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## Governance Dialogue through Forms of Political System

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### Abstract:

*Governance is the processes and practices in which issues of concern are decided upon and regulated. It is important to understand and address the problems of political administration through well-known approaches to the concept of governance, such as corporate governance, global governance, good governance and modern governance. Ensuring the needs and expectations of the common citizen are given due regard. Understanding the relationship between fiscal and political decentralization and its forms is must. When centralization becomes a monopoly, it gives a second thought in searching for other Political systems, i.e. federalism, where a federal constitution is considered as a constitutional arrangement --- when the powers of government are distributed between the central and component units. The best examples are the federal systems of larger political entities of the U.S. federal government and the disaggregated federation of Nigeria.*

*Some democratic institutions always tried to fund decentralized governments under the abled and literate civil society for the success of anti-poverty measures, whereas Federalism encourages unity in diversity and is a very potent instrument for national integration in plural societies like the USA, China and India. It only becomes fragile when politicians mobilize support along ethnic lines, as in the case of newly formed countries.*

**Keywords:** Centralization, decentralization, political system, federalism

### 1. Concept of Decentralization

Decentralization has often been put forward as a remedy against the concentration of power and as a means of ensuring that the needs and expectations of the common citizen are respected.

Decentralization seems to occupy a point midway between mere 'deco- centration' (the delegation of power to local officers) and federation (the division of internal sovereignty).

Decentralization refers to the movement of fiscal and political authority from higher to lower levels of government unless the word "fiscal" or "political" immediately precedes it.

Fiscal and political authorities are not assumed to be connected, and the mechanisms governing the decentralization of each can be isolated from the other. This is an important distinction because it is quite possible for the centre to cede political authority to the states without ceding fiscal authority and vice versa.

Many would argue that decentralizing one without the other is no decentralization at all since it takes money to operate even a modest government.

Arguably, if no fiscal authority is granted to a local government, it is less likely to meet the needs or deliver the desired services to its citizens, no matter how well local preferences are represented within the government.

In fact, some central governments that announce legitimate political decentralization initiatives to appease citizen demands do so, knowing that they will still retain fiscal authority over the respective state.

Also, relocating seats of authority from the national capital to subordinate districts is often misconstrued as decentralization when, in fact, no actual relinquishing of authority to the subordinate districts occurred.

This highlights not only the importance of understanding the relationship between fiscal and political decentralization but also the importance of examining both aspects of decentralization policies.

While shifting political and fiscal authority to the periphery might assuage sub-national grievances, it might also give disaffected groups a more powerful voice with which to mobilize political support and the financial means to physically improve their ability to resist the central government.

### 2. Types/Application of Decentralization

Decentralization includes political, administrative, fiscal and market decentralization.

You may ask what the reason is for Decentralization.

The reasons for Decentralization are as follows:

- It creates an efficient and reliable administration.

- It intensifies and improves local development,
  - It better ensures the rights of the local population to have a voice in government and
  - It better protects minorities.
- Objectives for Decentralization – case of India
- Decentralization organization was meant to achieve the following:
- To relieve the burden of work on the chief executives (local government officials).
  - To develop the managerial faculties.
  - To motivate the lower level of workers.

### 3. Reasons for Decentralization – Case of Uganda

#### 3.1. Local Development

- Land use planning.
- Protection of natural resources and building a safe environment with housing, water supply, sewage and drainage.

#### 3.2. Forms of Decentralization

- Delegation
- Partnership with Civil Society Organization (CSO) and privatization.
- Devolution (which we are going to highlight next)

### 4. Devolution of Powers in Centralized/Federated States

Devolution is the statutory delegation of powers from the central government of a sovereign State to govern at a Sub-national level, such as a regional or local level.

Devolved territories have the power to make legislation relevant to the area, thus granting them higher levels of autonomy. For instance, the powers granted to –the Scottish Parliament, The National Assembly for Wales, The Northern Ireland Assembly and the greater London and local authorities. For a proper political administration or a better form of government, there is a need to understand the following: What is the difference between a "State" and a "Nation"?

The term nation is often used as a synonym for state or country. This is not technically correct. Indeed, the concept of a nation is not political but sociological. A nation can exist even though it is not contained within a particular state or served by a given government.

A nation exists where there is a union of people based on similarities in linguistic patterns, ethnic relationships, or cultural heritage. One can belong to a state without belonging to the nation or one of its constituent nations. A Southern Sudanese living in London can be a British citizen without being an Irish, English, Scot or Welsh.

South Sudan is a nation of about 560 tribes (ethnic nationalities) that make up the 10 states of the Semi-federation (Decentralization).

While the state is a political entity with sovereignty, a nation is a group of people bound together by the sentiment of nationality – race, culture, religion, language, and history. However, the state has a monopoly of coercive force, but a nation lacks such element power.

Only the states, not nations, are recognized and represented at international forums, such as the United Nations, African Union, International Monetary Fund, Arab League, etc.

Ordinarily, no distinction is made between a nation and a state. However, in reality, there is a great difference between the two terms. "State" is a product of four elements — population, territory, government and sovereignty. So long as these factors are existent in one form or another, there is a state.

A state may lack the feeling of oneness among its people and yet remain a state. Austria-Hungary was a single state before World War I, although there was no sense of any spiritual unity among her people. In fact, she was a state paving two distinct nations — Austria and Hungary within its fold.

The basis of the two concepts is different. The term nation emphasizes the consciousness of unity due to psychological or spiritual feelings.

The State Emphasizes Political Unity.

In the words of Prof. Zimmer, "Nationality, like religions, is subjective, statehood is objective; nationality is psychological, statehood is political; nationality is a condition of mind, statehood is a condition of law; nationality is a possession, statehood is an enforceable obligation; nationality is a way of feeling, thinking and living, statehood is a condition inseparable from all civilized ways of living."

Despite the above distinction, most states in modern times are nation-states. England, Germany, Italy, etc., are good examples. Most of the political thinkers equate nation with a state, that is to say the idea of "one nation, one state" is getting prevalent. Statehood is being identified with nationhood. It is pointed out that every state should have within its bounds only those people who share common national sentiments. The states should not have within their bounds people sharing different national sentiments. All nationalities and national minorities should have a right to establish separate states for them. This right is known as the right of self-determination. As Mill points out, "the boundaries of a state should coincide in the main with those of nationalities." A multinational state creates an unsatisfactory condition because its members have no consciousness of any bond of unity among them except obedience to a common government.

### 5. Explain the Most Important Attributes of a State

The state evolves for the sake of life and continues "for the sake of life" Aristotle.

- Adam Smith (1723-1790), in his book, "The Wealth of Nations" (1776), laid down the following as the three duties of a sovereign must attend to: The duty of protecting the society from violence and invasion of other independent societies. The duty of establishing an exact administration of justice. The duty of erecting and maintaining certain public works and certain public institutions for the society.
- In contemporary language, these three functions are the maintenance of internal law and order, defence of a state's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, efficient administration of justice and provision of public good and infrastructural facilities.
- Harold Laski says the State is an organization that enables the mass of men to realize social good on the largest possible scale.

## 6. Concept: Federalism, Types, Pros and Cons

A federal constitution or system can be defined as a constitutional arrangement in which the powers of government are distributed between the central and component units.

In its strict sense, it means the distribution of powers between the government at the federal level and those of the federating or co-ordinate states that are relatively autonomous.

This means, in effect, that the powers being exercised by these component states are distributed along what is known in America as reserved or shared powers or in Nigeria as Exclusive, Concurrent and Residual powers.

From the above definition, we can easily see that a federation is the union of autonomous states that have come together to become a larger political entity, as in the USA or a dis-aggregative federation where a large country is broken into smaller units, as is the case in Nigeria (Ayoade, 1980:5-8).

It is a delicate arrangement that requires mutual tolerance. In any federal state, the role of the judiciary or the court is vital to ensure that no level encroaches on the other. Its major disadvantage is that it is expensive to run because of the duplication of government departments.

### 6.1. What Is Meant by Federation?

A country with a federal constitution is called a federation.

So, the federal system is a constitutional arrangement in which the powers of government are distributed between the central and component units, and their mechanism becomes:

- Reserved or shared powers, in the case of the USA, which has 50 states.
- Exclusive, concurrent, and residual powers are used in the case of Nigeria, which has 36 states.

A federation is a union of autonomous States that have come together to become a larger political entity, as in the USA or a disaggregated federation where a large country is broken into small units, as is the case of Nigeria.

So, in our situation, we might run into the troubles of having smaller countries within South Sudan, i.e. counties and payams that could easily turn into Federal States.

According to Kenneth Wheare (1963), a federation is a constitutional arrangement in which "neither the central nor regional governments are subordinate to each other but rather the two levels can make a federal constitution system succeed.

The component units must be fairly equal in size and population to prevent one unit from dominating the other or a combination of two or more units from dominating the entire federation.

## 7. Why Federal Government

### 7.1. According to J.S. Mill

It is essential in a federation that there should not be any one State more powerful than the rest to be capable of vying in strength with many of them combined.

Federalism encourages unity in diversity and is a very potent instrument for national integration in plural societies. It is an ideal system for large and heterogeneous countries like the United States, China, Russia and India (It is a delicate arrangement that requires Mutual Tolerance).

In any federal State, the role of the Judiciary or court is vital to ensure that no level encroaches on the other.

Federalism provides an organizational mechanism to achieve a degree of political unity within a population whose characteristics demonstrate diversity and variety.

Under this arrangement, separate regional political units (often referred to as states or provinces) are combined for limited, specified purposes under an overarching administration, but in such a way that the government of each separate regional unit maintains its integrity and substantial autonomy.

This is achieved by distributing powers and responsibilities in such a manner to protect the existence and authority of both levels of government. Both levels of government can pass laws, levy taxes and relate directly to the people.

Usually, there is an explicit constitutional demarcation of powers and functions between central and regional governments, and generally, there are specified mechanisms and procedures for resolving conflicts and disputes between central and regional governments and also between two or more regional governments, which makes intergovernmental relations of crucial importance.

Federalism also has been conceptualized as a means to achieve different political and social purposes. Two particular purposes stand out.

First, federalism has been seen by many as a means to unite people already linked together by bonds of nationality. In such cases, the political units brought together are seen as a part of a national whole.

Essentially, this is the American view of federalism, which today has become the generally accepted one. An alternative view is that federalism is a means to unify diverse peoples for important but limited purposes without disrupting their primary ties to their existing governments.

Within this latter arrangement, the federal government is much more limited in scope and powers, and the particular structure is often referred to as a confederation. However, a degree of confusion remains because the terms federation and confederation are often used interchangeably.

Pros and cons: (Advantages and disadvantages)

- It creates a sense of local patriotism.
- It lessens the bureaucracy.
- It can provide evidence of success.
- It can create economic disparities across states (states compete to attract business by lowering taxes and regulations), and sometimes, it becomes difficult to take action on issues of national importance <https://vittana.org>. As a political device, however, federalism can be viewed more narrowly as a form of organization in which power is dispersed as a means of safeguarding individual and local liberties.

In federal political systems, political organizations generally take on a distinctive character. This applies to interest groups, political parties, and formal government institutions. Elazar (1968:365) argues that federalism does not suit all political cultures. However, it appears to fit particularly well with Anglo-American societies, with their strong commitment to constitutionalism and a distinct preference for non-centralization. Federal systems are not without their problems, and intergovernmental relations invariably involve frustrations, tensions, conflicts and a certain degree of managerial inefficiency. In most modern federal systems, there are ongoing discussions about improving or changing the existing division of constitutional powers and overcoming perceived problems. Decentralization of fiscal and political authority to capable sub-national governments enhances development programs, or in case the centre is incapable, it also reduces the chances of development. It is expensive to run the Federal Government because of the duplication of government departments.

## 8. Decentralization: Way of Lakes State

Lakes State is a part of South Sudan, which is a product of Marginalized areas of Original Sudan; after a long struggle, the first war lasted 17 years, and the second war lasted for 21 years. South Sudan did inherit some issues of governance from the old system of South Sudan's Regional Government, i.e. Decentralization, which gave South Sudan an autonomous Regional government (Ref. Addis Ababa Agreement 1972). Later, in the 1980s, the South Sudanese were in a dilemma as to where they were heading because decentralization had been abused to mean "each region stands alone, uses its own resources and non-interference, re-division of the South into three regions in the 1980s." Lakes State has its share of misunderstanding of the concept of decentralization. According to the Local Government Act 2009, all the commissioners are to be elected by the people and be accountable to the people. However, it never worked; instead, the county commissioners are appointed by the governors and made accountable to the governors and the national government.

### 8.1. Concept of Decentralization in Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS)

According to article 1.16, on State and Local Governments, mentioned in sub-art 1.16.1, the Responsibility sharing ratio at and local government levels shall be in accordance with the following ratio: 1.16.1.1 Incumbent TGoNU: 55% 1.16.1.2 SPLM/A-IO: 27% 1.16.1.3 SSOA: 10% 1.16.1.4 OPP: 08% Article 1.16.2 at the beginning of the Transitional Period, State and local government shall be reconstituted in accordance with the responsibility sharing formula stated in Article 1.16.1.

No.	Reference	Activities	Responsible Bodies	Time Frame
1	Article 1.15.2	Reconstitution of State and Local Governments	The Presidency, Parties	D –Day + eight (8) months
2	Article 1.15.3	Appointment of Transitional Governors, Speakers of State Legislatures, State Council of Ministers, State Legislatures, County Commissioners, County Councils	Presidency Parties R-JMEC	At the commencement of the Transitional Period

Table 1

## 9. Opportunities in R-ARCSS for Fostering Decentralization

In light of the above-mentioned provisions in the R-ARCSS, South Sudan will have to learn from the experience of other countries that actually prosper and develop their own sub-nationals through the implementation of a desired decentralized administration.

With R-ARCSS, peace will prevail, and the expectations are high in giving excess to the local government ACT 2009 to take its shape.

The effects of decentralization on poverty require examining the degree and scope of authority that reaches lower levels of government.

The evidence presented shows that decentralization only mildly correlates to successful poverty alleviation measures, although the cases show that it can enhance those measures under certain conditions.

Strong support of governing authorities for pro-poor policies and the infrastructure to support service delivery of welfare schemes indicates with far more reliability the likely success of poverty alleviation programs.

Corruption-free institutions, properly funded decentralized local governments, under the control of a capable, literate civil society may be the most effective combination of conditions under which anti-poverty measures succeed. If nothing else, decentralization does increase the efficiency of targeting pro-poor policies.

All else being equal, local governments should be able to design policies better suited for their respective regions and better identify the recipients of welfare programs than a more removed central government, and studies of Indian villages confirm this. Lastly, Politicians mobilizing support along ethnic lines and an abundance of lootable primary commodities, for instance, may be overcome by a single, powerful leader.

## 10. Recommendations

- Expand privatization of public sectors such as power generation and irrigation to help rural population improve their livelihood.
- Transfer service responsibilities to local governments.
- Promote consumer awareness and transparency to increase pressure from below for timely and appropriate services.
- Grant states the authority to take part in the assessment, monitoring, and evaluation of major infrastructure work that includes roads and power stations in their respective locations.
- Chiefs should not be appointed by political authorities; the preferred choice is the community selection of their leaders.

## 11. Abbreviations

- R-ARCSS: Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan.
- CSO: Civil Society.
- R-JMEC: Revitalized Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission.
- R-TGNU: Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity.
- SPLM: Sudan People's Liberation Movement.
- SSOA: South Sudan Opposition Alliance.
- OPP: Organization of Political Parties.
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