast ironing.

There was a general consensus that there is limited data on GBV except for on FGM prevalence. Still it was explained, there was lack of data on this cultural practice and so there was need to research on the reasons. Participants agreed that lack of concrete evidence on GBV was partly due to under-reporting and communities' accepting GBV.

Early Marriage: This was said to be caused by poverty due to the influences of cultural and social norms, masculinity, lack of domestication of global conventions and enforcement, age and socioeconomic asymmetry of sexual partners, increasing orphanhood, lack of education opportunities and early pregnancy due to lack of contraception.

Health: This was said to include sexual and reproductive health, maternal health, family planning, reproductive health and child services.

Emerging reproductive health issues were explained as follows:

- ***Maternal health problems,*** broad causes of which were said to be known but national and sub-national data were said to be lacking due to lack of data in civil registration. It was also explained that there exist gaps and challenges in measurement (reliability

issues), how the challenges were addressed (disconnect between policy and action); and understanding of socio-cultural drivers/contextual factors affecting utilization of existing services.

- *Family Planning*: Gaps were said to exist in measuring the demand for family planning, thus unpacking unmet needs; in how to create and satisfy demand for family planning; in unpacking concerns about health side-effects and in how to address them at service delivery, in the political and socio-cultural context of childbearing, including reproductive norms, and in quality of services, including segmentation of the market.
- *Reproductive Health and Child Services (RHCS)*: It was indicated that knowledge available on investments in family planning in relation to the reduction of maternal mortality was limited. Gaps exist in economic benefits of investing in family planning,, e.g. adding it up and modelling (increasing local funding); operationalisation of guidelines regarding RHCS; mechanisms of strengthening health systems as a foundation to effective RHCS; multi-sectoral involvement in family planning, ways to learn and replicate success stories (e.g. Rwanda and other countries globally), and ways to have effective community mobilization and ownership in family planning.
- *Sexual Health and Sexual Rights Issue*: It was stated that we should protect the rights of all; and that there was the need to educate the public at large on the prevalence and drivers of the problems. This was said to be a very sensitive issue (hard to come up with clear policies because the evidence was not there to tangibly expose the practice) for getting evidence on problems such as violence in relationships is difficult. There also exist service gaps for key populations, including HIV prevention needs among commercial sex workers, drug users, and prison populations, among many other groups.

Adolescent and Youth – Civic and Sexual Education and Demographic Dividend: The gaps indicated in this regard include: lack of adequate evidence on coverage and quality of services and limitedness of local evidence on the effectiveness of programmes. Best practices mentioned include building for advocacy in getting a buy-in from political leaders, government and faith-based leaders; mapping vulnerabilities and opportunities and raising challenges of young people. Problems that can be targeted by future research agenda include:

- lack of research that disaggregates young people into different categories (e.g. based on religious and ethnic identity, contrasting colonial and post-colonial history);

- mapping the type and intensity of risk factors for adolescents' entry into risky behaviours, including commercial sex work;
- roles of young men as perpetrators and victims of sexual violence;
- mapping emerging forms of transactional and non-consensual sex, practiced for example by boda-boda drivers and Matatu touts;
- sexual violence and harassment in school environments;
- role of cultural approaches to sexuality education – e.g. rite of passage (positive and negative) and understanding the roles of socialization agents, including role models, parents, peers, religious and community leaders; and
- research on specific policies and programmes to help countries reap the demographic dividend.

Investing in improving quality of education and skills development; enhancing universal access to family planning; reducing infant and child mortality; and accelerating economic growth and job creation were all felt important.

Migration and Urbanization: Gaps in research included establishing the number of migrants at different levels—internal and international migrants; challenges of using the census data; regional approach to migration policies and programs; vulnerability of migrants; mapping of migration hotspots; and gaps in understanding urban-rural linkages in terms of development, health and diffusion of skills, knowledge and lifestyles. It was stated that most countries in Eastern and Southern Africa do not have policies and programs that nurture the development opportunities that can be brought about by migration, and diaspora engagement and how to incorporate them into the development of the region, such as how to turn brain drain into brain gain beyond remittances. Furthermore, research on the positive and negative dimensions of migration to the migrants, their host, and origin were said to be lacking as well as understanding migrant rights and issues around xenophobia and the exploitation of migrants; trafficking of persons; how migration policies and bilateral agreements considered the skill needs of the region; and identifying and profiling refugees and internally displaced persons and models for effective service delivery in camps and outside the camps.

Knowledge Management and Innovation: This was said to be crucial for research uptake. Researchers should ensure that key stakeholders were involved in the evidence generation process and that these evidence addressed policy needs, and is documented, stored,

disseminated and utilized. Multiple channels could be used to give feedback to communities and to effectively communicate to decision makers. These can be created and expanded by:

- establishing communities of practice,
- establishing a full unit on communication and knowledge management,
- establishing observatories/social media and recruiting persons who will be feeding and updating such observatories from focal countries. In the context of many failed observatories, there may be need to review past experiences to inform moving forward,
- establishing focal persons to provide information on on-going works/discourses and current status of knowledge in focal areas across the region,
- availing annotated bibliography of published and unpublished works on thematic areas to inform stakeholders on the state of knowledge in the field,
- enhancing networking between generators and end users of knowledge by creating or strengthening knowledge sharing platforms or how to bring new evidence in existing platforms (CODATA),
- using existing parliamentary forums and networking,
- enhancing the capacity and roles of agents of change and knowledge intermediaries,
- reaching young people, media and civil society groups to generate change,
- using youth groups, drama, songs, radio listeners club, beauty pageants, and
- disseminating through policy briefs, press releases, and fact sheets.

The consultation meeting ended with Dr. Richmond Tiemoko promising to work with the participants in moving the set agenda forward. He particularly recognized OSSREA as a solid and reputable think tank in Eastern and Southern Africa whose research agenda rhymes with that of UNFPA. He promised to engage OSSREA in their future research activities. He also promised to visit the OSSREA office for a courtesy call when in Addis Ababa so as to discuss further on the specific areas of focus that OSSREA should work on.

OSSREA Discusses with the Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti

The OSSREA Management team members held a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Sanjay Verma, Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti. The meeting was held at the Indian Embassy on the 28th of December 2014, where Ambassador Verma stated that he was very happy to have the OSSREA team over and reiterated that he had accepted to be a keynote speaker at the conference to be organised by OSSREA and PRIASA. He said that he was aware that there were strong links between OSSREA and the Indian-African Association.

The OSSREA Research Directorate represented by Professor Herman Musahara explained its activities in terms of: building capacity in the social sciences through Research Methodology Training, Research Schools for Social Science in Eastern and Southern Africa (RESSESA), Gender Mainstreaming Training (GMT), book projects, knowledge harvesting and policy dialogue and working with the OSSREA hubs; and mobilising resources, such as grants . Professor Miho, the Executive Director of OSSREA raised the issue of working with Indian universities on around Indian-African issues cognizant of the fact that Indians have contributed immensely for Africa's growth and this had gone unrecognised. As an example, he indicated Indian involvements in markets, hospitals, universities, industrial estates; and in Kenya 15% of Indians works in the service sector, but that has not been documented. At present there is an Indian-Chinese scramble for partnership with Africa. The Ambassador readily agreed to find partners from India to work with OSSREA, but pointed out that, in real time it would be more appropriate to identify and pick out the subjects of research by Indian researchers on Africa or examine the trends of research in Africa as the emphasis of research might be different. It was even suggested that probably a small concept note can be written and that this could be a basis for collaboration where areas of research can be identified which would ultimately lead to the next stage. Some of the potential themes mentioned for collaborative research include: social policy, youth employment, migration, food security and natural resources, climate and disaster preparedness, social protection, science and technology, and experiences of BRICS and lessons for Africa.

The Ambassador also pointed out academic issues would be different when talking about either Ethiopia or any other African country where they could explore: enabling conditions, constraints, policies, and incentives that either Indians or Ethiopians can get.

The issue of capacity in view of Ebola control and prevention and attaining skills in terms of how education is being delivered was also pointed out as some of the challenges to be overcome.

In conclusion, it was agreed that OSSREA would try and document what has been researched on Indian-Ethiopian/Indian-African issues and so identify the knowledge gaps which could be researched on and funded by the Indian Government through the Indian Embassy.

OSSREA Management Members Travel on Mission to Kenya

Background: After preliminary consultations initiated by Dr. Mukuna, Research Associate at OSSREA, and following the participation of staff from the Centre for Parliamentary Studies

of Kenya (CPST) in the OSSREA Dialogue Platform held at Moi University in June 2014, the CPST sent a delegation to OSSREA in August 2014 to discuss possibilities of collaboration in research and capacity building between it and OSSREA. The meetings that followed took two days and led to the approval of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding in which it was agreed that OSSREA would develop course modules on research methodology and offer them in courses to be funded by the Centre. In November 2014, the Centre invited OSSREA to send a team to Nairobi to discuss further the modalities for cooperation and to visit a limited number of County Assemblies to assess their training needs. The OSSREA Team started the mission on the 14th and completed its work on the 19th December 2014.

First Meeting with the CPST on the 15th December, 2014

The meeting was attended by: Professor Paschal Mihyo – OSSREA Executive Director, Professor Herman Musahara–SSREA Research Director, Dr. Truphena Mukuna–OSSREA Research Associate, Dr. Philip Brighttone Buchere– CPST Deputy Executive Director and Director for Training, Dr. George Wakha– CPST Director of Research, Dr. Martin Mbewa and Ms. Linnet Nisati – CPST Programme Officers for Research, Mr. Ibrahim Oyieno– CPST Programme Assistant, and Mr. Patrick Asanga and Mr. Paul Maina, CPST Programme Assistants.

In his opening remarks, Professor Nyokabi Kamau, Executive Director of CPST, introduced the CPST Team, welcomed the OSSREA team and reiterated the commitment of the Centre to work with OSSREA on research and capacity development. Professor Kamau underlined the following:

- a) The CPST had submitted the draft MoU to the legal department of The Parliament and after they had cleared it, they forwarded it to the Board of the Parliamentary Services Commission. The Commission could not act on it because Parliament had had several urgent matters and bills to discuss. The Centre was assured it would be approved early 2015. However, the delay in signing the MoU did not prevent the Centre from launching activities already agreed upon with OSSREA.
- b) Research staff at the Secretariat was very keen to undertake training on research methodology and to register for postgraduate courses.
- c) There were MPs who would like to do short postgraduate courses and some long-term courses such as M.A. and Ph.D.

- d) County Assemblies had their own training needs depending on the level of education of the County Members of the Assemblies.
- e) For the identification of those needs, the CPST had chosen two counties which represented two different zones and sets of identification characteristics. Visits had been planned for on the 16th and 17th December, 2014.

Professor Musahara started by thanking the Centre for sending a delegation to OSSREA. He introduced activities that were being organized by OSSREA with and on Parliaments, mainly the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) in East Africa and the ELLA project on comparative policies and practices on executive accountability to Parliaments in selected African and Latin American countries. He then indicated that challenges encountered in research that require attention include: limited research capacity; limited capacity for research uptake and the capacity of researchers to package research results in a way that attracts their use by policy makers.

Professor Mihyo on his part introduced the new initiatives of OSSREA for partnership with regional authorities, mainly IGAD and the EALA with which it had signed MoUs; various Parliaments in the region citing the Parliament of Botswana with which it had an MoU; the Parliament of Uganda whose staff it had trained in research methodology in 2013; the Parliaments in Namibia and Zimbabwe with which it was in negotiations likely to lead to MoUs for collaboration in capacity development and research. He gave further details on the collaboration with the EALA saying OSSREA and EALA had developed a proposal aiming at capacity development and joint research on the pace of regional integration within the East African Community.

Dr. Mukuna gave a review of how the link between CPST and OSSREA developed citing her earlier work with the former and the participation on the CPST in the policy workshop of OSSREA in Eldoret. She also indicated that she had training experience with Members of the County Assemblies and confirmed that they had serious capacity gaps in policy making and analysis; policy implementation and oversight and joint interventions by CPST and OSSREA would help to bridge these gaps.

Professor Nyokabi added a few observations to the presentations by the OSSREA team. She said that most research results were being published without any validation and this affected their reliability and accuracy. She commented that there were problems of exaggerated data citing the case of figures on HIV/AIDS in Africa, which were used by donor agencies to raise

funds. She added the case of organ donation, on which there had been constant instances of exaggeration of the data.

Second Meeting with CPST

Only the Directors and professional staff of the CPST attended the second meeting where Professor Nyokabi started with a recap of what had taken place between August, the time the CPST team visited OSSREA, and December. She referred to the draft MoU that has been agreed upon and said it had been channelled through the relevant departments on Parliament; but it was yet to be approved by the Board which she said would be signed early next year. She assured all, however, that for OSSREA and CPST to launch training activities, there was no need to wait for the signature of the MoU.

Professor Nyokabi said that after the understanding in OSSREA, she shared the training proposal with Dr. George Wakha, the Director of Research. It was clear that 40 new recruits need training and they could be divided into two groups and training could be organized in Arusha. A training calendar had already been approved. Tentative dates for collaborative training in 2015 were indicated as:

- a) March 16th to 27th (in Arusha)
- b) June 8th to 19th (in Arusha)
- c) August 3rd to 14th (in Arusha)
- d) October 5th to 16th (in Arusha)
- e) September 14th to 24th (Regional training in Addis Ababa)
- f) August 24th to 28th (Gender Issues in Kenya),

It was agreed that:

- a) The training team would include at least three staff from OSSREA; accredited trainers of CPST; the core trainers at the CPST; and trainers based in other departments of Parliaments.
- b) OSSREA would develop modules for training and share them with the Centre for comments and improvements.
- c) There would be a training of trainers before training of others begins. It would be held in Kenya or Rwanda for a maximum of three days. Dates for the course would be fixed early in the year.

An agreement would be signed on the modalities of collaboration and training before the training. In winding up it was further agreed that the planned training activities were for the Secretariat of Parliament, but research uptake was the domain of the Parliamentary Committees and each committee had a researcher and a clerk. Therefore, in the next phase the training would focus on Clerks and their research teams.

Visit to Nyandarua and Machakos Counties

As mentioned earlier, the two counties were selected by the CPST. Each of them is at different levels of development. For example, it was noted that Machakos County flanks metropolitan Nairobi. It hosts a good number of foreign and local companies; it is a fertile county and has a very high number of highly qualified staff and Members of the Assembly. It has solid infrastructure in terms of roads, schools, hospitals and office building; a well-managed environment and a focused development vision and plan. In contrast, the Nyandarua County is housed in a former church building which it rents temporarily; it has a low level infrastructure and is struggling to put systems and institutions in place. However, it is the food basket of Nairobi and other cities. Notwithstanding differences in the endowments and levels of development, both Counties share similar capacity development needs. From the meetings held with them separately on the two days, the main areas where training is required are the following:

- a) Leadership, governance and management
- b) Human resources management
- c) Policy formulation, implementation, monitoring , evaluation and innovation
- d) Materials management
- e) Research, information, gathering , processing and reporting
- f) Interpersonal relations, communication and dissemination
- g) Budget development, management, tracking and oversight
- h) Financial management and planning
- i) Information management systems
- j) Hansard management, audio editing, reporting and processing
- k) Information systems development and management
- l) Procurement and contracting
- m) Conflict management, resolution and prevention
- n) Public relations and outreach
- o) Legislative drafting and legislative procedures
- p) Public policy analysis
- q) Statistical analysis
- r) Resource mobilization

There were many other issues that were raised where training was needed but the OSSREA team concentrated on critical skills where advanced training could be offered. It was also clear that in both Counties, the majority of County Assembly Members needed first degrees. The urgency for this was underlined by all, because the law may soon be changed to require those aspiring for seats in the Assemblies to have post-secondary qualifications or even a degree. They therefore pleaded with CPST and its partners to find a way of securing training for them aimed at post-secondary qualifications.

Third Meeting with CPST

After the visits to the Counties, the CPST and OSSREA teams held a third meeting, for which they were joined by Dr. Freek Schiphorst and Dr. Sunil Thakhand from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University in Rotterdam in The Netherlands. The Deputy Executive Director of CPST Dr. Philip Buchere chaired the meeting because Professor Kamau was at Parliament. Dr. Buchere introduced the genesis of the CPST. Professors Mihyo and Musahara both introduced OSSREA. Dr. Schiphorst thanked OSSREA and CPST for the invitation and said that ISS was keen to work with the two institutions to strengthen capacity for Parliaments and County Assemblies. He said ISS already has a diploma and MA programmes that can be accessed by Kenyan secretariat staff and legislators but Kenya was not eligible for priority consideration in the Netherlands Fellowship Programme. The discussion focused more on the short diploma courses especially the one on governance and democracy. It was also agreed that the diploma course should be launched immediately and could be run at seven centres in seven counties. Special tailored courses would be developed by ISS in consultation with CPST and OSSREA, but, before that is done, the CPST would undertake a rapid training needs assessment and send it to the ISS. Tentatively it was agreed the short diplomas could be launched from May 2015 onwards.

Meeting With the Team from Moi University

Professor Barasa had approached Professor Bob Weshitemi, the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research at Moi University and the latter gave him permission to meet and discuss the issue of creating a Climate Change Hub further with OSSREA. Accordingly, the OSSREA team met Professor Barasa on the 19th December who was accompanied by Professor Beneah Odhiambo of the Geography Department. Professor Mihyo gave a short background of why the Moi University was considered the most appropriate institution to host the Hub. Dr. Mukuna also gave the background to the climate change, disaster reduction and social

protection project proposal that triggered the formation of the Hub. Professor Musahara expressed the importance of the Kenya Chapter and the successful activities it had hosted. Professor Barasa thanked OSSREA for thinking of Moi University and affirmed the willingness of his university to host the Hub and to champion the project through the university systems. He also said the process would not take long and OSSREA should be ready to put in some resources to ensure the processes move faster and suggested that the Hub should have its own structure of governance not integrated in the university structure; the Coordinator should be an OSSREA official or Liaison Officer and an MoU should be signed between the University and OSSREA.

Professor Odhiambo thanked OSSREA and said there were many initiatives that were trying to launch a similar thing but had not advanced beyond the idea; and therefore, the project was timely. The Professor said that his Department would be very honoured to host the Hub and he was in touch with Swedish researchers looking into the possibility of such a Hub. It was also said the Hub would be a vehicle for bringing science to the people; and if properly organized, it would attract senior scholars and political support as well.

The following decisions were made:

- Professor Barasa and Professor Odiambo would work together to secure support for the Hub at Moi University.
- OSSREA would draft an MoU and send it to Professor Barasa for processing.
- After the MoU is signed, OSSREA would send the M.A. and Ph.D. curriculum to Moi University for pipelining through the accreditation process.
- Once accredited, the courses will be announced and launched on commercial basis as a joint Programme between OSSREA and Moi University.
- The coordinator would be an official of OSSREA. Fees would be paid to OSSREA and costs and benefits shared by the University and OSSREA.
- Further details would be worked out in the course of 2015.



Alain from Rwanda with an OSSREA T Shirt at the White House

OSSREA Staff Accord a Farewell Luncheon to Outgoing ED

Professor Paschal B. Miyo ended his term as the OSSREA Executive Director (ED) and was given a farewell lunch by the Staff and Resident Vice President of OSSREA at the Checheho Traditional Restaurant in Addis Ababa. OSSREA Resident Vice President Professor Baye Yimam, Acting Executive Director Professor Herman Musahara, and members of the Management team voiced that Professor Miyo will always be remembered for his culture of hard work and will be missed by all who have worked with him. They also emphasised that his links with the organisation will remain intact. A gift by the staff was handed by the RVP to Prof. Miyo, to whom good wishes were also expressed.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Miyo on his part acknowledged the Staff and the Executive Committee of OSSREA for the support rendered to him during his tenure. He also promised to continue working with and advocating for the good of OSSREA.

Professor Mihyo was Executive Director of OSSREA from 2008 to end of 2012 and 2013 to end of 2014. The farewell was given on 13 January 2015.



Professor Baye (middle) hands the gift to Professor Mihyo (second from left). Management members of the OSSREA Secretariat delightfully watch the proceed.

FEATURE ARTICLES

The Role of Ethiopia's Hydro Dams in Boosting the Horn of Africa Regional Relations

*Endalcachew Bayeh**

Abstract

The Horn of Africa region is one of the most volatile regions of Africa. The fragility of the region has been associated with different factors. Lack of economic cooperation is one significant factor, among others. This study argues that regional relations and cooperation can be hastened by Ethiopia's hydro dams and the subsequent electricity export. The study, analyses the role of these hydro dams in promoting regional relations through the lens of two theories of international relations. Accordingly, the findings of the study show progress on regional countries' economic cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit. And, thus, the study calls for neighbouring countries' cooperation for better economic as well as social and political cooperation.

Key words: *Dams, Economic integration, Horn of Africa, Hydro power, Regional cooperation.*

INTRODUCTION

The Horn of Africa is one of the most politically unstable and volatile regions in the world (Medhane 2004; Leenco 2004; Kidist 2009; Healy 2011). This fragility of the Horn of Africa countries is attributable to different factors. The failure of states to pursue rational policies which bring social solidarity and the prevalence of poverty, porous borders as well as lack of resources can be cited as examples (Medhane 2004; Wasara 2002). Another hindrance for further regional cooperation is the small and fragmented nature of the region's economy (Janneh 2012). There is low level of trade in the region as well as Africa at large (Janneh 2012). Thus, a lot effort needs to be exerted to improve interstate trade and infrastructure to promote regional relations. In this regard, the Ethiopian current attempt to export power is a good sign post for fostering regional states economic integration. Though Ethiopia is the water tower of East Africa with huge hydropower potential, it has not fully utilized its

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potential (Tsegay 2000). Nonetheless, in 2005, the Government of Ethiopia introduced an aggressive 25 year national energy master plan and is now undertaking large and small hydropower projects (UNIDO 2009).

The very objective of this study is, therefore, to analyze how Ethiopian hydro dams and subsequent production of electric energy can boost regional relations. The study starts with discussing theoretical perspectives and proceeds to the potential capacity of the Ethiopian hydro dams and the role of hydro dams in accelerating regional countries' relations with typical examples of Ethiopia-Djibouti, Ethiopia-Sudan and Ethiopia-Kenya relations respectively.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

In this study the two theories of international relations namely Realism and Liberalism are selected to explain the role of the Ethiopian hydro dams in promoting regional relations. As classical realists argue "The need to have more power is inherent in human nature, states are constantly involved in a struggle to amplify their capacities" (Griffiths, Roach and Solomon 1999, 12). Realists and neo Realists also believe that "The ultimate goal of states is to survive; and the sole means to realize this goal is to increase their power" (Weber 2005, 16). More importantly, neo Realists are pessimistic about the possibility of interdependence and cooperation, thus, argue that "Each state must rely on its own resource to survive and flourish" (Rourke 2007, 25). In line with this assumption one may argue that the Ethiopian programme for utilization of its water potential through projected dam constructions as a precondition for strengthening its power economically and militarily to ensure its hegemonic power in the hostile region of Horn of Africa and get an upper hand on the neighbouring countries is viable (Opriş 2012; Verhoeven 2011)

Liberalism, on the other hand, has an optimistic view towards the possibility of creating harmonious relations among the states and argues that states must cooperate more fully to prevent various dangers and evils (Rourke 2007). From the liberal perspective cooperation and interdependence among the states can result in better advantage and reduces interstate competition unlike the realists' assumption (Burchill et al 2005). In addition, liberals believe that since states aspire for absolute gain, they are competent to cooperate in trade and other activities (Griffiths, Roach and Solomon 1999; Burchill et al 2005). Hence, they do have positive belief on states' interest to have good relations and cooperation. This cordial relation of states can be hastened by trade exchanges (Burchill et al 2005). As liberalists argue,

cooperation will increase mutual benefit and peaceful interaction of the states, and states are ready to do that (Griffiths, Roach and Solomon 1999). Thus, unlike the realists the creation of good relations and cooperation among states is possible through trade import export or a give and take kind of relation. Based on this theory one may assert that Ethiopia's hydro dams and the subsequent planned export of electricity have paramount importance to boost regional relations and friendship based on mutual benefit. The subsequent analysis of the issue under discussion clearly reveals which theory best explains the impact of Ethiopia's hydro dam projects on the Horn of Africa regional relations.

ETHIOPIA'S HYDRO DAMS AND THEIR POTENTIAL CAPACITY

Ethiopia is endowed with an aggregate capacity of 60,000 MW of which 45,000 MW come from hydro power, 10,000 MW from wind and 5,000 MW from geothermal (EEPCo 2011c). Nonetheless, the country generates only a very limited amount out of 45,000MW from hydropower (Healy 2011; EEPCo 2011c; UNESCO 2004). It is now believed that increasing access to modern energy services is vital for poverty mitigation in Ethiopia as well as for demands of neighbour countries (Gilgel Gibe Affair 2008). Hence, the Ethiopian government is now providing utmost significance for harnessing the water resources properly to meet the ever increasing needs of the people (Healy 2011; UNESCO 2004). In this regard the government has been undertaking different hydro dam constructions at different times aiming at addressing domestic interest and exporting electricity to neighbouring countries, notably Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti (Gilgel Gibe Affair 2008; EEPCo 2011a; Healy 2011; UNESCO 2004; Medhane 2004). Besides, Ethiopia is undertaking, in addition to different small dams, Grand Renaissance Dam on Africa's second largest hydropower potential river, Nile, (IRENA, 2012).

Several dams with different potential capacity have been constructed and now providing service to electric power generation. According to EEPCo (2012b) the following are interconnected systems of dams with their respective installed capacity by MW. Koka-43.20, Awash II-32.00, Awash III-32.00, Finchaa-134.00, Meleka Wakena-150.00, Tis Abay I-11.40, Tis Abay II-73.00, Gilgel Gibe I-184.00, Tekeze-300.00, Gilgel Gibe II-420.00, Beles-460, Amerti Neshe-97.00. This amounts to a total of 1,939.60 MW installed capacity. Additionally, there are three self-contained system, small hydro dams, namely Yadot, Sor, and Dembi, having a capacity of MW 0.35, 5.00, and 0.80 respectively - in combination amounts 6.15MW Thus, currently, Ethiopia has a total of 1,945.75 MW of hydropower potential for energy production.

Moreover, there are also dams under construction. These are Gilgel Gibe III with 1870MW, Genale Dawa II with 254 MW and the Grand Renaissance Dam with potential capacity of 6000 MW. Gibe III is an ongoing project which is considered as the tallest dam in Africa planned to be completed in 2015 (Ministry of Water Resources 2007; Healy 2011). The most controversial use of water is manifested in the Renaissance Dam. This is the largest of all hydro dams combined. Thus, the following section deals with the role of such hydro dams in promoting regional relations.

THE ROLE OF ETHIOPIA'S HYDRO DAMS IN BOOSTING REGIONAL RELATIONS

The construction of several hydro dams in Ethiopia can promote good relations and cooperation among countries of the region. Ethiopia believes in the integration of regional states economically and politically. Accordingly, the hydro dam projects of the country are not aimed at only satisfying the domestic interest of the state, rather it aims at strengthening neighbouring countries' economic integration (EEPCo 2011c). Ethiopia is a land locked country which is highly in need for access to the sea via her neighbours (Healy 2011). This fact makes Ethiopia use its hydro power production as a means of cooperation with its neighbouring countries. Therefore, the hydro dams can play a pivotal role in making harmonious relations and cooperation with neighbours.

The following relations reveal the positive influence of Ethiopia's hydro dam projects on Ethiopia's relations with the neighbouring countries, notably with Djibouti, Sudan and Kenya.

ETHIOPIA-DJIBOUTI RELATIONS

Ethiopia and Djibouti can cooperate economically as Ethiopia is endowed with abundant water resources and Djibouti retains a long coastline. Producing electricity in Djibouti through oil-fired generators has been expensive and electricity costs have been a major obstacle to growth (African Economic Outlook 2011). As a result, to meet the overriding energy demand, Djibouti has been developing its plan to promote its economic integration with regional states. Accordingly, the Ethiopia-Djibouti Power Interconnection Project was the first interconnection system in the region and is pivotal to both Ethiopia and Djibouti (African Development Bank Group 2013). After its connection to Ethiopia's electricity grid in 2011, Djibouti is getting cheap power supply and witnessed domestic improvements specially in reducing inflation and the cost of imported oil (Development Bank Group 2013;

AECOM 2012; and African Economic Outlook, 2012). Djibouti is now receiving 35 MW of electricity from Ethiopia (Tesfa-Alem 2014). After the realization of all dams, Ethiopia can export substantial amount of power to Djibouti in return it will receive a million of dollars and get a better chance to use the port of Djibouti, which is the major international transport hub. It is evident that both countries mutually benefit from their economic cooperation (Sisay Asefa 2006). The economic integration of the two countries would further leads to the infrastructural development between two countries to accelerate the flow of goods, services and people to each other. Hence, Ethiopia's hydropower plays a great role in facilitating economic, social, security and political relations of the two countries as well as the region at large.

ETHIOPIA-SUDAN RELATIONS

The two countries' relations which was known to be hostile has now changed and good relations have been established (Verhoeven 2011; Healy 2011; Yacob 2007; Medhane 2004:). These two countries are now becoming economically interdependent. Ethiopia is exporting electricity to Sudan since 2010 and Sudan is also supplying petroleum products to Ethiopia and providing port services to export Ethiopia's agricultural products (Healy 2011). Ethiopia is currently exporting 100 MW of hydropower to Sudan (Tesfa-Alem 2014). It has also imported a significant amount of oil in the recent years from Sudan, around 85% of its total import (Verhoeven 2011). Several roads have also been constructed that connect Ethiopia with Sudan and this infrastructural development will contribute for the advancement of the two countries' economic as well as social and political relations.

Thus, it is safe to argue that Ethiopia's production of electric power will be mutually important for both countries. Putting it differently, the production and export of electric power in exchange for Sudan's oil will further promote both countries' mutual interest and friendship. Most interestingly, the two countries have now reached an the agreement to establish a joint military force so as to ensure border security, boosting economic cooperation and allowing the two countries to carry out joint development activities (Tesfa-Alem 2014). From this one can deduce that the two countries economic relations have become a source of cooperation in the area of peace and security area as well as in other activities.

ETHIOPIA-KENYA RELATIONS

Ethiopia and Kenya have had cordial historical relations. Economically, the two countries are now on the process of being interdependent. Ethiopia has planned to export electricity to

Kenya up to 500 MW (Gilgel Gibe Affair 2008). According to EEPCo's External Communication Officer (2012) Kenya is also requesting 400-500 MW hydro electric power from Ethiopia and it is waiting for the completion of Gilgel Gibe III. Ethiopia has already connected its power grid to Kenya and currently exporting 60 MW (Tesfa-Alem 2014). From this one can construe that both countries are in need of the generation of electricity from Ethiopia's hydro dams so that the realization of such dams as well as production and export of electricity to Kenya will hasten the two countries' relations.

As the above explanations on typical examples clearly show, it is the liberalist approach which soundly explains the influence of Ethiopia's hydro dams on regional relations. Liberalists argue that the mutual benefits of trade promote better cooperation between states and reduce the tendency to resort to war (Griffiths, Roach and Solomon 1999; Burchill et al 2005). This is apparent on Ethiopia's relations with the aforesaid neighbouring countries. Their relations go to the extent of cooperating on several other areas of activities, namely on peace and security. As Medhane (2004, 106) noted "States with common economic interest are less likely to create conflict. This is true in the current Ethiopia's relations with its neighbours".

Classical liberalists also insist that "National economies should specialize in their areas of comparative advantage, the fruits of which can then be traded for foreign goods that are not produced domestically...through free trade and specialization all countries gain optimally" (Hobson 2000, 70). Likewise, Ethiopia is using its huge hydro power potential to produce electricity and exporting to those who are short of producing it while it is importing oil and petroleum that it cannot easily produce (Healy 2011). From this trade exchange all mutually benefit and secure advantages. According to the classical liberal economics it does not only bring economic benefits, it brings political benefits as well, and they further believe that economic processes should drive political processes (Weber 2005). Similarly, the economic significance of hydro dams and the production of electric energy will also produce political advantages. In other words, the economic cooperation and integration of states can, in the long run, result in political integration of the East and the Horn of Africa countries as the current new progress tends to show.

Generally, the realization of hydropower potential of Ethiopia through its underway projects is significant for both Ethiopia and neighbouring East and Horn African countries. It has good promise to promote economic integration, electricity integration, infrastructural expansion, people to people integration, and latter political cooperation in the entire region.

The hydro power projects have good implication for regional economic integration as well as political cooperation beyond the aforementioned typical states. This is due to the fact that the project is not limited to make economic relations with those above mentioned states; rather the plan also extends to other countries of the region as well as outside the region. Thus, being Ethiopia at the heart of the region accelerates good regional relations and cooperation.

Egypt

The relatively contentious project with the downstream countries, especially, Egypt is the Great Renaissance Dam. This is due to the fact that Egypt for whatever purpose (drinking, washing, agriculture, transportation and energy) relies on Nile (Yohannes 2008; Kendie 1999; Yacob 2007). When we examine the Ethiopian Grand project vis-à-vis Egyptian Nile dependency it seems as if the two are incompatible. Nevertheless, according to EEPCo (2012) the project will provide Sudan and Egypt with an opportunity to directly benefit from highly regulated outflows. Besides the function of reducing the over flooding, the dam also helps to trap sediment. EEPCo (2012) also best stated that the reservoir will not be filled at once, rather it takes time and will not deny water to downstream countries, and the water will be reserved in the summer season when the water outflows. In addition to this, Yacob (2012) stated that the dam has no significant adverse effect on downstream countries since the project is not for irrigation purposes. The International Panel of Experts also came up with no significant impact of the dam on downstream countries.

Therefore, from these justifications one can infer that there is no as such significant change in the amount of water flow to downstream countries even it provides additional and regular water during the winter season. Furthermore, Ethiopia intends to export power to Egypt, which would integrate both countries economically. These combined reasons show the great possibility of creating cooperation and strong relations with Egypt. Thus, the Great Renaissance Dam makes not only Ethiopia but also Egypt and Sudan beneficiaries. Generally, it is possible to say that the full realization of all the dam projects will have significant role for domestic interests of the country as well as the demands of neighbouring countries thereby promoting economic cooperation and friendship. In the long run, it has the prospect to further strengthen social and political relations of regional countries.

CONCLUSION

The Horn of Africa is characterized by hostile relations. These hostilities can be changed into a peaceful one. In this regard, Ethiopia's hydro dams can play a pivotal role in promoting

of peaceful and cooperative regional relations through accelerating economic integration and expanding infrastructural facilities. It has the potential to benefit neighbouring countries from electricity supply and, in return, Ethiopia will earn foreign currency and get better access to the ports of Sudan, Kenya, and Djibouti. As the prevailing reality shows, economic interdependence of regional states is facilitating cooperation. In the long run, economic exchanges will further lead to good diplomatic relations and political cooperation. Putting it differently, as hydro power projects are beneficial to all, they are one vital instrument for cordial regional relations. Therefore, it is strongly recommended for countries of the region to cooperate with each other to achieve mutual development and better stability in the region.

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Voter Registration and Education: The Critical Variables during the 2013 Harmonised Elections in Zimbabwe

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Abstract

The 2013 Harmonised Elections in Zimbabwe saw the ZANU PF party winning resoundingly against their bitter MDC rivals and the general expectation for an opposition triumph. Though the 2013 elections were unusually peaceful and tranquil compared to the violent Zimbabwean contests in the first decade of the 21st century, they proved that declaring elections free, fair and credible is the triumph of hope over experience. Opposition parties and civil society challenged the so-called resounding victory by ZANU PF as based on massive electoral fraud involving the shambolic voters' roll, disenfranchisement of many eligible citizens, the high number of spoilt papers, assisted voters and turning away of a voluminous group of voters on the Election Day for bringing wrong documents and reporting to wrong wards. Misgivings and claims by civic leaders and the opposition parties speak volumes on the challenges bedevilling pre-election processes ahead in Zimbabwe. Pre-election voter registration and education processes face challenges ranging from limited time to prepare for elections, mere politicking, absence of funding to provide adequate material and to conduct comprehensive voter registration and education among other issues. The exclusion of illegible voters was a denial of their rights as enshrined by the constitution, regional and international institutions, and a clear infringement to human rights. The paper sought to explore the concept of voter registration and education, relook into the challenges and prospects of voter registration and education for democratic elections in Zimbabwe.

INTRODUCTION

The shambolic manner in which voter registration and education were done manifested themselves during the 2013 elections with an increased number of spoilt papers, voter apathy, assisted voters and turned away voters for bringing wrong documents and reporting to wrong wards. Though this was not peculiar to Zimbabwean elections, the rate at which it occurred during the 2013 elections was alarming. The 2013 elections recorded 206 901 of voters assisted to vote, meaning people might have been coerced to vote. On another case, more than 304 890 voters in urban areas were turned away with Harare province recording the highest number of 64 483 turned away voters (ZEC 2013) for bringing unsuitable forms of

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identification such as driver's licence, expired passports, photocopies of National Registration Certificates and business cards. Comparatively, this number was more disturbing compared to an estimated 133 000 turned away voters during the 2005 Parliamentary elections (ZESN 2005). Spoilt papers increased from nearly 40 000 (1.6%) in 2008 elections (Masunungure 2009) to 69 280 (1.99%) in 2013 (ZEC 2013). Basing on the 2012 Census, the Zimbabwean population is youthful, hence the assumption that youths did not actively participate is a clear indication of the failure to conduct effective voter registration and education for these new registrants. The losing Movement for Democratic Change–Tsvangirai formation (MDC-T), a party tipped to win the 2013 elections by many claimed in its petition challenging the electoral result in the Constitutional Court; that the 2013 election was rigged basing on the aforementioned irregularities among other issues. The question being asked by many is why people were left unregistered, why there were so many spoilt papers and so high rates of voters turned away as well as large number of assisted voters when voter registration and education programmes were done effectively? The paper will therefore prove that voter apathy, voters turned away and spoilt ballots accentuates the importance of voter registration and education; premised on registering and informing the citizens on the requirements for eligibility and how to exercise their right to vote.

This paper is not supporting the fact that MDC-T lost the 2013 harmonised elections in Zimbabwe because of or not due to electoral fraud, but deciphers that the failure to do thorough voter registration and education was an affront to democracy and democratic elections. Arguably though, if the 511 791 combined figures of assisted voters and those turned away is awarded to MDC-T leader's 1 172 349 they will not be enough to overturn President Mugabe of Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU PF)'s 2 110 434 votes (ZEC 2013). In fact a conjuncture of factors has been attributed to the ZANU PF victory and MDC-T loss during the 2013 harmonised elections. ZANU-PF engaged in a serious introspection and re-organisation following its defeat at the polls in 2008 and its indigenization programme appealed to many electorates. On the other hand, the MDC - T had laxity until a few months before the 2013 harmonized elections (Dube and Makaye 2013). ZANU-PF took advantage of the shambolic voter registration and education process to conduct a comprehensive party voter education to its supporters and lured many people to support its cause, which saw it garnering 160 seats out of the 210 contested seats in the House of Assembly, while the MDC-T party managed a mere 46. In the Presidential election Robert Gabriel Mugabe, the ZANU PF candidate got 61.09 per cent while Morgan Richard

Tsvangirai of the MDC-T managed 33.94 per cent of the cast votes. ZANU-PF must have achieved this through massive nationwide distribution of party regalia and informative meetings; such that by the time elections were held they had long started educating their sympathisers on voting and insisting on the importance of registering and inspection of the voters' roll.

The paper provides the missing link from other electioneering investigations. When Dewa (2011) focused on voting patterns and behaviours during the 2008 Harmonised Elections without dwelling much on the factors that influence patterns and behaviours; Makaye and Dube (2013) explored a plethora of factors proffered to explain the resounding victory of ZANU- PF, without averring the electoral shenanigans surrounding voter registration and education that this paper believe to be at the centre of the 2013 Harmonized elections. Mapuva (2013) in his recent study sought to highlight the controversial way elections have been held in some countries, which have led to the loss of confidence with the results, in some cases, the disputed elections has led to civil wars, re-run elections or the formation of coalitions. Although Mapuva (2013) highlighted the importance of civic education his study fails to give information on its impact and influence to the election process and outcome; an area which this article seeks to explore to complement such previous studies. Digging deeper on the influence of voter education to electorate participation in elections, an area which scholars have stumbled on or inadequately gave attention despite it being pivotal to the whole electoral processes, the paper will envisage the challenges encountered in the run-up to elections, and enable a participatory electoral environment and processes that ensures the electorate participation in the long run.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Voter registration and education is a world-wide concept expected to take place prior to the elections and failure to do so attract condemnation and discrediting of the electoral process as noticed in Zimbabwe's 2013 harmonised elections. Principles of voter registration and education include comprehensiveness, integrity, inclusiveness, accessibility, transparency, credibility and security among others. Voter registration and education is about registering new voters and informing citizens on how to vote, exercise their rights and the whole electoral process. The processes are not limited to registering and teaching people how to fill out a ballot (Gothe 1997), but goes beyond that to provide information on eligibility to register as a voter, where and how to register as a voter, where to check/inspect the voters' roll to ensure that your name is present, the type of elections and election date, how to vote,

who the candidates are and how to lodge dissatisfactions. Such knowledge is powerful in influencing free and fair electorate participation in an electoral process. Concerning voter education Benjamin Franklin agreed that, “[n]othing can more effectually contribute to the cultivation and improvement of a country, the wisdom, riches, and strength, virtue and piety, the welfare and happiness of a people, than a proper voter education of citizens” (Franklin 1962:152-153). In this essence, the paper selected voter registration and education as some of the common denominators that clearly demonstrates and helps in the evaluation of a democratic election.

Successful voter registration and education ensures that voters register, are ready, willing and able to participate fully in the election process; and is essential to ensuring voters are well-informed and can effectively exercise their voting rights and express their will on election day (Scytl 2013). Both men and women must understand their rights, their political system, the contests they are being asked to decide, the voting process and where the polling stations are located. Such an achievement can only be achieved when voter registration and education starts early and continues throughout the election process (UNDP 2003). The participatory process in an election brings ownership and is at the heart of the consolidation of democracy. By themselves, elections are not an adequate measure of democracy but amongst the most ubiquitous of contemporary act of political participation undertaken by a majority of adults in a majority of nations in the world today (Rose and Mossawir 1974). Participation as an ingredient of democracy can be enhanced only by free and fair elections, where all eligible voters have been given the chance to participate to elect representatives in their everyday matters. Elections are significant because they confer legitimacy to leaders and governments when they are democratically conducted but generate legitimacy crises when persons and governments that are not the true choice of the people are foisted on them clandestinely (Nwolise 2007) through flawed voter registration and education.

Voter education may be conducted by political parties and election administration officials; but is however, usually identified as a function of the electoral authority and is occasionally subcontracted by them to civil society organisations (ACE 2013). In Zimbabwe, under (Chapter 2:13) the government is mandated to do voter registration and provide resources for the cause. During the 2013 harmonised elections, ZEC conducted voter registration and education from the 29th of April to the 19th of May 2013 and a second phase from 29 April to 19 May 2013. Voter registration was done by the Registry Department, under the Registrar General as mandated by the Electoral Act. Though responsible authorities claim to have done

voter inspection, many voters claim to have not got the chance to inspect the voters roll due to limited time. Efforts by civic groups through online means to make already registered voters check their names online flopped as the Police threatened to arrest the initiators. Conducted voter education ahead of the 2013 elections included 2 educators per ward, educating voters on how to vote. The 2 educators per ward were an improvement from the previous 2 people per district. Nevertheless, the 2 people were not enough considering the existence of many households in urban wards as well as long distances in rural wards.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research is based mainly on literature review combined with observations and interviews. Literature reviewed included books, journals, extracts and articles from newspapers. The sources included printed reports by different stakeholders in electioneering such as Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU), Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust (ZIMCET), National Association of Non- Governmental Organisations in Zimbabwe (NANGO) to mention but a few. ZEC website provided statistics on the results, spoilt papers and turned away voters, while ZESN and RAU reports provided a critical post-mortem of the 2013 elections. Participant observations before and during the 2013 Elections were also utilised, as the researchers were voters, agents for civil society during electoral process gaining an in-depth first-hand information on the subject matter. The information was also gained at workshops related to 2013 elections organised by organisations such as Gweru Agenda where researchers participated, and interviewed stakeholders. Considerable information pertaining to voter education and education was garnered from discussions and presentations made by political party and civic representatives at aforementioned august gatherings. The writers were thus able to gain firsthand information from participants pertaining challenges faced in voter registration and education ahead of the 2013 harmonised elections.

ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE SINCE 1980: REFLECTION ON VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION

Ever since independence in 1980 Zimbabwe has held national elections at least every five years and in one instance (2008) after three years due to the harmonisation of all electoral processes in the country (ZESN 2013). Zimbabwe had its first election in 1980 when Robert Gabriel Mugabe of ZANU PF won comfortably, securing 57 seats out of the 80 contested seats in Parliament while the ZAPU PF under Joshua Nkomo managed to win 20 seats, with

the remaining 3 seats going to the United African National Council (UANC) (SADC Parliamentary Forum 2013). In most of the 1980s, elections and electoral participation in Zimbabwe was generally high with ZANU PF running a de-facto one party state characterised by virtually no significant opposition save for the few, small and fragmented voices of discontent from the academia and opposition parties with limited reach and influence. During the 1990 and 1995 elections ZANU PF won with landslide victories, although there was evidence of a drop of the party's political clout. As such ZANU PF consolidated power through unchallenged electoral and ideological dominance throughout the last two decades of the 20th century to the extent of attempting to formally introduce a one party state system in Zimbabwe. Elections became rituals in Zimbabwe, and not an exciting ritual for that matter.

The political climate changed with the coming into force of a formidable opposition MDC party formed by workers and civic leaders through their unions. Together with civil societies in Zimbabwe they campaigned for a "no" vote during the 2000 referendum. The Draft Constitution was rejected by 54.3% to 45.5% with an estimated voter turnout of 26% (SADC PF 2013). From there onwards, ZANU PF faced its first ever significant electoral challenge since independence. In the 2000 parliamentary elections MDC succeeded in garnering 57 seats of the 120 seats in the National Assembly. During the 2002 Presidential Elections President Mugabe was declared the winner over the challenger Morgan Tsvangirai by a 56-to-42 % margin (SADC PF 2013). These elections were followed by the 2005 House of Assembly and the newly promulgated Senatorial elections where ZANU PF marginally regained ground to secure 65% of the contested House of Assembly seats giving them an overwhelming majority in Parliament.

The 2008 elections were the first in the country's history when the election of the President, the Senate, the National Assembly and the local authorities was held on the same day, hence the term harmonised. The constitutional amendment introduced a two-round or absolute majority electoral system for the election of the President. As the winner of the first round (Morgan Tsvangirai of MDC-T) garnered 47.9% short of the stipulated 50 per cent plus at least one valid vote in the first round, a run-off election was inevitable in June 2008. The run-off was between MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai and the second placed Robert Mugabe of ZANU PF who had garnered 43.2% in the first round. After widespread violence ahead of the run-off Morgan Tsvangirai of the MDC-T withdrew from the race citing intimidation and gross human rights abuses against his party supporters. This did not amuse the ZANU PF

party who had a 'solo' contest, which they won and its leader being inaugurated as the President. Peculiar to all Zimbabwean elections in the new millennium was, however, that they were neither free nor fair but marred by voter intimidation, harassment of opposition candidates, civil leaders and the electorate. Losing political parties have raised claims of organised electoral fraud committed by the electoral bodies. The role of security forces in elections and biased media coverage, amongst other issues have also been repeatedly raised. Increased competition had brought increased violence and conflict to Zimbabwean elections, notably during the 2002 presidential and the 2008 run-off elections, which recorded the highest levels of political violence. These problems were coupled with the promulgation of repressive legislation like Public Order and Security Act (POSA) and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) in 2002, and the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) of 2001 to cripple civil and political rights of Zimbabweans.

The year 2008 was a momentous period in the political history of Zimbabwe with sharply contrasting elections held and the outcome which determined the political transition (Masunungure 2009). The regional bloc, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), became seriously concerned with the political situation in Zimbabwe and appointed Thabo Mbeki, then South Africa's President to mediate between Zimbabwe's competing political parties. The political quagmire led to the formation of a Government of National Unity between the major political parties in Zimbabwe which ended on June 29 2013, paving way for the 2013 elections which ZANU PF won resoundingly. Essentially, the GPA was supposed to be a temporary power sharing agreement that would be used to govern the country while the country's laws were reformed and until fresh free, fair and credible elections could be organised at the end of the accord.

At the end of the GNU there were divergent and conflicting statements with regard to the date to hold harmonised elections with ZANU PF insisting elections to be held by the 29th of June 2013, the end of the sitting parliament, while the MDC formations were arguing for a later date to allow for electoral reforms (ZESN 2013). According to ZESN (2013) the holding of elections was not feasible due to the fiscal challenges the country was facing and the Minister of Finance had repeatedly insisted that there was no money for the elections. It is against the above scenario that ZESN (2013) labelled the 2013 harmonised elections "snap election", with stakeholders struggling to meet all the set electoral deadlines and challenges which negatively affected the election process. Consequently, the presidential powers were invoked to amend the electoral law bypassing the parliament to avoid wasting of time and to comply

with the existing laws; and the court ruling made in favour of Jealous Mawarire who had sought court order to compel the President to set the date for elections. As such elections were held on 29 July 2013, showing positive results of the SADC efforts in stopping direct violence during elections that characterised previous elections in Zimbabwe. The 2013 elections were peaceful but however characterised by unusually high numbers of assisted voters, spoilt papers amid allegations of forced voting (ZESN 2013). The voters were turned away for non-existence in the voters' roll and reporting at wrong wards. According to ZESN (2013) many people failed to vote at the same stations they had previously voted in 2008 and most of them had not changed their registration. However, if these people had inspected their names in the voters' roll they could have identified the omission and probably it would have been redressed. This therefore manifested a new paradigm shift in electoral problems of Zimbabwe, different from the known orgy violence to voter registration and education. People turned away were ignorant of the ward based voter's roll as well as the general voter requirements due to lack of voter education.

Voter registration and education were paramount, especially in 2008 and 2013 elections due to the adopted mechanisms of harmonised elections. ZEC's failure to acquit itself in the area of voter registration and education harmonised elections a matter for deep concern (Masunungure 2009) considering the complex nature of the 2008 adopted harmonised nature of elections. The 2013 harmonised elections required education as they were conducted using the new constitution and various legislations enacted prior to the elections, resulting in structural changes in the electoral administrative practices and processes (ZESN 2013). Upon introduction of this new electoral system it was ideal for the electorate to have been given adequate explanation and full information on its merits and demerits, as well as what the new system of ward based election entails.

IMPEDIMENTS TO EFFECTIVE VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION AHEAD OF THE 2013 ELECTIONS TIME FACTOR

In terms of the Electoral Act of Zimbabwe, voter registration must be an ongoing process, while the education programme must begin within 90 days before polling day in each election. Although there was an ongoing voter registration exercise, it had only a limited reach like during the 2005 and 2008 elections (ZESN 2008). The proclamation of the election date saw ZEC deploying voter educators around 5 June 2013 ahead of the July 31 election – well outside the mandated 90-day period (Herald 2013). This was coupled with heavy politicking between parties in the inclusive government, disagreeing on election date and

determined to outdo the other unnecessarily. In complying with the constitutional court judgement in the Jealous Mawarire case President Mugabe proclaimed the 28th of June 2013 as the sitting of the nomination court and the 31st of July 2013 as the election day. The President used the Presidential powers (Temporary Measures) Act to make amendments to the Electoral Act due to time constraints, despite the new Constitution making it clear that only Parliament has the power to make primary legislations in Zimbabwe. In essence, this proclamation reduced the chance for effective voter registration and education in the run to the 2013 elections. Also the time frame between the close of the nomination process and election, particularly the special voting process was not sufficient to enable the casting of special votes.

Special voting is a voting process to cater for public officials, such as security personnel and other public officials who are registered voters and who would be on duty outside their wards on the polling day (sections 81- 81H of the Electoral Act of 2012). Special voting procedure was introduced through the 2012 Electoral Amendment Act but prior to the amendment, officials in the same situation would vote through postal voting. As the process was haphazardly done characterised by shortage of ballot papers, many registered polling officers did not partake in the election as they were deployed to different wards from their own. Due to the short notice of elections the ballot papers had not been delivered on the first day of special voting at most special voting stations on 14 July 2013. At the close of polling on 15 July 2013 there were still outstanding ballot papers at several polling stations. Consequently, 26,160 (41%) entitled to vote through the special voting process were disenfranchised, while 37,108 voted (ZHRC 2013). Special voting was affected by logistical challenges that as the nomination process was not finalised in time for the printing and delivery of the ballot papers. As a new process, the special voting needed to be planned on time and sufficiently thought through to cater for all ZEC officials and to avoid logistical challenges. The failure by ZEC to have a proper registration for special voting gave room for electoral fraud scheme. Notably, the opposition parties expressed grave concern for the presence of approximately 69 000 police officers on the Special Voters Roll against the estimated 37000 police officers on the pay – roll (ZHRC 2013).

After the immediate proclamation of the date ZEC failed to provide adequate voter registration to the electorate hitherto considered as “alien” under previous constitution. The period given for these former “aliens” to formalise their citizenship status was inadequate against the set date of the election. Also, due to short time ZEC failed work on modalities to

ensure that 17 000 prisoners get registered and vote on 31 July 2013 (ZHRC 2013), as a result, prisoners did not vote in contravention of the principle of non-discrimination as enunciated by the Constitution of Zimbabwe and SADC Principles. New Zimbabwean Youth registrants were also affected by the date and short registration and education period stretching from the 29th of April to the 19th of May 2013. Even with the 30 day constitutional mandated extension that commenced on 10th June 2013 to 9th of July 2013 many potential voters failed to register as they spent hours in queues. Furthermore, the time factor saw ZEC allowing people who registered before the deadline but with names not appearing in the voters roll to use their identity cards and registration certificates or slips issued to them to vote on the Election Day, something that created room for rigging and cheating. Reports of people arrested for possession of fake voter registration slips presents a possibility of a large scale cheating and double dipping.

The short notice affected updating of the voters' roll and making it accessible to stakeholders which disenfranchised eligible voters and wide-opened the 2013 elections to rigging. The voter's roll was distorted as people were un-procedurally removed from the voters' roll (Mutambara 2013). Parties expressed dissatisfaction and distrust to the inaccurate and deceased bloated voters roll, with mis-spelt names and voters slotted into incorrect wards that created room for electoral fraud. Even with Sections 17A and 21(6) (a) (b) of the Electoral Act requiring continual updating of the Voters' Roll and its inspection, including issuing the same within a reasonable time before the polling date ZEC failed to practice constitutionalism. Opposition parties notably the MDC-T failed to access the voters roll until mid-day of the Election Day. Access to the copy of voters' roll was also made difficult by prohibitive expensive charges by ZEC. During the 2013 elections ZEC charged \$15 for a copy of a ward-based voters' roll which translated to \$29 370 for all the country's 1,958 wards (Zhangazha 2013). The haphazard manner in which the voter registration was done in July 2013 resulted in disturbing levels of over-registration for all age groups, in some cases the number of registered voters exceeding the total population, and the number of people on the roll aged 100 years plus standing at 116,195 which by any estimation is highly unusual if true (RAU 2013).

INADEQUATE AND INEFFICIENT STAFF

The voter registration and education processes were hampered by inadequate and inefficient human resources. The shortage of staff resulted in long queues and largely a failure to process the high demand for identity certificates and to register people timely. ZESN (2013) noted

that in Chikomba, Harare South, Mbire, Shamva North and Mhondoro-Ngezi long winding queues were witnessed and were reported to be the order of the day during the mobile registration exercise. The 89 mobile voter registration teams set by Registrar to cover the whole country were inadequate in big provinces, and in some cases they moved to another area without clearing registration aspirants. Though an improvement was noted concerning voter education, where at least two voter educators were deployed per ward compared to the first two voter educators per district in the 2013 elections (ZESN, 2013), some geographical huge wards needed more educators. According to ERC (2013) two voter educators per ward clearly failed to satisfy the demand for voter education especially in the face of the new electoral systems. The reality of two voter educators per ward defied logic, common sense and mathematics combined (Bulawayo Agenda 2013). The number of voter educators deployed was done without taking into consideration the differences in populations and sizes of wards. ZEC educators were concerned about reaching the households and not ensuring that the message reaches the intended people sufficiently, since they had limited time to spend per household. The exercise itself was tiresome such that two voter educators per ward were not feasible. ZEC educators were incompetent in the sense that some of them lacked group dynamics and community mobilisation skills and some were seen standing in streets.

LACK OF FUNDS

Lack of funding and subsequent late disbursement of funds for registration and education of new voters was also a challenge in the run to 2013 elections. Funds were only availed on the 7th May 2013 when the exercises were already underway. The then Deputy Prime Minister Mutambara indicated to the Parliament that money was half the problem for ensuring that every Zimbabwean who is eligible to cast a vote participate in the 2013 elections. The Finance Minister slashed the initial 2013 election budget of US\$250 million to US\$132 million and it is likely that it was reduced to \$100 million (Ndlovu 2013). Often, voter educators complained of not being allocated sufficient meal allowances and adequate training to disseminate correct information (ZESN 2008). Such circumstances further compromised the adequacy and quality of voter education in 2013 harmonised elections. Mutambara (2013) further pointed that although cash was central to the whole process; resourcefulness, organisational efficiency and administrative competency were equally important. The pre-election process was marred by absence and inadequate materials and people were turned away as stationery was not available at inspection centres (ZESN 2013). New voters found it difficult in taking new identification cards as the Registrar's office had always lacked these

materials. People were forced to wait for some days as the processes of taking new identity cards was affected by power cuts and load shedding in the absence of power back-up. Advocacy organisations reported incidences when regular voters failed to check their names in the voters roll due to the absence of a full voters' roll. A voters roll at St Barbara School in ward 13 of Mutasa District in Manicaland Province had missing names for those from the alphabetical order of N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, Z (ZESN 2013). Similarly, a voters roll in Zvishavane rural had half of the voters' roll absent (ZESN 2013) resulting in failure by electorates to check their presence.

MONOPOLISATION

The Electoral Act prohibits civic groups such as ZESN and Civic Network (CIVNET) from engaging in voter education despite lack of capacity to conduct effective voter education on the party of ZEC. Inhibitive laws such as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and Public Order and Security Act (POSA) also furthered in crippling the voter education activities by civil societies as they criminalise activities meant to enlighten citizens ahead of an election. This was happening inspite of the fact that civic groups play a very significant role in promoting free and fair election through the provision of civic education, creating awareness of the democratic and electoral processes and some-times in reassuring a restive public (Mapuva 2013). Civic groups lobby and advocate for adherence to electoral laws and sometimes act as watchdogs of the electoral process. Ferguson (2008) further asserts that voter education program by civic groups attempt to increase knowledge and understanding of the democratic system. Civic organisations are experienced and ideally suited to work in communities better compared with ZEC officials. The Electoral commission only called civil society, especially the church when the process was about to end. Such a pathetic courtesy call was meant to make the civic society rubber stamp what was not happening on the ground.

GAINING POLITICAL MILEAGE

The ineffective voter education witnessed during the 2013 elections can also be levelled against political parties and civic groups. Voter education by political parties during rallies was biased, and intended to yield many voters than the other rival political party. ZANU PF members were quoted several times to have said if MDC-T wins election there would be war (Nkatazo 2009). On the other hand the MDC-T is claimed to have uttered that the sanctions would be increased by their western allies and the economy would revert to what it was prior

to the GNU if ZANU PF was to win elections. Such statements and claims tend to confuse the electorate which may view the contesting political parties as equal devils and in that respect see no reason to go and cast their vote or just spoil votes. Notably, SADC Observer Mission noted that some spoiled ballots carried insulting language or expressions like ‘God bless the country’, ‘Let there be free and fair elections’, ‘No to dictatorship’ statements that reflect general dissatisfaction with the way parties approached them (ZESN 2008). Afraid of the fate in the case of either party winning electorates reportedly crossed the boxes for the two protagonists parties, the MDC-T and ZANU PF Presidential candidates, adding the message that ‘the two should govern the country together’ (ZESN 2008), lest they knew they were spoiling votes.

Dube and Makaye (2013) claim that ZANU-PF voter education dissuaded voters from voting for Tsvangirai citing its slogan “down with Tsvangirai” as demonising the MDC-T leader. Elections are a competition for votes therefore, one will do anything to outdo the other or win the elections. In that view voter education by political parties is impartial and unbalanced due to the objectives of the political party. In view of the above, voter education should not be entirely left to the political parties, for they compromise the standard and regulatory requirements of electoral processes. Political parties were visible and active in transporting supporters to registration centers and pleading with them to vote for their parties (ZESN 2013). Some parties during their voter education campaigns told rural and aged voters that there will be satellite cameras and finger prints checks to see who you vote for. In Mashonaland West, Hurungwe District, at Nyamambizi primary School found in ward 12 ZANU PF youths were seen standing by the gate of the voter registration point selecting and determining who was eligible to register in the exercise. When done by political parties, voter education will only reach party supporters and prejudice free and fair voting.

Voter registration was also affected by stringent requirements for one to produce proof of residence, which were difficulty for youths to get especially for new urban voters. These measures are believed to have benefited rural dwellers where certain parties are strong, as it is easy for them to access such letters from the traditional leaders unlike in urban. This could be the reason why an estimated 99.97 per cent of rural voters were registered compared to 67.94 per cent of the potential urban voters (ZESN 2013). Even with the verbal assurances from the ZEC Chairperson, Justice Makarau that “no prospective voters should be turned away for failing to produce proof of residence, adding residents could still use affidavits to confirm their residence”, many potential voters were turned way for failing to produce proof of

residence as the application for this verbal call dependent on the discretion of the registration officer. By nature, the requirement for proof of residence also proved to be too onerous to young voters in particular, who do not own properties or have utility bills in their names that can be used as proof of residence. As such this requirement remained a major obstacle that excludes eligible potential voters to exercise their constitutional right.

Media coverage of voter registration and education exercises was not convincing ahead of the 2013 elections. Pre-election processes were mired with limited publicity in Zimbabwe. Publicity of the registration centres was inadequate, and was delayed as centres were published a week after the process had commenced. While ZEC complied with the law by publishing adverts in the three mainstream dailies on Saturday May 4th 2013 listing the venues, dates and times of the exercise across the country, it only released this vital public information more than five days after the start of the programme (MMPZ 2013). Also, the electoral body of Zimbabwe can be accused for the failure to have a prior publicity to the publication of the notices by the authorities. There is no evidence of sustained effort by ZEC or the Registrar-General's Office to promote voter registration exercise through the media and other initiatives such as public meetings and road shows. Use of the electronic media, especially the national broadcaster, ZBC to launch a publicity blitz, advertising the voter registration exercise would have caught the attention of many potential young voters given the impact of radio stations in high density suburbs in Zimbabwe. State institutions could have been prudent to ZEC against their outcry and basis of a lack of funds.

ZEC is not solely to blame for the national ignorance about its voter registration campaign. State institutions with a public service mandate like ZBC should have promoted its national responsibilities by airing its own voter registration campaign programmes to raise public awareness about the exercise. Defiantly, ZBC only reported news of this important national exercises (on five occasions) from an exclusively ZANU PF partisan perspective (MMPZ 2013), when senior ZANU PF officials were quoted urging party supporters to go and register to vote. This was not expected of ZBC considering that independent Zimbabwe's other mainstream media outlets kept the voter registration exercise high on their agendas. According to MMPZ (2013), private media devoted 67 stories to the exercise between April 27th and May 9th 2013.

PROSPECTS IN VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION

Draconian sections of the Electoral Act and other repressive legislations should be softened to allow multiple stakeholders an opportunity to fund, competently and effectively conduct non-partisan voter education. Civic groups have experience in civic education hence are better placed to attract foreign funding for a comprehensive and continuous voter education ahead of an election. Misgivings labelled on civic groups by the government should be controlled through close monitoring and provision of education modules tailored for all different societies to be used by civic groups when conducting voter education. The duration of election specific voter registration and education should be long enough at least six months prior to an election so as to register all eligible voters and inform the general populace of the exercises. Democratic proclamations of the election date also allows registration and transparent voting by all eligible voters as stipulated in the constitution, including the special voters, 'diasporas', 'aliens' and prisoners who constitute a considerable share of the Zimbabwean population.

The government should source and provide adequate funding for the electoral processes such as voter registration and education well in advance unlike few months prior to an election. Mending of relations between Zimbabwe and European donors underway will help in the provision of funding for provision of adequate resources used in the pre-election process. In essence, donors complement the government and can ensure adequate funding to ZEC for continued registration, education and updating of the voters roll. Donor funding will also see adequate and well trained personnel to conduct voter registration and education processes. ZEC should take advantage of the presence of unemployed college and university graduates in Zimbabwe to conduct such exercises, as they are already acquainted with communication, group dynamics and community mobilisation skills. The number of voter educators per ward should be based on the size of the ward as opposed to the uniform deployment noticed during the 2013 elections.

Democracy depends upon an electorate that is capable of making informed choices. It is the duty of the media, especially national public broadcasters to report news fairly and accurately and to grant electoral institutions and parties equitable access to airwaves in respect to voter education. Zimbabwe needs to embrace technology and make use of social media for candidates and non-governmental organisations to use Facebook and Twitter platforms to educate voters and to comment on the electoral process. Online debates on elections are prevalent, not costly and reach a wide segment of youths with access to internet today. ZEC

should also take advantage of technology to provide access to voters roll for free rather than selling it to parties and the general public as this dispel suspicion of the inclusion of 'ghost voters'. ZEC should take a leaf from Namibia Broadcasting Corporation Television (NBCTV and One Africa Television being utilized by the Electoral Commission of Namibia to run voter education commercials and jingles. The media in Namibia did a splendid job in providing voter education information through supplements, talk shows, news stories, advertising and advertorials placed by the electoral body.

CONCLUSION

Though the 2013 Zimbabwean elections were peacefully the noticed unprecedented spoilt ballots', prevalence of assisted voters, failure to register by many youths and voters turned away for different reasons made people to query the credibility of such a contest. Voter registration and education are indispensable in preparation for democratic elections in societies like that of Zimbabwe, where levels of literacy vary considerably between social groups, and between urban and rural areas. The problems during the 2013 elections decipher the limited amount of registration time and inefficient education delivered to electorates prior to elections in Zimbabwe. Among other things, the pre-election exercises were affected by limited time, politicking and limited funding. The restrictive Electoral Act (Chapter 2:13) was the main challenge towards the accreditation of multiple experienced civic groups to conduct voter education. Prudently, such laws must be repealed to allow multiple players and funding for continuous voter education. The voters roll itself should be updated from time to time and made accessible to parties and the public for free. Partnership with civic groups would have helped the cash strapped government, and with expertise to conduct voter registration and education. Media freedom is also recommended to ensure publicity of the exercises and participation of all eligible voters. Elections should be held on a date that allows for adequate preparations, transparent registration and voting by all eligible voters, including special voters and minorities such as 'aliens' and prisoners. The integrity of an election in Zimbabwe depends a great deal on a plethora of indicators chief among them being the accuracy and reliability pre-election, during and post-election processes.

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POLICY BRIEFS

Impact of Ethiopia's Community-based Health Insurance on Household Economic Welfare

Zelalem Yilma, Anagaw Mebratie, Robert Sparrow, Marleen Dekker, Getnet Alemu, Arjun S. Bedi³

Executive Summary

In 2011, the Government of Ethiopia launched a pilot Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme. Three rounds of household survey data were used which were collected before and after the introduction of the CBHI pilot, to assess the impact of the scheme on household consumption, income, indebtedness and livestock holdings. We find that enrolment leads to a 13 percent decline in the probability of borrowing and is associated with an increase in household income. There is no evidence that enrolling in the scheme affects consumption or livestock holdings. Our results show that the scheme reduces reliance on potentially harmful coping responses such as borrowing. This research adds to the relatively small body of work, which rigorously evaluates the impact of CBHI schemes on economic welfare.

INTRODUCTION

Various forms of health insurance have been advocated as market based risk-transfer mechanisms with the potential to guard against the impoverishing effects of ill-health (see Gertler and Gruber 2002, Xu et al. 2003, Asfaw and Von Braun 2004, Leive and Xu 2008). The recent proliferation of Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) schemes in many developing countries emanates partly from a need to provide financial protection against unexpected health care costs and to enhance access to modern health care. As a prelude to national coverage, in June 2011, the Ethiopian Government introduced a pilot Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme in thirteen woredas (districts) in the four main

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regional states (*Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP, and Tigray*) of the country: three woredas in each region but Oromia has four woredas.¹ Regional states selected these woredas based on directives provided by the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH).

The primary objectives of the scheme include provision of financial protection against unexpected health care costs and enhancement of access to modern health care. This policy brief provides an assessment of the impact of the scheme on measures of household economic welfare: consumption, income, indebtedness and livestock.

METHODOLOGY²

We used three-rounds of a household panel data set collected in March/April of 2011, 2012 and 2013. The first round was collected before the implementation of CBHI and serves as a baseline. Sixteen districts located across four main regions of the country (Amhara, Oromiya, Tigray and SNNPR) are included in the survey. For each region we include all three districts that implemented the CBHI pilot and one selected non-pilot district as control. Within the districts we applied a two stage sampling design, randomly sampling villages and households. The total sample size in the first round was 1,632 households comprising 9,455 individuals, of which 98 and 97 percent were successfully re-surveyed in 2012 and 2013. A naive comparison of post intervention outcomes would overestimate the impact of CBHI on income and livestock and underestimate the impact on indebtedness. We, therefore, estimate a household fixed effects model that controls for both observed and unobserved time-invariant confounding factors.

RESULTS³

The directives issued by the FMoH guided the selection of woredas for CBHI implementation. The selection criteria require that the districts fulfil five conditions⁴ while in practice selection was based on two conditions: undertaking health sector financing reforms⁵ and geographical accessibility of health centres (located close to the main road).

The community element to the CBHI scheme is that villages (Kebeles) decide whether or not to join (based on a simple majority vote), and are subsequently involved in management and supervision. Possibly due to prior sensitization activities, all villages in pilot districts voted in favour of the scheme. Once a Kebele agrees to join, household enrolment is voluntary. To reduce adverse selection, enrolment is at the household level rather than the individual (FMoH 2008).

In our sample, CBHI uptake reached 41 percent in April 2012 and 48 percent in April 2013, which is relatively high compared to experiences in other African countries. This is comparable to the official figure reported by Abt Associates (45.5 percent in December 2012). Although there is not much of a difference between uptake in 2012 and 2013, the speed of uptake is remarkable compared to experiences in other African countries. Uptake in Senegal after two years was 4.8 percent (Smith and Sulzbach 2008), in Tanzania 2.8 percent after six years (Chee et al. 2002), in Mali 11.4 percent after six years (Diop et al. 2006), and in Rwanda 35 percent after seven years and 85 percent after nine years (Abebe 2010).

Benefit packages, registration fees, premiums and premium payment methods are similar within regions but vary slightly across regions. While in Amhara region the unit of contribution is the individual in other regions it is the household. On average, the combined premiums for core household members (parents and underage children) amount to about 1-1.4 percent of household monthly non-medical expenditure.⁶ Both the federal and regional/woreda governments subsidize the CBHI scheme. The central government provides a general subsidy amounting to a quarter of the premium collected at district level while the regional states and woreda administrations cover the costs of providing a fee waiver for the poorest 10 percent of the population. These households are categorized as indigent groups (households without land, house, or any valuable assets). In December 2012 about 9 percent of total eligible households had received a fee waiver.

We found a statistically significant positive impact on income (crop output and total income). This means CBHI is associated with increases in annual crop output and total income of about 9 to 10 percent. The results provide no evidence that CBHI affects household consumption. We also found that enrolment in CBHI decreases the probability of indebtedness by about 5 percentage points. Compared to the proportion of households who were indebted at baseline (37.5 percent), this effect corresponds to a 13 percent decline. This result suggests that CBHI members are less likely to resort to borrowing in order to finance medical treatment.

The effects on indebtedness and output/income are consistent with the idea that households with access to CBHI are less likely to rely on coping responses such as borrowing and also less likely to divert resources meant for productive purposes to finance urgent health care needs.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The main conclusion is that the benefit of the scheme is its effect on reducing the need to borrow and rely on savings. This may have longer-term benefits in reducing vulnerability to other forms of shocks. This result provides support to the government's recent move to extend the CBHI pilot to a total of 161 districts for further testing. However, a nationwide scale up requires an examination of the scheme's financial sustainability.

NOTES

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2. Although initially the plan was to launch the pilot scheme in 3 districts in each of the four regions, an additional district in Oromiya region volunteered to join the pilot scheme and was included.
3. For a detailed account, see Zelalem et al. 2014.
4. For a detailed account, see Zelalem et al. 2014.
5. The complete set of selection criteria include (1) Willingness of district authorities to implement the scheme (2) Commitment of districts to support the scheme, (3) Geographical accessibility of health centers (4) Quality of health centers, (5) The implementation of cost recovery, local revenue retention, and public pharmacy policies in health centers (health sector financing reform).
6. The main components of the health sector financing reform include revenue retention and utilization by health facilities, fee waiver and exemption of certain services, and establishment of private wings in public hospitals.
7. In 2011, monthly household non-medical expenditure was ETB 1103 (USD 1 equals about ETB 17)

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Self-Reported Health Care Seeking Behaviour in Rural Ethiopia: Evidence from Clinical Vignettes¹

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and Arjun S. Bedi^f

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite the rapid increase in health infrastructure, annual per capita outpatient utilization has increased only marginally. The extent to which individuals forego necessary health care, especially why and who foregoes care are issues that have received little attention in the context of low-income countries. In Ethiopia we find almost universal preference for modern care. There is a systematic relationship between socioeconomic status and choice of providers mainly for adult-related conditions with households in higher consumption quintiles more likely to seek care in health centres, private/NGO clinics as opposed to health posts. Similarly, delays in care seeking behaviour are apparent mainly for adult-related conditions. The differences in care seeking behaviour between adult and child related conditions may be attributed to the recent spread of health posts which have focused on raising awareness of maternal and child health. In general it seems that the lack of health-care utilization is not driven by the inability to recognize health problems or due to a low perceived need for modern care but due to other factors.

INTRODUCTION

Between 2000 and 2011, Ethiopia rapidly expanded its health-care infrastructure recording an 18-fold increase in the number of health posts from 833 to 15,095 and a 7.5-fold increase (356 to 2,660) in the number of health centres. Consequently, it is estimated that primary health care coverage, defined as village level access to a health post, has increased from 51 percent in 2000 to 92 percent in 2011.² Despite these increases in the supply of health care

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² Computed from Ethiopian health and health related indicator statistics obtained from the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (2000, 2005, and 2011).

and increases in the utilization of some specific services, overall outpatient health care utilization rates remain low. For example, according to the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Surveys, utilization rates for children suffering from diarrhoea have risen from 13 to 32 percent and for acute respiratory infection from 16 to 27 percent between 2000 to 2011, however, outpatient health care utilization per capita per year has increased only marginally from 0.27 visits in 2000 to 0.3 visits in 2011.⁵ It is highly likely that the gap between availability and utilization is driven by three sets of factors, including, supply-side constraints such as the availability and quality of care, demand-side constraints such as price (direct or indirect-transport costs and the like) or knowledge constraints (so-called suppressed demand) driven by difficulties in understanding disease symptoms and a low perceived need for modern health care. This policy brief presents the health care seeking behaviour of rural Ethiopian households and what drives individuals to forego the use of required health care services.

METHODOLOGY⁴

The extent and the reasons for foregoing care and who foregoes care are issues that have often been overlooked in health systems research. One way to investigate the problem of foregone care is by using the concept of clinical vignettes. The idea is to present survey respondents with well-defined medical cases and ask them about treatment needed. By fixing the medical condition, variation in responses to the vignettes may be attributed only to individual differences in perceptions of the care needed and not due to varying severity in the ill health condition. An example would be to present respondents with the symptoms of acute malaria and ask them “if, where and when” a person experiencing such conditions should seek health care. Investigating the responses to such queries will then yield evidence on the perceived need for care and support an investigation of variations in the need for health care across socioeconomic status, and other attributes of interest such as gender, ethnicity, household demographic composition, geographical location and health care supply.

We used a binary outcome - the probability of seeking (modern) care versus the alternative of other care options. We also estimate a series of multinomial logit (MNL) models for the type of provider sought in response to each vignette. The analysis is based on a household survey conducted between March and April 2011 with a total of 1,632 households comprising 9,455

⁵ Computed from Ethiopian health and health related indicator statistics obtained from the Ethiopian Federal Ministry of Health (2000, 2005, and 2011).

⁴ For a detailed account, see Anagaw et al. (2013).

individuals in the four main regional states of the country (Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya, and SNNP).

RESULTS⁵

The survey included five context-relevant clinical vignettes for common child (ARI/pneumonia and diarrhoea) and adult (malaria, tetanus and tuberculosis) conditions. The analysis deals with responses to three issues, that is, whether and where to seek care and when to seek care. To enhance the tractability of the empirical work, the 11 options are classified into five options, which include seeking care from health posts, health centres, private/NGO clinics, public/private/NGO hospitals and other options. Conditional on choosing modern care we examine the timing of care-seeking behaviour using a set of ordered logit models. The outcome variable consists of five options – seek care immediately, the next day, after two days, between three days to one week, a week or more.

The analysis reveals several insights. It is found that rural households in the country do not forego care due to their inability to recognize health problems and majority of the respondents (95%) prefer modern over traditional care and self-treatment. This is especially the case for child related conditions and might be related to the post-2003 expansion of health post and health extension services. Indeed, the uniformity of health care seeking behaviour for child morbidity displayed across consumption quintiles suggests that information on health education and the appropriate course of action for the most common childhood diseases, which is the focus of the health extension program, seems to have percolated to the lowest socio-economic quintiles.

For adult related conditions, we do find variations across socioeconomic status with households in the highest consumption quintile two to three times more likely to seek modern care as compared to households in the lowest quintiles. These socioeconomic inequalities are also found in the choice of health care provider, and the timing of seeking care. Households in the lowest consumption quintiles are generally more likely to resort to lower level care and postpone seeking care compared to better off households. Taking the example of tuberculosis, which can only be properly treated in health centres and hospitals, we found that households in the upper consumption quintile are three times more likely to seek care in a hospital compared to those in the poorest. We also find variation in the timing of care seeking

⁵ For a detailed account, see Anagaw et al. (2013).

behaviour with respondents typically acting faster for child related conditions as compared to adult conditions.

There are differences in health care seeking behaviour across religion. Orthodox Christian households are more likely to seek higher-level modern care and seek care earlier (for adult conditions) as compared to Muslim headed households. While the reasons for this are not entirely clear, since the estimates control for socio economic status, education and ease of access to health care; it is possible that the religion variables reflect different levels of confidence and trust in the health care system. This finding is not unique to this study. For instance, a study on maternal health seeking behaviour based on the Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey finds that Muslim women are less likely to seek delivery and post natal care as compared to Orthodox women⁶. There also appears to be considerable regional variation in health care seeking behaviour, with households in Amhara being most likely to seek (higher level) care, and those in SNNP most likely to forego or delay seeking care. Since access to public health facilities in SNNP seems to be at least at par or at times better as compared to other regions, it is likely that the lower probability of using care in SNNP may be due to the limited implementation of the fee waiver system, which since 2008 has attempted to increase access for the “poorest of the poor”, in this region as compared to Amhara and Oromiya regions.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Overall, based on the empirical evidence assembled in this study we tend to conclude that the low utilization rate in Ethiopia is not driven by the inability to recognize health problems or due to a low perceived need for modern care but are more likely to be related to other factors such as the quality and cost of available care. With regard to the latter, the scaling-up of the recently introduced community-based health insurance (CBHI) scheme may play an important role in reducing socioeconomic inequalities in access to health care.

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Abaineh Amare and Fekadu Beyene

Gender Differences in the Migration of Zimbabwean Teachers to South Africa

Dick Ranga

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