

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

By

SYDNEY MUSONDA

**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

COPYRIGHT

All rights reserved. No part of this dissertation may be reproduced or stored in any form, electronic or otherwise, without express written authorization from the author.

© 2018

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.

Internal Examiner 1	Date	Signature
Dr. W. MAFULEKA
Internal Examiner 2		
Dr. A. NG’OMA
Internal Examiner 3		
Dr. C. MADIMUSA
Chairperson-Board of Examiners		
Dr. F. NYAMBE

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

I would like to acknowledge the support and express gratitude to late Dr L.C.W. Kaela (mhsrip) from the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at the University of Zambia, who was my supervisor for this research for his assistance, advice and guidance throughout the conduct of the research and writing of the dissertation. His able supervision made my workload lighter.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COPYRIGHT	ii
DECLARATION	iii
APPROVAL	iv
ABSTRACT	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
LIST OF APPENDICES	xiii
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	xiv
DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS	xv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.2 Background.....	1
1.3 Statement of the Problem.....	4
1.4 Research Objectives.....	4
1.4.1 General Objective.....	4
1.4.2 Specific Objectives.....	5
1.5 Research Questions.....	5
1.6 Rationale of the Study.....	5
1.7 Theoretical Framework.....	6
1.8 Structure of the Dissertation.....	8

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....10

2.1. Introduction.....10

2.2. Youth Political Involvement in Zambia.....10

2.3. Youth leadership in political parties in other countries.....13

2.4. Strategies on Youth leadership.....19

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....22

3.1. Introduction.....22

3.2. Study Design.....22

3.3. Study Area.....22

3.4. Target Population.....22

3.5. Sample Size and Sampling Procedures.....23

3.6. Sources of Data.....23

3.7. Data Collection Instruments.....23

3.8. Validity and Reliability of Data.....24

3.9. Data Processing and Analysis.....24

3.10. Ethical Considerations.....24

3.11. Limitation of the Study.....24

CHAPTER FOUR: POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY SYSTEM IN ZAMBIA.....26

4.1 Introduction.....26

4.2	History of Political Parties and Party System in Zambia.....	26
4.3	Leadership of Political Parties in Zambia.....	31
4.4	Intra-Party Democracy in Zambia.....	33
4.5	Legislation Governing Political Parties in Zambia.....	36
4.6	Political Parties and the Electoral System.....	36
4.7	Conclusion.....	37

CHAPTER FIVE: EXTENT OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF POLITICAL PARTIES.....40

5.1	Introduction.....	40
5.2	Youth participation as leaders of political parties.....	40
5.3	Extent of youth participation as national leaders in political parties.....	42
5.4	Conclusion.....	45

CHAPTER SIX: IMPACT OF LEADERSHIP AND CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS ON PARTICIPATION OF THE YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP OF POLITICAL PARTIES.....46

6.1	Introduction.....	46
6.2	Leadership selection.....	46
6.3	Candidate Selection.....	50
6.4	Conclusion.....	53

CHAPTER SEVEN: FACTORS THAT HINDER THE YOUTH FROM BEING NATIONAL LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES.....56

7.1 Introduction.....56

7.2 Institutionalized Factors.....56

7.2.1 Organizational structure and leadership and candidate selection.....56

7.2.2 Political violence.....58

7.2.3 Constitutional Eligibility.....58

7.2.4 Traditional societal norms and cultural stereotype.....59

7.2.5 Religious affiliation.....60

7.3 Personal Limitation factors.....60

7.3.1 Lack of interest.....60

7.3.2 Lack of support and mentorship from older politicians.....61

7.2.4 Lack of experience and exposure in leadership roles.....61

7.2.5 Lack of knowledge.....62

7.2.6 Low education levels.....63

7.2.7 Lack of resources and unemployment.....65

7.2.9 Lack of confidence.....66

7.4 Conclusion.....66

CHAPTER EIGHT: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....70

8.1 Introduction.....70

8.2	Conclusions.....	70
8.3	Recommendations.....	74
8.3.1.	Policy Recommendations.....	74
8.3.2.	Areas for Future Research.....	76
	REFERENCES.....	77
	APPENDICES.....	85

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 5.1	Percentage of Youth in PF Central Committee.....	42
Figure 5.2	Percentage of Youth in NAREP NEC.....	42
Figure 5.3	Percentage of Youth in FDD NPC.....	43
Figure 5.4	Percentage of Youth in MMD NEC.....	44
Figure 5.5	Percentage of Youth in UPND NMC.....	44
Figure 7.1	Level of Knowledge about constitutions.....	64
Figure 7.2	National Education levels.....	64
Figure 7.3	Youth Employment Levels.....	66

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Interview Guide.....85

APPENDIX B: Questionnaire.....89

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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

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.