

**THE ROLE OF CONSTITUENCY OFFICES IN ENHANCING
DEMOCRACY AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT AND THEIR ELECTORATES: THE CASE OF KABWATA
CONSTITUENCY**

BY

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**A report submitted to the University of Zambia in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of Master of Communication for Development**

THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

LUSAKA

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Declaration

I make the declaration that this report has not been submitted for a degree at the University of Zambia or any other university before.

Name.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Certificate of Approval

Supervisor.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Acknowledgements

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Dedication

I dedicate this degree to the two dearest people in my life. These are my parents Mr. Martin Fundweta Limata and Mrs. Alexina Malungwe Limata. May God continue to watch over them.

Abstract

This study sought to examine the role of Kabwata Constituency Office in enhancing democracy and communication between the Member of Parliament and the constituents in Kabwata, Lusaka. The constituency offices were established as part of the parliamentary reforms which the National Assembly embarked on with the re-introduction of Multi-party democracy in 1991. The offices aim at improving the constituent-Member relations and also to enhance the representative functions of Members of Parliament.

The study was done using in depth interviews with two key stakeholders and a quantitative survey method of 100 constituents selected using clustered methodology.

The results from the study revealed that majority of the people knew of the existence of the office. However, despite this only very few had visited the constituency office. The study further revealed that this could be attributed to the lack of adequate sensitisation programmes on the existence and purpose of the office. The study revealed that more still needs to be done if the offices are to fully serve their intended purpose. The study further revealed that there was need to engage the people so that they fully understand their role in the operations of the constituency office. Enhanced sensitisation campaigns therefore, need to be undertaken. This also calls for enough resources to be allocated to the constituency offices in order for them to be able to carry out sensitisation campaigns.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item	Page
Declaration	ii
Certificate of Approval	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
Dedication	v
Abstract	vi
Table of Contents	vii
List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xiii
List of Abbreviations	xiv

CHAPTER ONE-INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 General Overview of Zambia	4
1.2 Population	4
1.3 Languages	5
1.4 Administration	6
1.5 Religion	6
1.6 Political Background	6
1.7 Economy	7
1.8 Poverty	7

1.9 Overview of the Zambian Parliament	8
1.9.1 Location	8
1.9.2 Historical Development of the Zambian Parliament	9
1.10 Overview of Kabwata Constituency	11
1.10.1 Location	11
1.10.2 Population	11
1.11 Functions of Parliamentary Constituency Offices	12
1.12 Benefits of Parliamentary Constituency Offices	13
1.13 The role of the citizenry in the operations of the Constituency Offices	15
1.14 Problem Statement	15
1.15 Rationale for the study	15
1.16 Objectives	
1.16.1 General Objective	17
1.16.2 Specific Objectives	17
1.17 Research Questions	17
1.18 Hypothesis	18
1.19 Scope of the study	18
1.20 Ethical Considerations	18
1.21 Limitations of the study	18

CHAPTER TWO- LITERATURE REVIEW

Study by Caritus Zambia on the pilot project of Constituency Offices	20
----------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Study by Caritas Zambia on the extent to which Constituency Offices were answering to the connectivity needed between the electorate and parliament and the MPs on the other hand	21
Strengthening parliamentary democracy in SADC Countries, 2005 Zambia Country Report	22
The Low Road to Democratic Reform: Constituency Offices, Public Service Provision and Citizen Engagement	23

CHAPTER THREE-CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.0 Introduction	26
3.1 Conceptual definitions	26
3.1.1 Democracy	26
3.1.2 Communication	28
3.1.3 Participatory Development	28
3.2 Main Theory	
3.2.1 Participatory Communication Theory	29
3.3 Other theories supporting the main theory	
3.3.1 Participatory Communication Appraisal	30
3.3.2 Uses and Gratification Theory	31

CHAPTER FOUR- METHODOLOGY

4.0 Introduction	33
------------------	----

4.1 Research Methods	33
4.1.1 Quantitative Survey	33
4.1.2 In Depth Interview	34
4.1.3 Document Review of the visitor's register	34
4.2 Population	34
4.3 Sample Size	35
4.4 Sampling Procedure	35
4.5 Method of data gathering	35
4.6 Data analysis	35

CHAPTER FIVE: RESEARCH FINDINGS

5.0 Introduction	37
5.1 Quantitative Survey	37
5.2 Qualitative Survey	51
5.2.1 In depth interviews	51
5.2.2 Statistical Review of the visitor's register	54

CHAPTER SIX: DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

6.0 Introduction	56
6.1 Awareness of the constituents on the existence and purpose of the Constituency Office	56
6.2 Levels of utilisation and effectiveness of the office in responding	

to the needs of the constituents	58
6.3 Extent to which people of different sex are aware of the existence of the Constituency Office	60
6.4 Interaction of the MP and the constituents before and after the introduction of the Constituency Offices	61
6.5 Extent to which the Constituency Office remain politically neutral	63
6.6 Nature of the channels and messages used by the MP to communicate with the constituents	63

CHAPTER SEVEN: RECOMMENDATIONS, FUTURE RESEARCH AND CONCLUSION

7.0 Introduction	66
7.1 Recommendations	66
7.2 Future Research	67
7.3 Conclusion	68

<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i>	69
----------------------------	-----------

<i>APPENDICES</i>	73
--------------------------	-----------

List of Tables

	Page
Population of Kabwata Constituency according to the 2010 Census	11
Distribution of questionnaires	33
Do you know your Member of Parliament	35
Do you know the role of a Member of Parliament	36
Do you know of the Constituency Office	36
What do you think is the purpose of the Constituency Office	37
How is notification on the activities and operations of the Constituency Office done	38
How would you prefer notifications on the operations of the operations of the Constituency Office done	39
Has the office been an access point for communication about problems of the community	40
Has the office been an access point for learning from the Member of Parliament and the office about new ideas, programmes and new ways of doing things	40
Does the Member of Parliament give answers to questions through the office	40
Have you ever visited the Constituency Office	41
If your answer to question 22 is No, why	42
What was the nature of your visit	43
Who did you meet at the Constituency Office	43

To what extent were you satisfied with the Constituency Office in meeting your expectation when you visited	44
To what extent has the Constituency Office enhanced communication between the constituents and the MP	45
To what extent was the communication between the MP and the constituents before the opening of the Constituency Office	45
Do you know your MP	46
Do you know of the Constituency Office	47
Have you ever visited the Constituency Office	48
If your answer to question 22 is No, why	57
To what extent has the Constituency Office enhanced Communication between the constituents and the MP	59
To what extent was the communication between the MP and the constituents before the opening of the constituency office	59

List of Figures

	Page
Map of Zambia	5
Parliament Buildings	8
Map of Lusaka District	14

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANC	African National Congress
ARC	African Representative Council
BSAC	British South African Company
CCJDP	Catholic Centre for Justice, Development and Peace
CSO	Central Statistical Office
ECZ	Electoral Commission of Zambia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
LCMS	Living Conditions Monitory Survey
MMD	Movement for Multi-party Democracy
MP	Member of Parliament
NPP	National Progressive Party
PRMC	Parliamentary Reform and Modernisation Committee
PRP	Parliamentary Reform Programme
PF	Patriotic Front
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIP	United National Independence Party