

**PEOPLE, PARTICIPATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF  
POPULAR AND EFFECTIVE  
PARTICIPATION IN PARLIAMENTARY  
PROCESSES IN KAWAMBWA DISTRICT**

**BY**

**ELIZABETH KATONGO CHITIKA**

**A REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA IN FULFILMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
MASTERS DEGREE IN COMMUNICATION  
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA**

**2012**

I Elizabeth Katongo Chitika declare that this report:

- (a) Represents my own work except where it is acknowledged
- (b) Has not previously been submitted for a degree at this or any other University  
and
- (c) Does not incorporate any published work or material from another report

Signed: EKChitika.....

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012.....

All rights reserved. No part of this report may be reproduced or stored in any form or by any means without permission in writing from the author or the University of Zambia

## Approval

This report of Elizabeth Katongo Chitika is approved as fulfilling the partial requirements for the award of the Masters degree in Communication for Development by the University of Zambia

Signed:

Date:

Kenny Makungu.....  
(Supervisor)

17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012

.....

.....

## **ABSTRACT**

Parliament is the Central Institution of democracy in Zambia through which the will of the people is expressed. In a normal situation, Parliament is supposed to provide opportunities for grassroots participation as it executes its roles of legislation, executive oversight and representation. As a unique elected body that represents society in all its diversity, Parliament has a unique responsibility for reconciling the conflicting interests and expectations of different groups and communities through the democratic means of dialogue and compromise.

The main objective of this study was to investigate through a case study of the Zambian Parliament, popular and effective participation in parliamentary processes in Kawambwa District and evaluate the extent to which the legislature in Zambia is open and responsive enough for public participation in its business. The findings of this research is poised to expand the general knowledge base for further research into the areas of popular and effective participation in development especially as it relates to Parliament. Further it is likely to influence the following categories of people: policy-makers, government policy implementers, development theorists, NGOs, cabinet and local authorities.

In carrying out this research, the quantitative survey technique was used to collect data from 100 members in Kawambwa Constituency. Further, in depth interviews were also conducted with key stakeholders such as the Speaker of the National Assembly, Members of Parliament, community based civic organizations whose work focuses on constituency relations.

After analysing the data that was collected from the field, there is no doubt that people are aware that the founders of the institution of parliament had in mind increased public participation in parliament for accelerated development. However, it has been established that Parliament has not made any significant contribution to the creation of a democratic institution at constituency level which favour effective participation in development.

There is however, a reasonable increase in the political participation of people which highlights the significance of local democracy to the rural population. In terms of development participation, both the people and the Members of Parliament are nonetheless more inclined to favour people involvement in development activities which is very encouraging especially for the future.

Similarly the share of parliament in constituency development is considerably low explained very largely by lack of resources and preferences of central government to directing major development projects through other government bodies thus bypassing the people's representatives. But despite this, belief in parliament as the viable institution for constituency development is continuously preferred by the people.

Lastly, it is important in a study of this kind to recommend new models or new concepts and strategies for development. The researcher therefore, believes that there is an urgent need to involve the people in all development processes. Exactly what form this takes may be defined differently by different people. It is however, a compelling necessity that people are organised at the constituency level as this is a pre-requisite for effective participation. This will be in line with recent trends in development that call for greater participation by the people at all stages in the development process.

## **Dedication**

This research report is dedicated to my 84 year old father, Mr Benson Chongo Chitika and my 75 year old mother, Mrs Emelia Mwenya Chitika for their proper guidance, love and making me the person I am today.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This research project would not have been possible without the support of many people. Many thanks to my supervisor, Mr Kenny Makungu, who read my numerous revisions and helped, make some sense of the confusion.

I would like also to thank my other lecturers Dr M E M Bwalya and Mr F Muzyamba who offered guidance and support during the course of the study. Thanks too, to the University of Zambia for providing the necessary facilities.

Further, I would like to thank the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) for awarding me the financial support for this project.

I would like also to thank my siblings Ruth, Triscah and Zipporah for their support and encouragement while I pursued my studies.

Lastly many thanks to my husband Mr G L Molobeka, my children, Mushelelwa, Sampa, Muma and Kawanga who endured this long process with me, always offering support and love.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>PAGE</b>
ABSTRACT .....	vi
DEDICATION .....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	viii
LIST OF TABLES .....	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS .....	xii
APPENDICES .....	xiii
 <b>CHAPTER 1</b>	
INTRODUCTION .....	1
BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY .....	1
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM .....	5
JUSTIFICATION/RATIONALE OF THE STUDY .....	5
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY .....	7
RESEARCH QUESTIONS .....	7
ASSUMPTION OF THE STUDY .....	8
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY .....	8
DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY .....	10
 <b>CHAPTER 2</b>	
THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK .....	11
Definition of Terms.....	13
 <b>CHAPTER 3</b>	
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	19

## **CHAPTER 4**

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	43
Scope of the Study .....	43
Methods .....	43
Sampling Procedures .....	44
Data Collection .....	44
Coding Sheet .....	45
Pre-testing .....	46
Cross tabulation.....	46
Limitation of the study .....	46
Ethical Considerations .....	46

## **CHAPTER 5**

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS .....	48
Data Analysis .....	48
People's Survey .....	49
The profile of Sampled People .....	49
Results of the Survey .....	50
Institutional Arrangements .....	51
Participation in Parliamentary Processes .....	51
Awareness Measurements .....	51
People's Participation in Elections .....	52
People's Contact with MPs .....	54
The Functional Perspective: People's Participation in development .....	55
Participation in the Development Process .....	55
The Social Perspective: Participation in Development .....	59
Survey of MPs .....	61
Elected Members and People's Participation .....	63
Problems of Implementing Participation Initiatives .....	64
Disadvantages of Participation Initiatives .....	66

Perception of MPs with regard to the developmental role of Parliament .....	67
Causes that Disrupt parliament's Development Capacity .....	69
Social Contract .....	72
Parliamentary Constituency Office .....	72

## **CHAPTER 6**

SUMMARY .....	74
Institutional Perspective: Organizational arrangements .....	75
Politics/electoral participation: Awareness and involvement in National Institutions .....	75
Functional Perspective: People's Participation in development.....	75
The Social Perspective: Responsiveness of Parliament to Needs of the People .....	76
MPs and People Participation .....	77
Conclusions .....	77
Recommendations .....	79
Areas of future research .....	81
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	83
APPENDIXES .....	87

## **LIST OF TABLES**

<b>Table 1</b>	Characteristics of respondents by %
<b>Table 2</b>	People's awareness of different arms of the State
<b>Table 3</b>	Participation in elections
<b>Table 4</b>	People's consideration in parliamentary elections
<b>Table 5</b>	People's attitude towards participation
<b>Table 6</b>	People's reasons for participation in development
<b>Table 7</b>	Participation of citizens at different levels of development Programmes
<b>Table 8</b>	People's reason for non-participation in development
<b>Table 9</b>	Comparative Score of government units on participation dimensions
<b>Table 10</b>	Needs of people
<b>Table 11</b>	Characteristics of Members of Parliament
<b>Table 12</b>	Perception of Members of Parliament towards people Participation
<b>Table 13</b>	Problems in the participation process as perceived by Members of Parliament
<b>Table 14</b>	Disadvantages of public participation as perceived by Members of Parliament
<b>Table 15</b>	Parliament's role as perceived by Members of Parliament
<b>Table 16</b>	Reasons for Members of Parliament low development Performance as perceived by Members of Parliament

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ACPP	African Charter for Popular Participation
COS	Central Statistical Office
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IPU	Inter Parliamentary Union
MPs	Members of Parliament
NAZ	National Assembly of Zambia
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
OSISA	Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programmes
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WADCOS	Ward Development Committees
WDR	World Development Report
VIDCOS	Village Development Committees

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** Questionnaire (A) for people in Constituencies

**Appendix 2** Questionnaire (B) for key informants (Speaker, Ministers, MPs, Councillors, Head of NGOs)