

# Assessing Democratic Governance, the Quest for Good Governance: A case study of Malawi 1994-2014

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**Abstract:** This project is confined to Good Governance theory, as it entails democratic governance values to ease Assessing Democratic Governance, the quest for Good Governance in Malawi. The research focused much on the phenomenon of Democratic Governance where in its methodology, three political administrations were selected and assessed by using secondary data sources ranging from books, scholarly articles and so forth. In its findings the research has found that, all three administrations failed to cope up with democratic governance values and messed up things in the process by allowing corruption due to violation of democratic values that determine the nation's stand on Good Governance. Since democracy emergence in Malawi, violation of human rights by those in command have been occurring. It is like a pass on problem, from one political administration to the other. To overcome this malaise, Malawi Government should double check its political institutions more precisely political administrations for Good Governance to flourish, hence sustainability.

**Keywords:** Democracy, Good Governance, Phenomenon of Democratic Governance, Malawi.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Governance perspectives have much to do with governance theories. The most appropriate theories in as far as governance situation in Malawi is concerned is good governance theory(World Bank 2007). For that reason, Bryce suggested that for good governance to work effectively, there should be constitutional design that will reflect on the direction of a state (Bryce, 1921). In this case, Democracy as one form of government is regarded as a political device solely meant to achieve good governance and its historical background goes back to Ancient times. Bjork and Johansson confided that this parameter is of the agenda to enhance the developing countries and enrich them with mechanisms on how they can achieve development and embrace the developed world(Bjork and Johansson, 2001). The wind of change of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century which swept around the globe and forced them to adopt this system, marked the era to civilization. The most outstanding example in this case can be Greek cities democracy( Bhattacharya, 1949). The scope of democracy and its efficiency lays the foundation of Good Governance as it drives the institutions to maximize its priorities to suit the citizenry needs (Fareed, 1997).

In the case of Malawi, the country was under one-party system led by Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda and that was in 1964, and later in 1993 Malawi had referendum to decide whether the one-party system should continue or there should be change of system by embracing multiparty system of government. The results of referendum reflected on welcoming the idea of democracy with majority of 63 percent. Malawi formerly called Nyasaland is one of the countries in the southeast Africa, and the country is landlocked. Following the 2008 country wide population and Housing Census, the predicted population emerge as thirteen.2 million people. The country is bordered with Zambia in the West, Tanzania in the North and Mozambique to East and South (Kachala,2011). The country gained its independence from the British colonial rule and its first president was Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda (Mulera et al., 2011). This is the ice break of our journey to detect whether there is Good Governance in Malawi or not.

## II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

As many nations at international level opt for democracy as a tremendous shape of government, it has some effects on Good Governance. Malawi is one of such nations in the world that practices democracy. Due to the fact the embody of democracy for the past twenty years or so, Malawi has been practicing democracy even though there are but issues how democratic values ought to fit Malawi in proximity of Good Governance. Democracy being an essential force for effective governance, it might flourish in a society in which Institutions feature in an open and tolerance form. This form of presentation may also want to make contributions efficaciously to the government sects to be trustworthy, accountable and organized further to consultant in its functioning. Therefore, Assessment of democratic governance as a search for Good governance within the context of Malawi will serve us better to reveal whether the adoption of democracy in Malawi's governance indicates a sign of Good Governance or not.

## III. OBJECTIVES

This paper is aimed at shading more- light on the meaning, concept and role of democracy on Good Governance. This will be done by emphasizing much on how different scholars understand it, how it evolved and its role on Good Governance in general and Malawi in particular. Secondly, Phenomenon of democratic governance in Malawi will be emphasized to detect its efficiency since its emergence with regards to Good Governance.

## IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

Past studies have demonstrated that there is high need of democracy in Malawi to improve administration, consequently Good Governance as it assumes a significant job in monetary advancement of a nation. This is thus, since popular government offers command to articulations which is the substance that many developing nations don't have Schaffer, (1998). Shin, (2007): Asserted that, numerous inquiries have been led on democratic government, and they have demonstrated that numerous African, Asian and Western nations acknowledge democracy, however with constrained comprehension on how that popular government can impact administration. Schaffer, (1998): concurs with Shin by saying that, there is an idea that in developing countries residents come up short on the great comprehension of democratic government and hence decide not to be engaged with political exercises.

Sen, (1999): One of the most noticeable researchers of Political Science asserted that" popular government denotes the estimation of people since it is wide in such a significant number of measurements by putting the welfare of citizens at heart. Worldwide governmental issues changed predominantly in 1989, and in Malawi the extremely same thing occurred. Ross, (1996): deplored that, these worldwide political changes additionally helped the devoted Malawian activists to make bunches in battling Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda's tyranny administration. Richard, (1974): Asserted that, the 1994 political exercises denoted the beginning of democratic consolidation in Malawi. This was set apart by the general referendum, in which the general population of Malawi chose to decide in favor of popular or democratic government. Malawians turned out to be so aggravated henceforth making opposition as standing square to his initiative. Donge(1995): discovered that, the referendum results implied the fame support for majority rule or democratic government. It was this time when Malawians had trust in observing the nation regarding human rights, partition of forces and principle of law. Kayambazinthu and Moyo, (2002): Democratic leadership in Malawi was actuated in 1994 and first vote based heavy hitters pioneer in democratic political history of Malawi was Elson Muluzi. He was so dedicated in equitable administration, however toward the end of his tenure he replicated thoughts like political control and suppression of media. Lwanda(2002): concurs with Kayambazinthu that Muluzi' On constraint of media, he put stock in media control, so the common society associations think that it's extremely hard to infiltrate government issues as guard dogs.

On Good Governance, Levi, (2006): attested that Good Governance, is one method for supporting nation's just status, because the powerless have that legitimacy to solidify the assessment of democratic government. It is just Good Governance that can think about justice by ensuring there are democratic ethics in a nation to avoid exploitation of citizenry. The World Bank, (1989): said in 1989 numerous development issues in Africa came about because of awful administration. UN, (1998): The administration is less responsible, useless and wasteful as substantiated by the previous United Nations Secretary General - Kofi Annan.

OECD, (1995) and World Bank, (1994): characterized Governance as "system utilized by the political expert in practicing control of society in social, the executive's assets, appropriation of assets and the relationship which exists between the ruled and the ruler. World Bank, (2007): features the worldwide pointers of administration including from control of corruption, rule of law, responsibility, adequacy of government hardware, administrative quality and opportunity of affiliation and articulation. These portrayals of administration are reflection on good governance just as it additionally covers the residents support and portrayal in issues of national intrigue.

## V. METHODOLOGY

**Method:** This study used Good Governance theory following a binary approach and focused comparison; therefore, by its nature the study required in-depth information and analysis. The analysis was done using qualitative data analysis methods involving description and explanation of important factors, for us to comprehend the status of Good Governance in Malawi, more precisely political administrations since 1994-2014.

**Study sampling:** The study selected three major political administrations in Malawi since democracy emergence. These administrations were selected as key parameters in Malawi democratic governance. The sequence ranges from 1994-2014 by deepening the assessment of each administration in line with Good Governance.

**Type of data and technique of data collection:** Data was collected based on secondary sources ranging from scholarly journal articles and publications on democracy, good governance, books, and some relevant sources like Government websites. Additionally, the project used annual reports that served as primary sources.

**Data analysis and interpretation:** The data was classified and coded according to the indicators to be mentioned in the framework with the help of descriptive features. The primary tool was the binary comparison mechanism. So, the mechanism identified similarities and differences between political administrations in the area of democracy and good governance, to have full grasp of whether there is good governance in Malawi or not.

**Theoretical Framework:** This study adopted Good Governance theory to analyse and Assess Democracy the search for Good Governance in Malawi by emphasizing much on political administrations since 1994-2014. Good Governance theory is an enduring theory in public administration in the sense that it reflects on how to ensure good governance and this is paramount concern when we talk about governance. Additionally, this theory is aimed at enhancing public services delivery (Williams and Young, 1994). That means this theory is a driving force for bureaucrats as it equips them with technics on how they should carry out their duties to pave way for citizenry liberties (Sheng, 2008). In this case this theory is important to understand and comprehend the Assessment of democratic governance in respect to good governance.

**Analytical Framework: Democratic Governance in Malawi 1994-2014**

### Political Administrations

1994-2003

2004-2012

2012-2014

### Democratic Values

Rule of Law, Equity and Equality, freedom of Speech, Free and Fair Elections, Participation

## MEANING, CONCEPT AND ROLE OF DEMOCRACY ON GOOD GOVERNANCE

### Meaning of Democracy

For us to grasp the extent of democratic governance and how it impacts on Good Governance, we must take a look at how political specialists have characterized it. Right off the bat, the most enduring meaning of Democracy is from Abraham Lincoln 1809-1965. He characterized democracy as "Government of the people for the people" (Roy Basler, 1858). Besides, Joseph Schumpeter characterized Democracy as "Institutional course of action that includes political choices in which people have addition capacity to choose their representatives through vote" (Przeworski, 2001).

Thirdly, Larry Diamond has a comprehensive and maximal meaning of Democratic government as "Constitutional multiparty system with ordinary free and fair elections, all-inclusive suffrage, authoritative pluralism, opportunity of press, opportunity of articulation, administrative self-rule, legal and official organs of government (Diamond, 1999). These definitions divide individuals' points of view in characterizing or understanding Democracy into two classifications. The first group regards Democracy as type of government, while the other group considers democracy as political framework essentially worried about lifestyle of citizenry. The facts demonstrate that democratic government is shaped with methodology and practices that divide the opportunity systematization model. As per Donnell in an expressive way, he said that Democracy will offer space to natives to have their obligations and obligations practiced through reasonable and free decisions of their delegates. He further said that Democracy flourish to devolution of forces of focal government by guaranteeing rule of law and individual privileges of the natives are verified. It additionally makes government progressively receptive to the desires of the residents without jeopardizing their social welfare. He further asserted that it is the sole purpose of democracy to ensure unique legitimacy of natives in policy formulation that would safeguard their lives (Guillermo, 1994).

### *Concept of Democracy*

Democracy has its profound roots since 500 BC, when Greeks and Romans utilized it as an arrangement of government dependent on participation, and it reappeared with full power in Northern Italy in twelfth Century (Dahl, 1999). The 1980s political changes were impacted by what is called Huntington Third Wave of Democratization. During this period a ton of democratic governments rose in various parts of the World. Therefore, that flood of democratization cleared the African continent after Eastern Europe and Latin America (Huntington, 1991). One political scientist portrays the rise of these democratic governments to be end of mankind's history, as it arrived at the rightful moment to end the nonstop suffering of individuals politically, socially, monetarily by uniting them paying little respect to contrasts in status. This is as indicated by Fukuyama's assessment towards democratic government (Fukuyama, 1992). Numerous researches conducted on democracy are demonstrating that lion's share of individuals around the globe are in favor of this system. This is nation to nation review worldwide feeling on democratic governance (Ronald Inglehart, 2003).

In developing nations like Malawi, the thought of democracy is comprehended from the political view, as it focuses much on fair government objectives. Objectives like rule of law, freedom of expression, freedom of religion just to mention few. Also, we can say that democratic government gives political rights, Social administrations and welfare (Marshall, 1992). This is in line with Rousseau, Locke and Hobbes comprehension of Democracy as a perfect type of government since it consolidates republican constitution with the sole motivation behind resident's authenticity in basic leadership (Bhattacharya, 1949). In Malawi setting, the viable comprehension of Democratic government was first experienced by Bakili Muluzi 1994-2003. He is regarded as democratic pioneer of Malawi. Besides, the nation was under the authority of Bingu wa Mutharika 2003-2012. Thirdly, it was under Joyce Banda 2012-2014. The first female president in Malawi political history. She rose into power constitutionally after the death of Bingu wa Mutharika in 2012 (Ntata, 2012). The sequence above entails democratic governance in Malawi since its emergence.

### *Role of Democracy*

In democratic governance, the exercise of power by those in command should tally with fundamental values of democracy. The democratic values like tolerance, justice, solidarity, equality, pluralism, negotiations and so forth. Out of these democratic values we can come up with good governance principles like transparency, accountability, rule of law, participation, efficiency and effectiveness (World Bank, 2001). In a democratic state, authority of the government should correspond to the will of people. The UDHR and General Assembly for UN stressed the values of democracy and what role they have on Good Governance. Among these roles are as follows: making sure there is rule of law in the country. Ensuring human rights protection at all costs. To ensure and promote pluralism in the society. Making sure there are free and fair elections without any sort of manipulation. Promoting sustainable development as well as social cohesion. The effectiveness of democratic roles on good governance and its sustainability depend on some players at local and international level that help to push the government to keep hold of these democratic values for good governance (Diamond, 1999). On the same issue USAID proposed, Equity and Equality in all spheres, like the inclusion of women and men in decision making process. Since 1994, Malawi has tremendously improved in gender balance. There is an observable competitive atmosphere for women and men in different spheres of the public sector. Even in politics, Malawi has for the past 10 years recorded a higher number of women involvements in politics and in the education sector.

Citizens voice to hold decision makers accountable. In this one, democracy plays an important role because it gives the ordinary citizens legitimacy to express their views on matters of national interest. They also stand a better chance to penetrate government affairs because there is access to information bill. In Malawi this is evident because this Access to Information Bill is taking its course, which gives the citizens the legitimacy to question the activities being carried out by the government(UNDP, 2006).

## PHENOMENON OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN MALAWI

The beginning of Democratic governance in Malawi was described by the 1993 referendum which separated individuals into two groups .The first group was supporting the progression of dictator Kamuzu Banda system, while the other group was cheering multiparty arrangement of government(Ntata, 2012). The energy for multiparty group juttred which was the development for democratic government. This was so because the concerned Malawians needed Good Governance and regard for human rights which was so hazardous in tyrant Banda administration. This imparted the production of political groupings and bunches by concerned Malawians looking for change of leadership(Freedom House, 2002).In present law-based time, we have discovered that Malawi through various initiatives attempted to show and exercise some of democratic esteems to suit the genuine significance of Democratic governance. Democratic values like, Rule of law, freedom of speech, equity, participation and so forth(Englund,2002). The sequence of political administrations in Malawi in as far are as democratic governance is concerned can be as per the following: Muluzi, Bingu, and Joyce Banda respectively.

### *Bakili Muluzi's Administration 1994-2003*

**Rule of Law:** First tenure of Muluzi's administration was highly concerned with curbing corruption and the individuals who were engaged with such malpractices were imprisoned and their properties and financial balances solidify. During this period Malawi developed to be among exceptional nations in fighting corruption in Africa. Muluzi infiltrated his cabinet and the rotten ministers were expelled and properties seized by the government(Transparency International, 2004). Among extraordinary case of Muluzi's responsibility in combatting corruption to ensure democratic governance was the arrest of ex-minister of education Samu Mpasu. He was involved in Field York Scandal in which he purchased books of low quality for primary and secondary school education in Malawi. He was then instantly removed as a cabinet minister to pave way for the Anti-Corruption Bureau Investigations. This episode was trailed by Yusuf Mwawa who was additionally embroiled in mismanagement of the allocated budget to his ministry. Both Mpasu and Mwawa were later indicted and imprisoned for such malpractices(Rod Hogue et al. 2010).

**Equity and Equality:** Muluzi's administration utilized this concept to boost and expand the education sector in Malawi. Through it he introduced eight years free primary education which is the cornerstone for every society's development. Muluzi wrecked the previous one-party system of education in which primary pupils used to pay school fees. This development pleased majority of Malawians as it opened entryway for education expansion among masses that could manage sending their children to school. Males and Females had same opportunities in society and competition for quality education was so high among all citizens. It was during this regime when Universities in Malawi started recording a great number of female students which exemplified Muluzi's commitment to this democratic value(World Bank, 2001).

**Freedom of speech:** Freedom of speech was permitted, and people had that ability to reprimand and oppose some ill articulations made by the government or head of state. The civil societies and activists had ample opportunities to speak on behalf of minorities. All this happened during his first term of office. **Free and fair elections:** It was during Muluzi's administration when the birth of free elections was witnessed. For instance, the 1994 and 1999 General elections respectively were free and fair as declared by the team of international observers. The electoral body in these two terms demonstrated to be autonomous and non-fanatic. The processes were done in a professional way to give out what Malawians decided in favor of at that time(Afrobarometer,2004).

**Participation:** Muluzi first term was more convincing as he used some of democratic values. This is evident by the growing number of women who were involved politics. The Malawi parliament was for the first time recorded several female MPs. For the first time Malawi allowed women to hold top seats in the administration. Some were appointed judges of the high court (Transparency International, 2004). In his second term of office, things changed completely. He bounced back to tyranny leadership tendencies of Dr Banda and human rights infringement took its course. Corruption cases were reported among bureaucrats without taking serious actions as before. Due to that some international donors stopped rendering their support. Example of this can be Danish Government which stopped its aid on development

projects due to rampant corruption. He further wanted to stand for third term of office. If the aforementioned factors were not enough, he equated a special group of terror that was used to torture and beat up those who were against his leadership (Khaila et.al., 2005).

#### ***Bingu wa Mutharika's Administration 2004-2012***

**Rule of Law:** Bingu strived as much as he could to guarantee Good Governance by following a portion of democratic governance values. His administration guaranteed Rule of law to battle against corruption. To demonstrate his responsibility, the individuals who were engaged with such acts confronted the law. To set model that he was serious in battling corruption, the former president Bakili Muluzi was indicted to answer corruption allegations. Muluzi was blamed for abusing his office and wasting government money meant for development worth 1.7 billion Malawi Kwacha(Transparency International,2004). **Equity and Equality:** He re-presented quota education system as a system for choosing students into higher learning institutions. This program extended the education sector in Malawi more particularly for the less privileged . He appointed his cabinet ministers and some bureaucrats like commissioners, ambassadors, principal secretaries, dependent on expertise and meritocracy. It was this period when the financial status of the nation began to appreciate the universal or international market. This pioneer was so devoted in putting the welfare of the natives at heart. Among his advancement works, he developed and initiated the construction of Science and Technology University which is one of the modern Universities in Africa regarding Technology ( Malawi Government 2012).

**Freedom of speech:** On that one, Bingu opened the gateway for the media fraternity, the general population and all partners to have freedom of expression or speech. From the political view, Bingu's administration is considered as the most dominant and incredible administration that was increasingly cheering for democratic governance. On security, dealt with ill practices by the law offenders like thieves by fixing protections in urban and provincial territories. This segment was absolutely a matter of worry by the past government where you could see widespread vandalism(Freedom House,2004). **Free and Fair Election:** Bingu two terms of office raised reactions on believability of decisions and the disappointment of the Electoral body to be autonomous. It was asserted that he was affecting the body to help anything in out. **Participation:** Malawians had encountered total political participation in political undertakings with no blocks. Referring to a case of open discussions on issues that influence the natives, individuals could take an interest and voice up their perspectives. Moreover, on Association, the privilege to connect with political or social groups was additionally granted. Individuals could connect with any political or social grouping of their choice(GSDRC,2009). Dissimilar to his second term of office where he destroyed almost everything, and the following happened in his second term of office: Anticorruption offices had no order to indict, except if with the assent from Public Prosecutor Director. Media favoritism of the ruling elites in as far as freedom of speech is concerned. Blamed for botch of government money, assets and resources in sending his siblings abroad for education(Europa, 2005).

#### ***Joyce Banda's Administration 2012-2014***

**Rule of Law:** In 2012 after the demise of Bingu wa Mutharika whilst in power, constitutionally his running mate took over. This was when Joyce Banda the first female Malawi president took over. During this period corruption dominated the public offices including her own cabinet. Many cases of money laundering were raised during her regime. No arrests were made to the extent of losing donor aid. These donors were angry because of malpractices in her administration, ranging from corruption, insecurity, human rights infringement. Due to such kind of violations of democratic values, which contributed to the worsening state situation, she was voted out in 2014 (Malawi Government, 2014).

**Equity and Equality:** Joyce Banda's administration being the first female president tried her best to empower women politically, socially, economically, as well as educationally. In 2014 General elections, despite her loss but many female MPs made it to parliament(Afro barometer, 2017). **Freedom of Speech :**During her term, people had freedom of speech and they could express their concerns to the public. Civil societies were also allowed to take their actions by standing and speak for the voiceless Malawians. Media houses proved so professional in delivering the message of national building by providing a wide variety of views. But after some time, the government tried to control and limit these rights(**Free and Fair Elections:** Malawi constitution provide citizens the right to change the leadership or government in power in every 5 years. In 2014, Malawi had competitive elections as indicated by international observers despite Joyce Banda's loss. **Participation:** on this one Joyce Banda being the first female president in Malawi enticed women to be involved in frontline politics and in that year, almost 39 women made into parliament. Her term of office was a new dawn for women because a lot of them were appointed in high offices of the land like, high court, supreme court of appeal, and some were appointed parliamentary committee just to mention few (Afro barometer, 2017).

## VI. CONCLUSION

To conclude, we have seen democracy as an enduring concept that has been there since 500 BC. The tool is used to influence good governance in a state, as it shares elements in common with good governance. For instance, democratic values ranging from Rule of Law, equity and equality, freedom of speech, free and fair elections as well as participation are in correspondence to Good Governance determinants. These two terms are embodied to each other, and presence of democracy in a country enhance and influence good governance pending on effectiveness of a state and its government. However, in Malawi context the phenomenon of democratic governance is not that pleasing because it has a lot of problems to maximize the essence of democracy. Problems ranging from corruption, Insecurity, intimidation and violence, lack of participation, the worsening of rule of law, and lack of transparency and accountability in government offices. This is the democratic scenario since the emergence of democracy though with an exception of Bingu wa Mutharika who tried to follow some of the democratic values. Based on our findings, we suggest that, the Malawi government should double check its democratic institutions more especially political administrations. In so doing, democracy will flourish and good governance sustainability. These findings are applicable to African nations and to some Southeast Asian nations as the problem poses a threat in the functionality of democracy. This research has tried to answer the purpose of this study based on Literature. Further call for expansion of literature in the area is widely accepted.

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