

Role of Southern African Development Community (SADC) of Political Integration of SADC Region

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Abstract

Integration of political system also includes the inclusion of political mechanism it is the combination of social economic and human system within political system. always with that it also integrates the social, political, and economic network. these three dimensions are most important for the political integration. In any integration Inner sense is always connectedness. universal characteristics of integration is relationship and machinery of all system line social physical and living conditions.

Introduction

Idea of political integration is concludingly old, but 20 centuries is within of the concept Foundation. these were different type of political system; Empire constitution thoughts power made a Centre to the surrounding from political Association. Alliance can be also traced in the past which were beyond the familiar, class and villages. in 21st century this is a new idea of sharing power with the neighbourhoods. important powerful countries were live for example Russia, Australia, Canada, and USA in the oldest among all these. treaties such as NATO is also the part of political integration for the security. the social structures live churches, university, school, and families were based on shared decision-making process.

The notion of a political structure elevated the interrogation of the degree and the dynamic force of its integration. Its toward from universal concepts of political structure established back in the 1970s by hard work "to bring the nation back in political discipline rather than seeing the nation as one kind of a variety of political structure".

Role of SADC in Political Integration of Southern Africa

In 1992, SADC established as a regional organization with a mandate to promote economic and political integration, poverty alleviation, peace, security, human rights democracy and free or fair election in the region and the evolution of traditional political values, good governance, and institutions. There were grand expectations that the demise of apartheid and the Cold War would usher in a period of sustained stability and development at national and regional levels. Over the

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subsequent decade, the SADC region remained wracked by an elevated level of conflict that involved civil disputes in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Angola, state repression in Zimbabwe, and violence in many other countries. SADC was mostly ineffectual in these situations, distinguished less by its peace-making efforts than by its fractious internal quarrels. The formation of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security - a collective security regime whose stipulated functions include the prevention and resolution of inter- and intra-state conflict - was itself bedevilled by acrimonious disputes among member states over a long time. Perversely, a vehicle intended to promote confidence had precisely the opposite effect. But Today's SADC is playing a very crucial role in the southern African region like making of peace, security, and fast conflict resolving mechanism.

Strengthening and Promoting of Democracy

"Democracy" denotes 'a system of government based on the honour of the rule of constitution; in which all citizens of a country enjoy fundamental rights and liberties; and are fully involved in decision-making processes about matters concerning their welfare, typically by electing their representatives at all levels of government, supporting a free and comprehensive electoral system.'

Politics and Diplomacy

The RISDP reaffirms the promise of SADC member states to secure political, economic, and corporate governance enroached in a culture of democracy, whole participation by civil society, transparency, and regard for the rule of constitution. Organ on politics, defence and security Cooperation is the prime institutional device for developing and sustaining peace and confidence in the region and the harmonized strategic plan for the organ (SIPO) second gives the institutional Framework for the periodic implementation of the organ's targets.

- Defend people of the region against uncertainty arising from the dispute and Support.
- political cooperation amid the Member States.
- Development of shared political values and systems.
- Strengthen democratic organs and recognize universal human rights.
- Peace-making potential construction for world-wide or regional peace keeping
- Actions.

Peace and Security

The Southern African countries have for periods been growing and promote regional collaboration in the defence area. This collaboration that reinforced the creation of the inter - state defence and security committee in 1977, it is forum for defence and security collaboration.

Article 3 of the security pact says that "state parties shall, admitting with the principles of the Charter of the UNO, resolve any international controversy in which they may be involved, by nonviolent means, in such a way that regional and international peace, security and justice are improved". Article

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6 talks about "an armed attack against a State Party recognizes as a threat for regional peace and security and such an assault faced with urgent collective action." By approving the Mutual Defence Pact Member, states agreed to:

- Attempting to strengthen peace, security, confidence, and well-being of peoples.
- Determined to protect and safeguard the sovereignty of our peoples and their culture.
- As well as their rights and the authority of law.
- Satisfied that confidential cooperation in subjects of defence and security will be to
- The mutual benefit of our peoples
- Having Resolved to strengthen our efforts towards collective self-defence and the
- Protection of peace and stability.

Human Rights and Gender Justice

SADC identifies gender justice as a basic finding of human right and an essential component for integrated region, financial extension, and socio – politic development. SADC is committed to eliminating all patterns of gender discrimination and unethical practices, SADC get support world-wide obligatory institutes for example UNO, IMF, WORLD BANK, ADB, BRICS, and AFRICAN UNION. All these super nation bodies give the direction and instructs for removing barriers on women.

SADC associated members are committed to reduce gender inequality in the region thru the obligatory rulebook on gender justice, such as the convention on elimination of all patterns and several types of discriminants against the women, its declaration ratified in March 2004. In this milestone many declarations and acts are approved and work hard for woman welfare and development. Some of declaration are mentioned below:

- Dakar platform for action (1994)
- Declaration on gender sand development and its addendum on the prevention and
- Annihilation of brutality against woman and children (1998)
- African charter on human rights or the rights of women in Africa (2003)
- Millennium development goals (2000)
- Sustainable development goals (2015)
- Regional inductive strategic plan (2005 – 2020)

The declaration targets super – imposed on the associated countries to:

- Improve woman's participation in politics and decision-making process
- Discourse, prevent and abolish brutality against woman and children
- Promote woman and girl's education
- Reform all biased social customs

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- Encourage women's full access and control on productive resources such as land,
- Livestock, and bazaars.

Also, SADC committed to achieve maximum level and admiration of the rights of women in the region and implement the policies obligatory nature. SADC develop a roadmap on gender justice in 1999, its revised and include or describe the issues and challenges and align with RISDP in 2005. The develop a framework of a regional gender policies and set an agenda for providing strategic direction to SADC or associated countries to reaching the determination of declaration.

Today's, SADC has developed in terms of expansion of national policy on gender justice, guidelines, framework, action plan and rulebook to address gender inequality and connect to woman in mainstream, gender education, health, women empowerments are overseeing at national and international level.

After challenging work of SADC many issues are arising and political will is short to obligation achievements. Many of developing threat are increase poverty, food scarcity, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based viciousness in the region. This SADC gender policy has been forming to provide reliable- sound, the coherent and strategic mechanism for achieving the objects of the announcement. It is a document to classifies gender-based difficulties and indicates the decisive action to discourse and eliminate in the region. The SGP planning to facilitate, and implementation of the SADC gender justice promises and framework for regional gender policy (RGP) implementation action plan.

Good Governance and Political Stability in the SADC Region

Democratic government leads to political-economic stability and gain fruitful development. After the arrival of re-launching of multi – party democracy, collective essential gains, encouraging good governance, constitutional rule in SADC associated countries. Despite a lot of success to be done to advance development and formation of democratic environment through the harmonized process of elections. SADC parliamentary forum is achieved significant success to conduction elections and reporting positively in Namibia, Mozambique, Mauritius, and Zimbabwe. Periodical election is fruitfully conducted in every five years but in some time its change in peaceful manner or re-elected government.

Certainly, maximum countries are executing, improvement in supervision of a chain for peaceful democratic environment. Also, some time parliamentary election balanced and reflect in broad sense of the diverse shades of opinion and one party or dictatorial rules are amended into constitution and people elected rule.

Unfortunately, even though neither law and not the election systems or the performance of maximum institutions have been unclear for the newly comer multiparty democratic environment. Level of the

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humanity for challenging opinions are too low as well as the woman empowerment thru political participation and role in decision making.

Additionally, a lot remains are found in executing and strengthening democratic atmosphere, is guarantee for elections and legal framework are going independently. That time, there is still needed to discourse problems concerning to straightening all SADC nation contesting in the fair election process, adequate subsidy of political parties, insufficient admittance to state-owned media and election-related viciousness. Some democratic countries of region have obliged as role replicas of democratic government for the last three decades, these are countries Botswana and Mauritius are achieved remarkable economic advantages. Also, new democratic countries are emerged in 1990 in the part of southern Africa so these newly comer countries brought new political system or practices to promote legislate election and electoral mechanism for example autonomous electoral commission for elected government and democratic sprits, concept of fundamental rights, transparency in governance, public administration, parliamentary forms of governments, and concepts of constitutionalism (report EISA).

The role of SADC parliamentary forum in emergence of multi - party politics has remarkable and free and fair electoral process and observation mission are helping to improve in the region. Observation missions achieve the significant or notable targets are pave the forum nature, its aim is fear less, fairness, freeness, openness, and transparent elections are held in region. Despite, the long term targets the long-term goal is used as teachings and knowledge are helped to strengthen democratic process and transparency in the associated counties thru election observation mission. Besides, it is supposed for observation will help and deliver an election conducting guidelines thru parliamentary forum in the region. SADC Parliamentary forum targeted for strengthening and improving old fashioned structure for electoral tools and established democratic practice and consequently demising arguments over the conclusion of elections between contesting political groups.

Elections and Government

(a) Commitment for Multi - Party Politics, and Democracy

Elections and governance are very interconnected, so both are playing an essential role in the development of nations. If these are not going in specific ways than that nation is not serving as a proper democracy. The problem of SADC nation is this; Governments have projection co-operation responsibility for multi - party politics, democratic atmosphere. Some common issues are arising like misuse of governments resources, state - finding media, and delay to announcement of election dates. The survival and triumphs of democracy and multi - party politics are depending on governments confidence, small extent, exercise for democratic culture, political parties' investors food will, and collective understanding to nation building. Also acknowledge the viewpoints and values or practices of opposition parties and live harmonise co-existing are essentials for peace full and complete

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prosperity atmosphere in the region.

Remedies for these problems are depending on the vital role of the SADC in southern Africa for example, all associated members are well understanding the concepts of pluralistic multi party politics and democratic culture and role of constitution to promoting lifestyle or development of peoples in the region. Second is all investors should be obliged or committed to promote the democratic culture in the region, because after the political stability comes the economic stability, and encourage and improve the investment in the region, for industrialization benefits.

(b) Public Resources and Funding

In most countries ruling party and its government attempt an unfair advantage over opposition parties through the utilization of public funds and assets for its political exercises, individually meeting campaign expenditures. When opposition parties get a percentage of public funds, there are accusations that such funds are inadequate, payment is delayed and given at the will of the ruling party to the disadvantage of opposition parties. The solution of these obstacles is the willingness of SADC nations to be the pursuit of good governance for peoples. In the interest of planning conditions for a stable playing field for all political parties and strengthening the sincerity of the electoral process, parties should not use public funds in the electoral process. The electoral law should restrain the Government from aiding or from promoting any party gaining an unfair benefit and government should be responsible for the use of public resource or funding's.

(c) Media and Government

In the most of SADC countries have owned media house are established by government and these nations are used for owned benefits. Also, media create an imbalance culture, around the investors, opposition parties and ruling parties, so media miss guide the citizen for ruling parties. It contributes to create lack of transparency thru selected reporting instruments. the ruling party are granting some time slot on media for opposition parties. It contributes to a lack of transparency through selective reporting but in the contemporary time appearance of an energetic corporate or private media denote and play a key role to balance in political reporting for opposition groups and ruling groups. The solution of these issues is governments should be promoting the private sector or corporate media, it creates healthy atmospheres and industry culture for media investors. Private media is formation of good Governance so electoral reporting and public issues are come on the surface and dealing with positive results.

The solution is, Governments should take the emergence of private media as a healthy development in the institutionalization of the democratic process, the conduct of elections and moreover, the role of civil society, in election monitoring and civic education, should be SADC recognized by Governments.

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Promote Electoral Transparency and Integrity

The transparency mention and create the level of openness and fairness in the electoral process. It is a confidence building standard for election, its help and encourage the people. Also important for minority peoples those voice is not up lifts against the non – minority peoples, political parties participate with the accountability or honesty in the election process because every vote is crucial for nation building.

In the circumstances of votes or elections, the appearance “level playing field” introduces a demand because election rule and regulation are work and apply independently of all peoples or political parties and contesting candidates. Another requirement is election commission is dealing with responsibility of honestly and intensify the voting transparency.

Moreover, elections conducting process has a judgemental attitude, so its basic need is free and fairness process. These problems are including:

- SADC used Cumbersome methods, use of violence and brutality, absence of knowledge and other means are used to restrain entities from applying “their right to vote and be voted” to outrage the issue of opposition party candidates are die or threaten and confidentiality of ballots.
- Corruption of electoral commission and unethical practices and pro ruling nature
- Voting behaviour parents some issues such as polling station are locates and remotes are of peoples are far ways, wooden ballot boxes and unethical practice of voting counting.

Consolidation election institutes, transforming old-fashioned authorized structures and democratic follows, and fortifying the self-governing progression in the manner of votes are all necessary components for foster transparency, equalize the honourable assure for fair and fearless elections. That is in crack most significant political establishments and will help to promote and strengthen financial development. Strategy indicators to encourage clearness solidarity and integrating electoral process are together required this solution:

- Promote the human right and fundamental right of people and non-discriminatory voter registration, and nomination practices, and uplift the right to vote and privacy.
- Highlight the disadvantages and prevent the women and peoples form them.
- Transform the election process and law and give an ideal code of conduct and follow the.
- Established free and independent electoral mechanism and boundary delimitation
- commission on electoral behaviour.
- Develop and promote electoral benches to implement electoral regulations to deal with promptly, and elections crimes and vicious accusations.

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- Acknowledge process of observation to systematize multi – party politics and use democracy as an instrument to convince governments building and promote constitutional elections.

The Role of the SADC Parliamentary Forum in Election Observation

The Forum has been feeling problems in some member nations in reverence of timely accreditation; uncertainty about who has authority to call the Forum to observe the Elections; and the stakeholders shared a common perception of how the lessons from examining elections. A puzzle also survives and sustain the region because the deficiency of a regional institution can support and resolve the electoral disputes.

Recommendation of the SADC forum is:

- The parliamentary forum must proceed in observation of election to strengthening peace and sustainable democratic structure in the region.
- Observation mission must be examining the per – election voting and post – election periods such as voter registration process and privacy of voters. Also, Secretariat shall determine the timing of pre – election and post – elections.
- The forum is most be extensively broadcast the report election observation missions and result of elections.
- All government of SADC countries are given supports to SADC forum in the election observation missions and examination of ballots papers without un – necessary.
- Follow the SADC declaration and support and encourage the minimum 30 % participation of women in the parliamentary bodies, and planning or decision-making fields.

The improve and reforms of all frameworks and laws that prevent the complete participation of women in electoral process and supervision of elections. And finally, every and each recommending are automatically fulfilling or consolidates the need and demands to improve and planned the role of women in the governance of SADC countries.

Conclusion

In the majority of SADC countries have lack of capacity building mechanism and resource management. Today's SADC should do a universal policy making and implementing vehicle of southern African nations. Democratic governance is significant for policy implementation, so SADC summit of head of government is playing a vital role for “one region one policy and one ruling mechanism” implementation system developing. Self-governing bodies represents to political peace

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and socio- economic benefits or stability. Later, the beginning of relaunching of multi-party democracy, people elected government, free and fair electoral, people choice-based policy and full participation of people in nation building schemes, and these aims are enough for promoting democracy and achieving significant benefits for SADC region.

The transparency of voting systems and encourage sincere people's involvement is a fundamental pillar of democratic government. So, developments and political betterment of SADC region, SADC'S major initiatives are very prominent of political integration like the whole region is flooring by elected and democratic government, SADC and South Africa do best for the area if both are committed for paving of good governance in the region. The above recommendations on norms and standards in conducting plural and multi-party elections, adopted, and implemented by the SADC Governments, would undoubtedly go a long way to entrenching a democratic culture, in minimizing conflict and contributing to political stability and peaceful development in Southern Africa.

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