

# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT IN PARTY POLITICS TO ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

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**Abstract:** Politics in developing countries remain a huge concern in terms of development actualization. The types of politics practiced in this part of the world (global South) tells the type of developmental progress countries make. This article on an analysis in relation to how political parties economically operate try to bring out things that underscore political parties activities focusing on ruling parties and how they manage in handling national economy that which will bring transparency and accountability in party politics that will manifest in the national platform. In doing this, this paper tries to explain how political parties should address and handle issues of financial concerns within political parties activities and if given the chance to govern the country how they can manifest the good parts of handling finances when it comes to public financial management. This article will try to articulate issues that will analyse clear political financial management alongside transparency and accountability within parties which could be easily seen in the three arms of government and other public offices when a political party is being mandated to serve as governing party.

This paper therefore, examines the extant role that the governing parties have played in many developing countries in influencing government policies through public finances in the sustenance of positive democratic governance and release options of sound political management for sustainable democratic growth.

**Keywords:** Development, Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL), Transparency and Accountability.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The economy should always serve as the bases for the super structures transmitted in a country. When you have a strong sound and sustainable minded economy then you expect education, health, judiciary, legislature, energy, democratic principles and others to be stronger. The question is, how can this economy or basis of the super structure be stronger? Remember government is not only about those who are in the ruling party or on top of state institutions or strategic part of decision making. We citizens, non-citizens in the form of international community especially donor communities, pressure groups, opposition parties, civil societies are part of governance. Let us try to understand how political parties play with party funds and when given the opportunity to serve as ruling parties in the country how they manages the economy in the nation's interest to bring development in the country. To go in-depth, political parties in most developing countries or donor driven countries often lack the integrity to maintain transparency and accountability in the running of their party activities that have got connection with money. One may want to ask, do political parties in the global south give account to party members on how they get their money? The source, their expenditure style and how these monies are being implemented through their activities? When we try to understand the situation, be it ruling parties or opposition

parties the question of how they could be transparent in the national level for positive change becomes an elephant issue. For instance, when you have a political party that is never accountable and transparent within the party system it would be difficult for that political party to manifest transparency and accountable in governance. It is political party members especially ruling parties that make up government officials. If an organizing secretary in the ruling party is being given a budget to organize a program in the party and upon completion there is no better and clear implementation, accountability, transparency and reporting and the same individual is being given a ministerial position to run, how would you expect that individual to manifest integrity in the end? So citizens of developing countries should have the courage to ask their political leaders about the in, out, up, down, of their monies and how are they expense. We should try to understand the dynamics of political parties and how they play with the money and report, who are they accountable to and how party members are often informed. When you have a decent politics you will have a decent government. It is like a computer, garbage in garbage out. Failures in national development in present day often anchored on the type of politics practiced in the country. When weak political institutions take over governance then you have a weak economy, and a weak state, because the oil that steers the will of nation building is the economy.

Most internal challenges of political parties have close bearing to the party money and leadership crisis. When parties have these challenges what do you expect when they come to governance? Political parties apparatus should try to see the parties they belong as their loving baby that you will always wish to take a greater care over, and when this happens they will see the country as their new found love when they come to governance because they have practiced it at home (their political parties) and in such situation the principles of good governance will constantly be at play. Parties should learn to build strength from their weakness and develop a number of different approaches so that political development can be strategic and recognized to enhance growth for sustainability within the parties and the nation at large. Issues like economic development, community capacity building, participatory development approach, and more should be put forward on the table as always so that citizens can critically decide. When implementing programs and community development initiatives, a development that is participatory is a major tool in making community development projects successful.

Such a type of political practices will encourage all members of the state regardless of their age, sex, tribe, region, religion, class to participate in a process which allows them to express their right, demands, and needs and to decide their own future with the hope to bring empowerment and sustainability through a sound political practices and good governance processes from party level to state level.

## **II. THE POLITICS IN POLITICAL PARTIES**

One might wonder about the thought behind the sentence “the politics in political parties”. Simply put, the politics in political parties in my understanding is the twin that steers political parties, and they manifest themselves through money and power struggle in the parties. And because of these twin factors, weak politicians use other linking roads to gain favour like tribalism, nepotism, regionalism etc. and they get succeeded because of the level of political literacy that is being practiced in that space which has also got connection to the education level of that nation.

Political parties are guiding institutions to help navigate a nation’s vision. They are institution through which competition and choice, the touchstones of democracy, function (Kargbo, 2011). Fishers 1996 states that political parties offer a voice to the main segments of opinion and interests within the country; and they offer a ladder between the citizens and the state, and they translate or articulate demands in to policies. These Political parties need supplement, and this supplement is finance and that goes for the government of any nation. The approach they use in trying to get access to finance and implementing those finances come transparency and accountability question in political parties. And often ruling parties are closer to public funds and tend to use this as an advantage to consolidate their hold on power which makes opposition parties look for different critical ways to get finances that are not in the interest of the country. When this unhealthy space is created, you have people with financial affluence coming to take centre stage at the expense of those who lack what they have but have stood by the party and leave a room for power struggle in the parties.

I hold the believe that, needs and vulnerabilities often have local roots. Participatory democracy should motivate electorates to take on the challenge of solving their own issues through a liberal participation, rather than through centralization of leadership which will not create space for citizens to check the balances of their government.

As Kargbo puts it, political process in Africa south of the Sahara remains complex to this day, and it is characterized by severe ethnic and religious conflict. Bad governance and economic inequalities have impinged directly upon the political process and have, to a greater extent, influenced its operation (Kargbo, 2011). This has been cultivated in the cycle of the politics within the political parties. Politicians who are weak tend to use tribe, religion, region, class etc. to have advantage over their opponents, and often win the vote over their opponents. This is because the politics within the political parties is anchored on the ignorance of the party supporters and electorates and the political leaders have quietly bought the integrity of their supporters, voters in the name of favours which have caused the supporters not to bother in asking their leaders to be accountable to them. Political parties should have ideas and values that they should bring into governance for a stable political development.

### **III. RULING PARTIES AND THE NATIONAL ECONOMY**

The economy of every country is a very important part not only for growth in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or Gross National Product (GNP) but for sustainable development that will address the needs of the citizens of developing countries. However, the spirit of integrity and nationalism of ruling parties to properly handle the economy for the good and love of the nation remains a challenge that holds them to have more affection for their parties at the expense of the nation and this begs for deep reflections. The success of a political party that makes up a government can be measured by its ability in practicing the basic principles of good governance within party structures and activities. There is no doubt therefore, that a party which has failed in managing its own economy will not give birth to a better national economy. Ruling parties command over the national economy in most developing countries remains a threat to sustainable economic growth that will enhance development, democracy and good governance.

The need for us to practice a politics of hygiene in the words of Professor Lumumba will address issues of political illiteracy and open mindedness in developing nation and that will accelerate the right consciousness for citizens to clearly separate the misunderstanding between ruling parties and the government. And this will help citizens to bring to account individuals who will tend to mismanage public finances and a big call for transparency and accountability.

The security to protect the national economy should be guided by strong anti-corruption laws that are prompt and fair to the state so that ruling parties can be guided against the public finances for them not to take them as a personal account for supporting their livelihoods and political parties.

### **IV. TRANSPERANCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PARTY POLITICS**

Accountability and transparency are fundamental principles of good governance that stimulate economic growth for development, which should never be compromised. The International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions, ISSAI, in their book "Principles of Transparency and Accountability" points that Transparency is a powerful force that, when consistently applied, can help fight corruption, improve governance and promote accountability.

Most political parties in developing countries do not meet this obligation. They are far off in such practices and when given power to govern they tend to go the same route as their political parties. Party executives are not transparent and accountable to their party member and they feel insulted should a party member call them to account. This is the same political evil spirit they take to governance. Accountability and transparency are not easily separated, they both encompass many of the same actions, for instance, public reporting. The concept of accountability refers to the legal and reporting framework, organisational structure, strategy, procedures and actions. The International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions, ISSAI, in their book "Principles of Transparency and Accountability". The challenge in these political parties is that report framework, organizational structures, strategies, procedures and actions are often applied in the interest of the party leaders and not for the general good, which makes it difficult for party members to call to account those that have gone wrong, and this cancer has glue into national governance that citizens do not have the courage to ask relevant questions and those who attempt are often chased after.

In mitigating corruption in governance and protecting public finances political parties should anchor their activities on the basic principles of transparency and accountability so that good governance could be achieved. If developing countries sacrifice to make governance institutions including political institutions reliable, liberal and entertaining to all there will be provision for accountability and transparency in those countries hence a healthy development.

## **V. POLITICAL PARTY TO GOVERNING PARTY (NATIONAL ORIENTATION)**

To establish good governance and democracy, there is no way to refresh the political party's wrongdoings. Democracy and good governance are synonymous. To nurture democracy in the state, the political parties have to practice democracy within and they need to be institutionalized first. Otherwise, the people cannot expect good governance if the party comes to power. There is no alternative to ensure the institutionalization of democracy within party because it is the gear of the whole democratic system. We should pay attention to such type of democratic platform on the hands of political parties to ensure good governance because it is the easiest way to fulfil our long cherish desire to be flourished as a proud nation. Development is far off when the politics practiced is being coined against the electorate through tribalism, regionalism, nepotism, brutal corruption and the many vices that affect growth.

National orientation for development happens when we have a sound and flexible political system that serve as positive change institutions for nation building. If you want to change state institutions just change political institutions and wait for the result. Opposition must be stronger to always challenge the ruling party, seeing themselves as government at the door for governance.

## **VI. BUILDING THE SYSTEM**

Again political parties as institutions are grounded in historically emergent cultural patterns and social structure. The way political parties behave is greatly influenced by cultural and social factors said Sociologist Alex Inkle and Psychologist Daniel Levinson and they stated that relation to authority, conception of self, ways of dealing with conflict as the three basic issues in the society which count in functioning of societies, of groups within the societies, and of individuals within those groups.

In building the broking bridges, we must try to find out to learn from every political situation past and present and take ownership and entitlement and also give ourselves the courage to rethink and reflect on our voting patterns and how do we get involve in to politics not only to vote the politicians in but to monitor their activities, evaluate their performance, hold them accountable in the end the citizens and the politicians learn from the process for growth and by doing this we take responsibility of the type of people we entrust power in their hands .

A key issue we need to focus on in the building of the nations is to practices mindfulness in our everyday life of politics and maintain a positive attitude in providing the good leadership support to state and non-state institutions. This can create the confidence in citizens to voluntarily and democratically involve themselves at the grass root level, and participate and put pressure on politician to be transparent and accountable to them. Popular participation should be entertained to give the citizens a real voice in decision making. Strong and sound political Participation should imply empowerment, relationship enhancement and consciousness. In some instance, we must over look party theories that are not in the interest of nation building. Being loyal to your party should not count against the love of your country.

Public financial tracking of all political parties should be seen at play in all level of the political system so that electorates could not only know their politician by face but by the sources of their money and how they expend it. Such mechanism should not be on a paper only as it has been in the case of many developing countries. There should be a strong standard for political party regulatory bodies to implement such laws or policies so that people can see a face reality of the paper work. And learn to appreciate that "the law is the law" in the words of Barrack Obama, and this law is only a law when it is implemented.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

Understanding how political parties get their finances, how they expend their finances, and how they report their finances is very challenging issue in developing countries especially taking in to account how political parties should be transparent and accountable to themselves and citizens. In my opinion, to bring political development to a stable platform that will enhance good governance and democratic practices there should be a process of helping citizens to be politically educated so that they will belong to a party or vote for a party because of policies, ideologies, philosophies and not because of tribes, regions, religions, classes or any form of sentiment. People must be politically aware and strengthen themselves and develop towards their full potential so that they can always have at the end a government that is serious with them.

To see political parties in developing countries be transparent and accountable in the running of their parties there should be rigid intra political development system that seeks to empower individuals in the parties, groups of people who challenge the big guns in the parties, by providing them with the rights, opportunities and skills they need to effect change in their own political parties. If these things are done there will be a moral and civilized political system that will enable a sound political atmosphere of groups of citizens working for a common agenda that understand both how to work with individuals and how to affect economic, social, and political change within the context of larger institutional reforms.

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