FACTORS THAT HINDER PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUTH IN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ZAMBIA

By

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Dissertation submitted to the University of Zambia in partial fulfilment of the requirement for award of the degree of Master of Arts in Political Science

The University of Zambia

Lusaka

2018
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DECLARATION

I, do hereby declare that this dissertation represents my own original work and that it has not been previously submitted for a degree, or any other qualification at this or any other university.

Signature……………………………………… Date………………………………………
APPROVAL

This dissertation, titled “Factors that hinder participation of the youth in national leadership of political parties in Zambia”, has been approved as partial fulfillment of the requirement of the award of the degree of Master of Arts in Political Science by the University of Zambia.

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ABSTRACT

Zambia is a multi-party democracy with many political parties in existence with a population that is predominantly young, but the youth are generally hindered from holding leadership positions at national level of these political parties. Opportunities for the youth to take up national leadership positions in the political parties are very few or non-existent.

This dissertation focuses on establishing and analyzing the factors that hinder participation of the youth in national leadership of political parties in Zambia. This subject area is worth investigating because since the attainment of political independence, the notion has been that the youth are the future leaders of Zambia but they keep being sidelined in the political arena. The specific objectives were; to establish the extent of participation of the youth in the leadership of political parties; to establish how leadership and candidate selection impact participation of the youth in leadership of political parties and to identify the constraints that hinder the youth from being national leaders of political parties.

The research is both qualitative and quantitative in approach and used descriptive research design. Data collection was done using questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. Furthermore, data was analyzed by the use of thematic analysis.

The findings were that among other hindrances, there is lack of mentorship of the youth to take up leadership positions. Secondly, lack of capacity in decision making and expertise due to lack of knowledge and low education levels compounding the lack of confidence to aspire for leadership among the youth. Thirdly, there is lack of financial resources to mount campaigns for leadership positions. The other major challenge is that many older politicians and society assume that the younger the person is, the less prepared he or she is to deal with the mechanics of policy formulation and governance issues.

Further research can be conducted on whether participation of the youth in leadership of political parties can lead to the institutionalization of political parties or consolidation of democratic tenets within political parties.

Keywords
Youth participation, national leadership, political party, Zambia
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I further wish to express my special gratitude to all the interviewees from youth advocacy and governance groups such as Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI), Operation Young Vote (OYV), Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP), Anti-Voter Apathy Project (AVAP) among others, and official representatives of PF, UPND, MMD, FDD, NAREP and UNIP. Similarly, gratitude goes to the youth drawn from among members of the youth executive committees at district, provincial and national levels of the six political parties, who responded to the questionnaires; for agreeing to participate in this study and providing the necessary information needed for the study.
DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to my family
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### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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<tr>
<td>ANC</td>
<td>African National Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>AVAP</td>
<td>Anti-voter Apathy Project</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistical Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFID</td>
<td>Department for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECZ</td>
<td>Electoral Commission of Zambia</td>
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<tr>
<td>EISA</td>
<td>Electoral Institute of Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDD</td>
<td>Forum for Democracy and Development</td>
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<td>FODEP</td>
<td>Foundation for Democratic Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRZ</td>
<td>Government of the Republic of Zambia</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMD</td>
<td>Movement for Multiparty Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAREP</td>
<td>National Restoration Party</td>
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<td>NDI</td>
<td>National Democratic Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>NYP</td>
<td>National Youth Policy</td>
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<td>OYV</td>
<td>Operation Young Vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>Patriotic Front</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Development Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIP</td>
<td>United National Independence Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP</td>
<td>United Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>UPND</td>
<td>United Party for National Development</td>
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<td>UPP</td>
<td>United Progressive Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>YALI</td>
<td>Young African Leaders Initiative</td>
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<td>YAZ</td>
<td>Youth Alive Zambia</td>
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<td>ZGF</td>
<td>Zambia Governance Foundation</td>
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DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Factors: Aspects that are responsible for hindering the youth from participating in national leadership of political parties.

Candidate: A person who contests for a position in an election.

Hinder: To make it difficult for youth to participate in national leadership of political parties.

National: Leadership that involve control of the entire political party across the nation.

Political Party: A group of persons bonded in policy and opinion in support of a general political cause which essentially is the pursuit, capture and retention for as long as democratically feasible, of government and its offices.

Participation: Involvement at all levels of planning and political decision making processes in political parties.

Recruitment: The act of finding new people to become political party leaders.

Selection: The process of choosing individuals as leaders of political party.

Youth: For the purpose of this study, it is persons aged from eighteen (18) to thirty five (35) years because usually for one to be a registered member of a political party in Zambia, he/she must be a registered voter aged 18 years and above.

Leadership: To command and lead a political party in decision-making, policy formulation and as candidate in elections.