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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction:

Democracy is not just a set of specific government systems, it is about values, attitudes and practices across different society. It is a government arrangement where power and civic responsibility are exercised by adult citizens either directly or indirectly through their leaders who are freely elected into power.

Democratic institutions are associated with the rule of law, practices and organizations that institute changes in societies to deliberate around what goals are desirable thus making decisions about the norms and standards. It is directly connected to the idea of governance where it is intended to meet people's needs with accountability being the cornerstone of democratic governance. Globally, governing bodies should work towards institutional transformation to ensure that, governance institutions are democratic since it is linked to sustainable development enhancement. And it is also a means to ensure that people actively participate in issues affecting their lives through respect for sovereignty and the right of self-determination by the state.

Democracy can be defined as the rule of people by the people and for the people; democratic governance therefore is the system where all the people are enabled to express themselves freely and make free choices on issues that may affect them. Generally, democratic moral principles permit the exclusive exercise of the people's freewill that can determine the cause of their affairs by acknowledging the will of the majority citizens. Politically, democratic governance can imply that the people have the full right to elect their leaders freely by conducting free and fair elections.

Democratic governance is built on the foundation of free and fair elections; it requires an independent judiciary to uphold the rule of law for all people in a non-discriminatory manner. It requires professional and politically neutral security forces that act in the interests of the common good, accessible free information, independent and unbiased and equal involvement of civil society which is capable of questioning the public authorities.

Democratic governance can be viewed as a worthy goal not only in and of itself but as a means through which to impact a variety of other outcomes, particularly economic growth, human development and sustainable development. It can be connected to persistent poverty, societal problems, conflicts and political crisis specifically in African countries so they need to choose democratic governance system so as to respond to those challenges. Poorly governed countries are characterized by corrupt bureaucrats and politicians undermining all the development efforts through misappropriation of resources and diverting the public funds to unproductive ventures. And also, the government that is not accountable to its citizens and have weak institutions may not be willing to take on pro-growth and pro-poor policies. This eventually affects the poverty eradication strategy, increases inequality levels, rising conflicts and unsustainable growth so all the countries must ensure democratic governance is at the center of its development agenda and policy design.

Democratic governance is equivalent to goal-directed, development oriented, subject friendly, citizen affectionate, inclusive and responsive public administration committed to the improvement of people's lives and reduce the existing inequalities. It is a way in which

the government exercised management of the national economy and social resources for the country's sustainable development and it can create an enabling environment for the realization of poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and promotion of human development by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda (SDG 16) recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and strong institutions. Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 is to have an Africa of good governance, democracy, and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. Pillar 3.6 of the EAC Vision 2050, calls for democratic values, human rights, access to justice and the rule of law entrenched in all East African Partner States. According to the Uganda Vision 2040, the tenets of good governance include constitutional democracy, protection of human rights, rule of law, political and electoral processes, transparency and accountability, government effectiveness and regulatory quality and security. Particularly the Vision 2040 identified human rights observance as a critical feature of good governance and the rule of law.

Thus, the objective of this paper will be to define the concept of democratic governance, examine the background of democratic governance, subsequently, it will look at the implications of democratic governance before looking at some critical obstacles of democratic governance and discuss some of the way forward on the key challenges to democratic governance: -

2.0 Definition of the concept Democratic Governance:

2.1 Democracy:

The concept of democracy can be traced from the ancient Greeks and particularly the city-state of Athens in the fifth century B.C. The term democracy is derived from the Greek words 'demos' which means people and ''kratos' meaning power or rule (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, 20011). It was used to define the poor or the masses. This therefore implies that, democracy is the rule of the people, government system where power and civic responsibility are exercised by all adult citizens directly or indirectly by electing their leaders freely and fairly. The concept democracy has been very popular and it is recognized universally as a good thing that is to be practiced by all the public institutions worldwide.

According to (Gisselquist, , 2013), democracy can as well be defined basing on the degree of free and fair elections, limitations on political power, institutionalization and stability, electoral competition and widespread involvement of election practices. It is a system of rule by the poor and disadvantaged; a form of government in which the people rule themselves directly and continuously, without the need for professional politicians or public officials; a society run on the basis of equal opportunity and individual merit but not hierarchy or privilege and a system where decision-making is based on the principle of majority rule with protection of human rights.

2.2 Governance:

According to (Gisselquist, , 2013), the minimal definition of governance suggests description, leaving open multiple possibilities of how, and towards what ends, power might be exercised within the community. For instance, it might be according to popular vote, by consensus, according to a set of universally applied laws, through the dictates of a supreme leadership, or through physical force. Key actors might include government agencies, elected officials, hereditary rulers, religious leaders, judicial authorities, or the voting public. The collective affairs of a community might include anything from national security to natural resources, from monetary policy to cultural affairs, from infrastructure development to educational standards.

Governance is the process through which state and non-state actors interact to design and implement policies within a given set of formal and informal rules that shape and are shaped by power. Many aspects of governance have intrinsic value, in particular the notion of freedom. In economic terms, freedom can be seen as an opportunity set, and development can be seen as "the removal of various types of freedoms*"* (exclusion from opportunities), where these un-freedoms reduce people's capacity to exercise "their reasoned agency (World Development Report, 2017).

2.3 Democratic Governance:

Democratic governance means the governing instruments that are capable, responsive, inclusive, participatory and transparent. This means that democratic governance is the

proper use of authority, power, management of resources and respect for the rule of law in accordance with the established principles for the benefit of all the people in a country.

Democratic Governance is the practice where by societies agree on some consensus to facilitate the operationalization of; regulations, human rights, laws, policies, programmes, activities and social structures in pursuit of justice, equality, equity, welfare and environmental and other natural resources protection. These policies and regulations are implemented by institutions including, the legislature, judiciary, executive, political parties, private sector, international bodies and civil society organizations.

2.4 Democratic Governance Background

It is necessary to understand the historical background of the democratic governance practices and some of the lessons learned from past democratic concepts. Democratic governance originated from rapidly changing marketplace and the globalization of technology that is literally changing how the world is functioning and is being governed.

Democratic governance emerged during the third Wave of Democratization and it spread rapidly worldwide. Currently, most countries are governed by democratic political structures regardless of how young the nation is across the entire continent in the world. The rising rate of democratic governance globally can be linked to the consequences of democratization and the performance of different political authorities.

As the development process in Africa came under more intensive scrutiny in the late 1990s, the attention of the leaders shifted to the relevance of governance. Governance has been perceived as a critical factor in accelerating and promoting sustainable

development, meaning the divorce from the old pattern of governance was connected to the advancement in sustainable development across all sectors. Many African countries continued to rely on centralized and highly personalized forms of government and some have fallen into an unacceptable pattern of corruption, unethical decision-making processes and human rights abuses. Hence, this needed more progress for most countries to provide an environment in which individuals are protected, civil society is able to flourish and governments are able to execute their roles and responsibilities efficiently and transparently through adequate institutional mechanisms that would ascertain accountability and openness.

Government leaders across the world were presented with an opportunity for philosophical prospect requiring the expansion of the government systems leading to the emergence of democratic governance during the late 20th and early 21st century due to the unprecedented economic growth, technological advancement and globalization. This intriguing assumption that stimulated the need for a new democratic governance concept that emerged from research and new theory about democracy supporting the supposition of effective policy intervention that is feasible in the globalized world. Democratic governance approach needs to be interconnected with other sectors such as economic, education, political, human rights and general systems associated with the broad aspects of the people's well-being.

Democratic governance came into existence to generally improve the quality of public institutions and procedures so as to manage ever changing roles of the state due to the rapid trends in globalization. A case in point is the African Union adopted by African

Charter on democracy, election and governance so as to promote adherence by all the states to the universal belief and principles of democracy and respect for human rights such as rule of law, free and fair elections, judicial independence, political pluralism, gender equality, citizen participation, freedom of the press and public accountability

Practically, Democratic or Good Governance can be comparable to purposive, developmental focus approach, citizenship oriented, people centered, participatory and responsive public management dedicated to the improvement of life for the people. Good Governance has become the major buzz word in aid policy and development thinking today. It has a manner in which power is exercised in the management of the country's economic and social resource for the development of the country's economic development (Dr. Ram , 2017). Democratic governance is majorly focusing on enhancing accountability, transparency, fairness, and openness in decision making, the rule of law and more efficient management within the public sphere. It thus results into accountability, transparency, participation, efficiency, effectiveness, equitability and rule of law in public organization at all levels. It can as well promote sound and efficient management of human, natural, economic and financial resources for equitable and sustainable development.

3.0 The extent of democratic governance in Africa:

Democracy alone may not guarantee development but democratic principles can ensure sustainable development more so human development, authoritarian leaders like it was in Libya does not promote sustainable development and most times such countries end up in rebellion and unresolved conflicts thereby destroying the infrastructure and causing endless wastage of human life. This therefore, implies that, efficient and effective rulers should be in position to ensure the citizens are positive thinkers, actions and results oriented minded for uplifting the living standards and protection of rights of the people. This calls for instituting strong and dynamic institutions for the state to function in a more effective and efficient manner. Sustainable development, social cohesion and environmental administrations depend so much on governance and efficient national management. This means democratic governance is paramount and a requirement at all levels of public administration specifically at the local government levels since it is nearer the citizens. The effects and extent of democratic governance in Africa countries are:

3.1 Elections:

Elections are a means for people to choose their representatives and their governments and to hold them accountable. They also confer legitimacy on political systems by vesting them with a mandate from their citizens and elections are one of the most important ways through which people participate in decisions that affect their lives.

After the colonial period, most African countries were governed under one-party system

but this has changed over time with the majority of African leaders gaining power through elections. Democracy is commonly noted as the most legitimate model of governance in Africa, but regular multiparty elections are not equal to democratic governance, rule of law, and economic development. Democratic governance in Africa is affected by issues related to corruption, repression, and underdevelopment. African countries need to focus more on building free societies characterized by the separation of powers, checks and balances, an independent media and judiciary, restriction on Presidential power and term limits among others.

The system of one-party government was African and an essential part of the African tradition but in Africa, democratic governance is a form of government based on one-party rule; political parties may exist but are not allowed by the ruling governments to organize political activities in opposition freely. This therefore means democratic governance in Africa is majorly based on the traditional democratic way put forward by the African leaders of relying on politics of consensus but not competition; a principle regarded as a way to promote multiparty democracy.

3.2 Civil society organization's contribution:

Through the political education activities during elections and the roles played by the election observers, civil society organizations in Africa, has promoted the democratic legitimation of governmental politics through free and fair elections. In some countries like Kenya and Zambia, CSOs were involved in constitutional reform processes. For civil society organizations in Africa, good governance always means more than the efficient

and effective performance of bureaucracies. The democratic governance concept, then, is deeply rooted in African civil society.

3.3 Citizen Participation:

Democratic governance is about fair and equal political, social and economic collective participation of all competent, concerned, willing and organized individuals for their own good. Equity and inclusiveness call for a society whose well-being depends on ensuring that all its members feel that they have a stake in it and nobody feels excluded from the society, making the voices of marginalized people heard particularly women, people with disabilities, the elderly and youth. This inclusive approach ensures that citizens enjoy a participatory style of governance where the citizens take part in government systems and participate in decision making processes with equal access to public services which enhance stability in the country and the region at large.

African civil society organizations have advocated for a comprehensive understanding of the democratic governance. For example, the Africa Charter for participation in Development and Transformation made several appeals for democratic participation in political processes. Civil society organizations have continuously demanded for the core dimensions of democratic governance. These core dimensions are: Institutionalized participation of civil society in political processes, i.e., properly established dialogue structures, legally protected scope for participation, adequate resources, also in order to build the participatory capacities of disadvantaged social groups, and, in particular, far greater involvement of women in politics. The other dimension is transparency through full and immediate public access to information and safeguards on press freedom; and

full government accountability (by strengthening parliamentary and civil society participation in the monitoring of governmental politics).

3.4 Decision making process

Local and national leaders who are elected democratically represent the interests of their community members and ensure all government programmes are delivered as planned. This promotes the participation of marginalized groups in community processes such as promoting gender based budgeting and including disadvantaged groups in the planning process having a positive impact on the social development and economic growth of the local community. This kind of participation ensures the voices of all citizens including the poor, less privileged and the vulnerable individuals are listened to and taken into consideration during decision making processes and resource allocation.

In Africa, democratic governance is not only a precondition but also a prerequisite for development. It is increasingly becoming well established among governments and non-state actors in Africa, but also among the international donors. This kind of system supports the decision making processes based on the majority rule principle hence, ensuring the needs and rights of the disadvantaged groups are put under regular checks and balance.

3.5 Linkage between the government and the citizen:

Democratic governance is a system of popular self-government which reduces the difference between government and the governed and between the state and civil society where issues are freely discussed and are agreed on common consensus by the majority

vote. This is due to the fact that, Democratic Governance is reinforced upon a powerful, ever-changing and mutually respectful relationship between the citizens and the authorities. In both developed and developing countries, long-term stability can largely be attained by ensuring correct application and enforcement of laws, policies, rules and regulations in such a way that it deepens the quality of life for every citizen, establishes a reliable and effective connection between the government and the citizens.

3.6 Public service delivery and public management:

This is aimed at advancing the quality and efficiency of public service delivery. It focuses on decentralization and on separating policy-making and implementation functions, and encourages the use of private partners for service delivery.

African countries where democratic governance is exercised are expeditious in public service delivery because they follow strict rules of law and inclusive systems sensitive to the needs of the citizens. Good governance encourages accountability, participation, efficiency, effectiveness, rule of law in all public institutions, equality, transparency, openness in decision making, honor of the citizens, freedom of expression and free media unlike autocratic and dysfunctional governance that is not able to efficiently deliver public service due to bureaucratic operation system. Democratic governance results into responsive leadership where guiding principles, procedures, structures, rules and objectives are designed based on the true requirements and demands of the citizens and public services are delivered within the acceptable standards. Countries with good governance utilize the assigned resources in a more efficient and effective manner and public services are timely delivered.

3.7 Decentralization:

Effective public sector management is concerned with more than just improving structures and systems. It is also about bringing together civil society, the private sector and the public sector to improve service delivery and broaden citizen participation in decision-making. Bringing government closer to the people requires increased attention to decentralized and democratic local government.

Democratic governance guards against all-powerful central governments and decentralized governments to regional and local levels by making sure that all the public institutions are accessible and responsive to its citizens. It promotes a suitable environment to forge and ensure innovative ways in managing public affairs. They are promoted at the local level leading to improvement of the living condition of the citizens and mitigating conflicts since it allows the citizens to manage their affairs freely with the principles of participation, transparency, social structures, power separation, fair and transparent management of resources and the rule of law.

3.8 Accountability and transparency promotion:

It promotes accountability and transparency where decisions are made and enforced according to the set rules and regulations. This can empower the citizens at all levels to articulate their concerns and demand meaningful accountability from the public leaders and service providers. This will ensure all the people including the poor, disadvantaged groups of people and the women are empowered to claim their human rights, access justice systems and live peacefully. This can be achieved through adopting policies and strategies that promote transparent and accountable use of public resources and delivery

of public services, freely available and easily accessible information by all, simulating ethical awareness in public undertakings through regular sharing of information, enhancing accountability for the performance of those people and organizations entrusted with public resources. This leads to openness and direct forwardness in running governmental affairs, creating an enabling environment for the citizens to be part of the formulation of government policies through public free expressions in the press and adequate response from the government is got timely.

3.9 Human rights protection:

Unlike dictatorship governance, democratic governance strives to protect the rights and freedoms of their citizens from abuse. These rights include the right to life, the right to own property, the freedom of expression, the freedom to associate, the freedom to assemble, freedom of speech and religion, the right to protection under the law and to fully participate in the political, social, economic and cultural life in their communities among others. Human rights are universal principles that need to be promoted across all the countries and it should be enacted in all policies. This can be done through ensuring respect for human rights in all countries, strengthening civil society roles, enhancing democratic electorate procedures through election observation. Democratic governance increases effective advocacy for human rights, especially the rights of activists, journalists, and vulnerable groups such as women, youth and people with disabilities through provision of legal assistance and protection, training, documentation and monitoring of abuses, advocacy for a legitimate rule of law framework to safeguard human rights and improve access to justice for the most vulnerable. Promoting, respecting,

protecting and realization of human rights are great obligations of every democratic governance system.

At international, regional and national levels there are mechanisms and systems to protect and promote human rights. For example, at the regional level, Africa, America and Europe have their respective human rights treaties and courts to ensure that all states abide by the international human rights obligations. The international community is considerably acknowledging that supporting democratic governance and strengthening the government's ability to meet human rights obligations and legitimate objectives at all levels is very necessary since human rights issues and development are indivisible and interdependent. This implies that, economic, social and cultural rights should be promoted, protected and respected on an equal foundation with civil and political rights.

3.10   Control the abuse of power:

Democratic governance system can control abuse of power by separating the powers of the government arms into the legislature, executive and the Judiciary and also ensure that the arms of the government operate independently. In Uganda for example, this system is created by putting in place the Inspector of Government that is assigned with responsibility of watching over the performance of government officials in accordance with the agreed principles and ethics.

3.11   Human development:

Democratic governance accelerates human development through ensuring that the citizens enjoy political freedom and take part in the decision-making processes especially

on matters that shape their lives, protection of the people from economic and political hardships like famines, floods and conflicts and it can trigger numerous development agenda. This can be achieved through the support of political stability, provision of open space for political opposition and peaceful power hand over. Political freedom as a result of democratic governance empowers the citizens to insist on policy reforms especially on policies that can support the people to shape their lives such as social and economic opportunities expansion.

3.12   Sustainable development:

 Sustainable Development is the development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Two key concepts being that of 'needs', and in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization in the environment's ability to meet present and future needs. Based on the above discussions, it is important to note that issues like Peace, Security, Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights, and Sound Economic Management as conditions for Sustainable Development must be placed at the centre of African governments' agenda for addressing issues related to human development. SDG 16 calls for promoting "peace, justice, and strong institutions," and it is plainly related to governance, it also has important instrumental value because its achievement will aid in the attainment of all the other SDGs. Indeed, achievement of all the development goals will require a solid understanding of governance to enable more effective policies (World Development Report, 2017).

There is strong evidence that governance matters in accelerating development and in reducing poverty in most of the countries of their world. Advocates have linked the advancement of a variety of issues to improved governance. Since the end of the 1980s the issue of good governance, as instruments for sustained development and poverty reduction (alleviation), has gained widespread acknowledgement, especially among international discussion organization. It has also been dominant in the international discussion about development and international assistance to developing countries (Dr. Ram , 2017).

4.0 Challenges in Democratic Governance: -

Despite the promises of democratic governance in both developed and developing countries, there are still some hurdles that need to be overcome such as, social-economic weakness that can severely constrain democratic governance in any country in the world. The other factors include; uncontrolled corruption, embezzlement of public funds, poor natural resources management making the African region to lag behind democratic governance indicators. Some of these challenges include among others the following: -

4.1 Poverty:

Despite the large amounts of human and financial resources invested to foster democratic governance in developing countries, most of these countries have not yet achieved significant improvements in living standards. Some regions have made slight improvement on the living conditions of their citizens, but majority of the population in

Sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, are still trapped in poverty and are living below the internationally recognized absolute poverty line of one US dollar per day due to poor governance. Extreme poverty is still a reality for the majority of people in the Sub-Saharan African countries, hindering the performance of democratic governance. This is because poverty and inequalities cause weakening of the institutional bodies, misappropriation of public funds and undermining the policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and fostering sustainable development.

4.2 Inequalities:

Democratic governance cannot be successful without the involvement of the people so the principle of equality between men and women is very vital in regards to respect of human rights internationally. In most African countries both men and women have challenges in fully accessing various institutional, economic, and political sectors. This is because most people in developing countries are exposed to gross violations of human rights and are affected by discrimination in education, inequalities, unemployment and limited access to social services undermining the democratic principles which a rule of law should be built.

4.3 Corruption:

Corruption has damaging implications at all levels especially for the most vulnerable individuals. It is more than just an issue of ethics and morals but it is a legitimate issue with international concerns. It is the misuse of entrusted authority and power for personal gains; it is affects democracy, human rights and governance with negative implications

on poverty and human security. It increases transaction costs and affects economic stability since public resources are mismanaged by a few individuals hence poor service delivery and widening the gaps between the rich and the poor. Generally, corruption can be a serious hindrance to democracy; electoral crime is one of the devastating patterns of corruption which affects the democratic governance implementation. It obliterates transparency, good governance systems and it impacts negatively on the accountability principles hence, undermining the economic growth, increasing national debt, failing development project and increasing the poverty levels among the population.

4.4 Unfair election system:

Free and fair election is at the heart of democratic governance but the electoral institutions have faced a number of challenges in organizing free and fair elections especially in developing countries. For instance, in Uganda the electoral commission officials are appointed by the president and it is funded by the state making its independence and ability to organize free and fair election doubtful. And yet democratic governance advocates for change of government through free and fair competitive elections and allows peaceful power transitions. There is inadequate civic education among citizens and civil society organization resulting into low participation of the people in political activity at national and local levels. This is made worse by low female participation, week governance procedure and lack of credible electoral commissions.

4.5 Freedom of press:

In most of the African states, there has been serious decline in the press freedom according to the freedom in the world 2015. Authoritarian government systems have continued to use legal pressure, imprisonment and other forms of abuse to subdue freedom of expression where journalists have been imprisoned or forced to go into exile in Sub-Saharan Africa. Consequently, democratic governance cannot be in a situation where the freedom of expression is constrained.

A photo of an officer harassing a female journalist (left) and (right) a police officer tightly squeezes the neck of a journalist in Kampala(Photo by Katumba Badru)

(Badru, 2019)

4.6 Mismanagement of public affairs:

Governance and administration of public affairs has of late become like one man's business where very simple cases like land conflicts at village levels are brought directly to the attention of the executives for handling. This kind of arrangement affects the institutional fabric rendering the public institutions weak and causing weak democratic governance through bureaucratic rule, lack of civic responsibility and breakdown of consensus .This hampers the service delivery rate in the country. Lack of transparency and accountability, unchecked discretion of public officials and lack of ethical standards in public administration due to weak democratic governance system increases the opportunity for corruption. This leads to decline in the public revenues generated where state resources are lost through resource diversion. Lower revenues mean less money for governments to respond to the needs of society, which particularly affect the poor.

4.7 Civil wars and Conflicts:

Another challenge is related to leadership, representation and inclusiveness in democratic governance. In some countries, there are increasing issues related to radical religious pressure and ethnic groups emerging from exclusion from political engagement. In most developing countries, some parliamentarians have exercised their lawful mandates effectively while others have failed to meet the expectations of the masses due to their egocentric nature to the extent that, some of the politicians are only interested in meeting their own short term objectives at the expense of the electorates. This will result into wars, civil strife and proliferation of light weapons which may negatively impact on the achievement of sustainable development and the promotion of democratic

governance. Democratic governance is disabled due to on-going conflicts and the post-conflicts when countries are facing recovery and development promotion challenges such as peace-building initiatives.

4.8 Untrusted and dependent judiciary:

There is also a challenge of trusted and independent judiciary especially on the power separation among the three arms of government which include; the executive, legislature and the judiciary. In Uganda still, the Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, Principal Judge, Justice of Appeal and Justice of High court are all appointed by the President with guidance from the Judicial Service Commission and approved by Parliament. This therefore is likely to create a tendency of dependency and being biased on legal matters associated with the state and the government may interfere a lot on the decisions

enforced by the court thus, undermining the rate of democracy in such countries.

Owiny Dollo Alphonso appointed by President Museveni as the Chief Justice of Uganda (Photo credit: Nile Post)

4.9 Weak and inadequate institutions:

Most developing countries are still facing several democratic challenges including institutional management and governing bodies to democratic administration of elections. Democratic governance change is not only the responsibility of politicians but it is the responsibility, mandate and willingness of the general population. But electoral democracy is dominated by the rich people seeking political posts and the poor have continued to suffer and face oppression to the extent that, the electorate is only seen as

important people during election period. To resolve this democratic governance systemic problem, then the general public should be willingness to fight it.

4.10   Rule of law:

There is lack of respect for the rule of law and human rights by the African leaders and citizens which causes instabilities. This is made worse by the handicapped structural situation of the judiciary due to a number of factors like inadequate funding. It is consequently affecting the principles of human rights respect, promotion of democracy and governance which are the pillars of a legitimate government so every government must ensure to enhance social dialogue and create an enabling environment for economic growth and development.

4.11   Abuse of Term Limits:

Some African leaders tend to extend their stay in power by manipulating all avenues that can make them stay in power for a longer period of time. For instance, Burundi Present Pierre Nkurunziza attempted to extent his stay in power beyond the constitutionally-mandated limit in 2015. In Uganda the age limit was adjusted so as to favor the incumbent President in 2017. This often undermines the principles of democratic governance.

 In most cases in developing countries, the leaders are selected through electoral fraud making them use coercive forces during their terms in the office. They often tend to cling to power opposing any efforts to bring on board democratic governance leading to curbing people's freedom and thus abuse of basic human rights. Such leaders will try to use their power in whatever form to remain in power thus promoting dishonest, corrupt and

unaccountable practices which undermine the democratic governance principles of accountability and transparency. Embezzlement of public financial resources for personal gains has become a norm for those with access to national assets and corruption and is used as a way of complementing the meager salaries and in-directly acquiring the share of the national cake by some public servants.

5.0 The way forward

Much as Developing countries have taken the entire necessary step to achieve sustainable development, developing countries specifically the African countries are still facing a number of challenges that need to be urgently handled to enhance prosperous governance so as to attain sustainable development in all the sectors. Some of the action points that needs to be adopted include; further betterment of the public sector management and delivery, adequate financing, building the capacity of the human resources, ICT adoption in public sector so as to improve the local authority functions, promotion efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability principles among others as discussed below.

5.1 Civil service reform (CSR):

This is developing the capacity of the civil service to fulfill its mandate through streamlining the recruitment and promotion, remuneration, number of employees and performance appraisal. It is connected to human resources in the public sector, including their professional development, wages and conditions so as to create a workforce of the right size and skills mix, and with the right motivation, professional ethos, client focus and

accountability. This is by ensuring the public servants are trained on ethics, integrity, citizen-centered service delivery and good leadership

5.2 Improving the efficiency and accountability:

Another aspect of democratic governance is the improvement of the efficiency and accountability of the public sector as essential elements of a framework within which economy can prosper and democracy is promoted. Democratic governance is primarily concerned with transparency of decision-making and policy implementation through disclosure and adequate operative measures of public accountability. When preparing the public budget, it has to determine the origin and application of the financial resources as it is critical in the process of governance. It ensures the representation of the people and approving the increase of taxation and management of public funds that is important in achieving a prosperous and democratic state. This will promote public institutions that serve the all the citizens within reasonable time frame based on their needs and public resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.

5.3 Public resources management:

Good management of public resources forms an integral part of democratic governance; the public action of the government should take the form of strategic plans that should be reflected in the public budget. Public systems and policies should encourage appropriate resource allocation, provision of efficient cash management and good monitoring systems so as to establish and sustain a democratic state. African countries need to undertake reform imitative in the enhancement of the capacity of the public service through the

provision of adequate incentives to public servants so as to retain qualified and motivated staff, increase performance and accountability and fight corruption that has become a serious problem in public offices. There is also need to adopt ICT in government in order to increase and improve service delivery.

5.4 Gender participation in development:

Government should enforce effective involvement of women in development process by ensuring adequate access to information, capacity building of the women to take up political positions and abolishing of some of the imposed cultural practices that prevent women from taking part in the developmental process. Women are rarely well represented in middle and senior management in public administrations in developing countries (or, for that matter, in many developed countries) even where some senior politicians are women. Many governments pay lip service to greater gender equality. However, few reform programs include serious efforts to increase the presence of women in senior positions through such measures as training for women, family-friendly workplace rules and gender sensitization. Achieving gender equity may involve becoming aware of gender biases and re-examining longstanding attitudes, beliefs and practices.

5.5 Policy reforms:

There is need for global governance policy reforms for all national policies, especially in regards to the theories of sustainable development, human development, social development and the role of gender in development with the relationship to the importance of females in development policy. This will require the engagement of civil

societies especially in the developing world so that development policies formulated are inclusive in nature. For example, it is part of the governing policy reform process in enacting the educational policy like Universal Primary Education and No Child Left behind Act to ensure that all the children achieve basic education which is vital in shaping the world.

5.6 Inclusive policies:

There is need for inclusive policies that will enable the voice of opposition parties and disadvantaged groups like women, children, people with disabilities and other minority groups to be heard in order to build a sustainable democratic system. Countries need to adopt the inclusive policies that discourages frustrated citizens from resorting to rebellion, violence, war and conflicts as ways to express their disappointment so as to avoid insecurity. This is because adequate security can be a prerequisite for all institutions to establish democratic systems. Generally, inclusive policies can promote a society where people's opinions are respected and policies are designed basing on the interest of the all community members including the marginalize groups.

Politically elected leaders should be willing to represent their people for example, parliamentarians are representatives of their constituencies and they are indebted to serve the interest of their people at any cost.

5.7 Independent Judiciary:

Need for independent judiciary with adequate and reliable funding, good remuneration of the staff, transparent recruitment of professional staff, modernization of the court system

and frequent training for the staff so as to ensure the rule of law is respected by all. And also the legal and judiciary systems must be transformed by ensuring adequate professional are recruited, ICT adopted in the judicial departments and they should be provided with adequate financial resources. This will help in the monitoring of human right and robust democratic governance.

5.8 Electoral reforms:

Elections are a means for people to choose their leaders and government as a way of presenting legitimacy on the political system electoral bodies, political parties and other duty-bearers to interpret factors such as poverty, gender, age, ethnicity and disability which perpetuate discrimination. This can be attained through women empowerment and gender equality promotion through electoral processes. Much as most countries in Africa particularly have made a lot of adjustments in the electoral bodies, there is need for adequate professional personnel, funds and technology. So, the capacity of the electoral system should be improved for sound democratic governance process during elections and to ensure smooth and transparent power hand over from one government to another.

The AU should consider passing a declaration similar to the one debated by ECOWAS that would set clear expectations for respecting term limits. AU leaders should also publicly condemn any attempts to change, circumvent or violate established term limits, just as they do when military coups take place in the region.

5.9 Streamlining the multiparty system:

Due to democratic governance system, there has been emergence of a number of political parties in many African countries that is good for democracy. But this can be so frustrating to the electorates if the political parties have almost the same objectives, policies and manifestos. There is an urgent need to streamline and modify the multiparty systems for effective democratic governance.

5.10 Fight against corruption:

Leaders should continue taking tougher measures in the fight against corruption and embezzlement in public and private sectors. This can be achieved by providing adequate financial resources, professional human resources and improving on the remuneration for the staff of the established institutions for fighting corruption. If these instituitions established to combat corruption are strengthen, there it will enhance reliable democratic governance.

National governments are becoming more responsive and responsible to the citizens as they are well equipped and empowered to challenges in the efficiency of national governments, this again promotes good governance. Since, democratic governance refers to governing systems which are capable, responsive, inclusive and transparent. All developed and developing countries need to work towards better governance. Improving good governance means, including more people in decision making

6.0 Conclusion and Summary:

Both developing and developed countries should include efforts to strengthen democracy and governance in their development agenda and integration strategies since democratic governance is essential for sustainable development and multidimensional procedures like social-economic and political transformation of societies. It enhances human development in all dimensions such as political and economic freedoms. All countries should strive to achieve long term sustainable development in terms of environmental, structural, financial, economic and social perspectives in order to meet the needs of the future generations by taking into account their democratic governance principles. Democratic governance alongside peaceful transformation and conflict resolution should be integrated into the education curriculum at all levels.

Democratic governance is indispensable when it comes to smooth running of development programs through its application in all public and private sector aspects of human activity and democratic transparency. There is no specific framework of democratic governance, it is promoted through decentralization and it varies from country to country based on the levels of citizen involvement in the matters that shape their lives. And democratic governance is not only restricted in holding elections and efficient public management but issues including human right respects, freedom of expression, promotion of gender equality, rejection of all forms of discrimination against the people in both private and public sectors are all prerequisites for democratic governance. And no single country in the world can have a credible public authority without transforming its governance system and ensuring effective and efficient public institution.

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