

THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE EAST AFRICAN PEOPLE CENTRED
SOVEREIGNTY AND EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:
CASE STUDY OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY INTEGRATION
PROCESS

by

Okech Sylvia Adhiambo

A thesis presented to the School of Arts and Humanities

of

Daystar University

Nairobi, Kenya

In partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTERS OF ARTS

in Diplomacy, Development and International Security

November 2018

APPROVAL

THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE EAST AFRICAN PEOPLE CENTRED SOVEREIGNTY AND EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: CASE STUDY OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PROCESS

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In accordance with Daystar University policies, this thesis is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree.

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DECLARATION

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I declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been submitted to any other college or university for academic credit.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work is without a doubt a product of the efforts of many people. I am especially grateful to my supervisor, Prof. Korwa Gombe Adar, who took this study with purpose and singularity. The door to his office was always open whenever there were challenges or questions. He consistently provided timely feedback and suggestions, while allowing the thesis to be my own work. My appreciation also goes to the department lecturers, whose classes changed to my convenience. Special acknowledgement goes to Dr. Mercy Kaburu, for providing invaluable insight and motivation to enable me complete this work. Many thanks are to my family, Anthony who has been my support in running errands and I will be forever grateful. To my mother, Dr. Mollent Okech, you are my world. You never let me give up and you have served as a leader. Thanks for providing unfailing financial and emotional support.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCM	Chama Cha Mapinduzi
CUF	Civic United Front
EAC	East African Community
EACJ	East African Court of Justice
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
ECOWAS	The Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FDC	Forum of Democratic Change
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MLAs	Members of the Legislative Assembly
MPs	Members of Parliament
NCCR	The National Convention for Construction and Reform
USIU	United States International University

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the coherence between the East African people-centred sovereignty and East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). Its objectives were to; establish the process of election of members to the EALA and assess the extent to which the process of election of members of the EALA was people-centred. The research adopted the descriptive research design as well as a case study design. The target population was East African Community (EAC) university students, particularly from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The sample size consisted of sixty students from the three member states. The study also included liaison officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya. The primary data was collected through questionnaires and one-on-one interviews with the participants of the study. Quantitative data was analysed using descriptive analysis procedures including frequencies and percentages, while qualitative data was analysed using content analysis. In regard to the extent to which the election of members to EALA was people centred, 3% of the respondents stated that it was at all not people centred, 38% indicated it was to a small extent, 52% stated it was to a moderate extent and 7% to a great extent. In regard to the process of electing EALA members, 52% of the respondents stated that members were nominated by political parties in their countries, 31% indicated that their presidents directly nominated individuals of their choice, 12% stated that national assemblies nominated members by evaluation of their capabilities through presentation and majority vote, while on 5% respondents indicated that the civil Societies had a role in nominating members to EALA. The study concluded that people centred sovereignty in relation to their participation in the process of election of members to the EALA vis-à-vis the EAC integration process was to a moderate extent. The study recommended that EAC member states should continue to explore more avenues of creating awareness to their citizens towards improving participatory decision making.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to all people who supported me throughout the journey as a student. Special thanks to my family, especially my mother, DR. Mollet Akinyi, for her constant financial and moral support. Above all, I thank God for bringing this far. While we sometimes fail, giving up is optional.

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