

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE: A CASE STUDY
OF THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT**

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DECLARATION

I, SHIPHRAH MUGABI, hereby declare that this dissertation is my own piece and it has not been submitted to any institution of learning or website for any award

Signed

DATE

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation has been submitted by MUGABI SHIPRAH for examination in partial fulfillment for the award of a Bachelors Degree of Governance and International Relations (BGIR) at Uganda Christian University with approval as the University Supervisor

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Date: 20th Sept 2024

MADAM ELLEN ASIIMWE KASOMA

DEDICATION

In the Name of God, the Almighty,

I dedicate this report to myself SHIPHRAH MUGABI, my parents. Hon Justice Henry Kawesa and Mrs. Monica Kawesa for the moral and financial support rendered to me since I started my academic journey. Secondly I dedicate this work to my sister Kwikiriza Charity and the rest of my family for the timely engagements and support during this discourse. I also dedicate this work to my dear supervisor Mrs. Asimwe Ellen for the effort rendered to me through the journey. God is Almighty!

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This study is primarily about the role of parliament in promoting good governance focusing on the Ugandan government as a case study for this research. This concept is made up of eight sections. Section one discusses the background of the study about the parliament and good governance. Section two presents the main objective and the specific objectives of the study. Section three brings out the problem statement in the study. Section four shows and indicates the scope of the study, content of the study which will focus on examining the problems facing the Ugandan parliament as it tries to conduct good governance. Section five indicates the justification of the study; section six shows the significance of the study to the people of Uganda, section seven points out the theoretical framework of the study and the conceptual framework which put emphasis on the Ugandan parliament.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Good governance is widely recognized as a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development, political stability, and the effective delivery of public services. It encompasses a set of principles such as accountability, transparency, participation and rule of law which are essential for the functioning of democratic institutions. Parliaments, as the primary legislative bodies in democratic systems, play a crucial role in promoting and upholding these principles. In the context, the Ugandan Parliament has been at the forefront of efforts to enhance good governance through its legislative, oversight, and representative functions.

A parliament is a gathering of elected individuals entrusted with the responsibility of making crucial decisions on behalf of the public. It comprises representatives called

Members of Parliament who convene to discuss and debate on important issues concerning laws, policies and budgets to guide the country's progress. Working collaboratively, they seek solutions and make choices that have a profound impact on the lives of citizens. The decision making process in parliament involves voting and its fundamental purpose is to uphold Government's accountability, fairness, and the representation of the interests of the people it serves.

The parliament or legislature plays an important role in the life of a nation. It thus performs three main functions and that is; to make new laws, change existing laws and repeal laws which are no longer needed, represent and articulate the views and wishes of the citizens in decision making processes and oversee the activities of the executive so that the government is accountable to the people. Achieving good governance requires the existence of a strong, effective and efficient parliament. This is so because parliament plays a crucial role in gauging, collating and presenting the views and needs of the people, articulating their expectations and aspirations in determining the national development agenda. Therefore as an oversight body, parliament helps to identify problems and policy challenges that require attention and assists in overcoming bureaucratic challenges.(Adejumboi, 2009)

According to (Aili, 2004) Uganda gained its independence in 1962 and rewrote its constitution in 1995 and many amendments have been developed henceforth Despite these efforts, Uganda continues to face challenges such as corruption, limited political freedom among others which hinder the country from attaining good governance.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Good governance is a system of government based on good leadership styles, respect of rule of law, accountability of political leaders and institutions as well as transparency (Adejumobi et al., 2009). The Ugandan Parliament is empowered by the constitution to promote good governance as well as fight for people's rights. According to (Madue, 2017) parliament is in charge of monitoring the behavior of the executive in implementation of government policies and reforms which are established. Remedial actions are as well taken by the parliament where necessary.

However, in as much as the parliament has reregistered success in the highlighted reforms, the extent to which it has fulfilled its role is still a subject of concern. (Muzaale, 2008) contends that lack of transparency, accountability, consistency, and weak institutional policies in the legislature provide fertile grounds for corruption which hinder good governance

If such challenges persist, it will lead to economic stagnation and loss of public trust in government hence affecting the development of the country hence a gap identified with investigation. This study therefore seeks to examine the role of the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance looking at both challenges and recommendations required.

1.3 GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this study is to assess the role of parliament in promoting good governance in Uganda.

1.3.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the legislative role of the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance
2. To identify the challenges faced by the Ugandan Parliament in fulfilling its mandate to promote good governance.
3. To propose recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the role of parliament in promoting good governance?
2. What are the major challenges faced by the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance?
3. What strategies can be adopted to enhance the effectiveness of the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance?

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study will focus on the Ugandan Parliament and its role in promoting good governance in Uganda. It covers the period from 1995, when the current Constitution was promulgated, to the present. This timeframe is significant as it encompasses key developments in Uganda's political and governance landscape, including the introduction of multiparty politics in 2005 and subsequent elections. By defining clear geographical, thematic, functional, temporal, and methodological and stakeholder boundaries the study aims to offer comprehensive insights and practical recommendations for enhancing parliamentary functions and governance outcomes in

Uganda as it also explores the challenges that impede the Parliament's effectiveness, such as corruption, executive dominance, and institutional weaknesses. The study is limited to the national level and does not cover the roles of local government councils or other sub-national legislative bodies. For example the period under study includes critical legislative actions by the Ugandan Parliament, such as the passing of the Leadership Code or Amendment Act 2017, which aimed to strengthen transparency and accountability among public officials. (Barya, J. B. (2019). *The politics of public Accountability in Uganda: Challenges andProspects. Journal of African Law*, 63(3), 357-375.)

1.6 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

The justification for this research is to provide timely adjustment with stakeholder interests, and it therefore provides comparative insights that can benefit not only the Uganda but also other developing countries facing similar issues. Therefore the study will provide a comprehensive understanding of how functions can be enhanced to provide good governance and also enhance and improve service delivery. The role of Parliament in enhancing good governance is important for policy formulation and future academic reference.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to provide a deeper understanding of the role of parliament in promoting good governance, with implications for policy and practice in Uganda. The study also provides a comprehensive understanding of the role of the

Ugandan parliament in promoting good governance thereby identifying the strength and weaknesses of parliamentary functions.

1.8 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

This study consists of the theoretical framework and conceptual framework basically aimed at understanding the role of Parliament in promoting good governance. The conceptual framework offers a visual approach to examining the relationship between the principles of good governance, and the legislative functions of Parliament. Looking at these theoretical themes and the conceptual framework, the chapter provides a simplified understanding of what the research is about

Therefore, theoretical framework of this study is derived from three theories which include: Democratic theory, Good governance theory and the Principal Agent Theory.

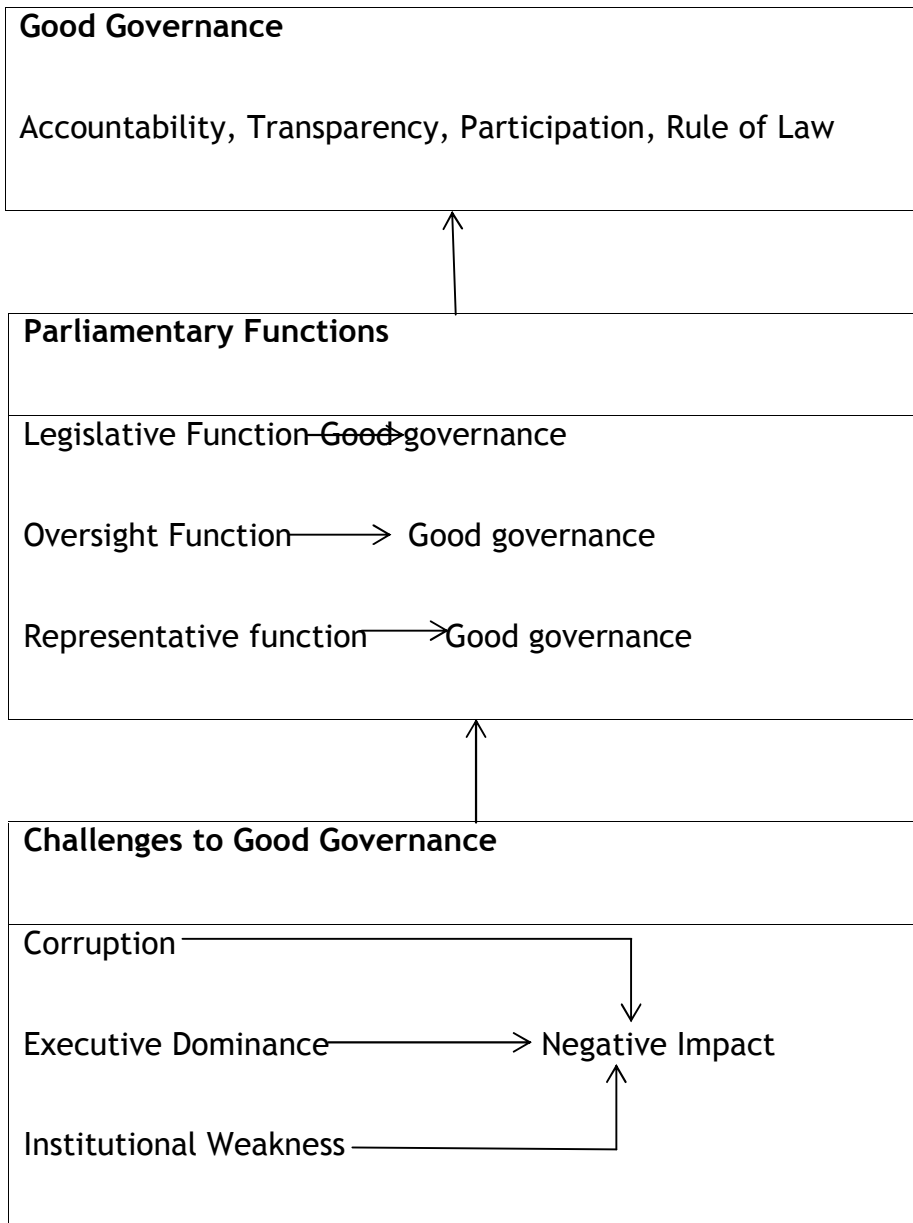
DEMOCRATIC THEORY: The theory contends that the role of elected institutions, such as parliaments, is to represent the will of the people, ensure the protection of fundamental rights, and provide a mechanism for accountability and transparency (Dahl 1998). Parliaments, as key democratic institutions are expected to embody the principles of democracy by enacting laws that reflect the public interest, overseeing the executive, and facilitating public participation in governance. The Ugandan Parliament's role in passing key legislation, such as the Access to Information Act (2005), which promotes transparency by granting citizens the right to access government information, exemplifies its function with a democratic framework.

Principal Agent Theory: According to this theory, elected officials in this case who are also known as agents are entrusted with the responsibility to act on behalf of their constituents (principals). This relationship is characterized by a delegation of authority, where the principal expects the agent to act in their best interest. However, this delegation often leads to issues of accountability, as agents may pursue their own interests rather than those of their principals (Lupia and McCubbins 1998).

GOOD GOVERNANCE THEORY: this theory is characterized by its principles such as transparency, accountability, rule of law responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness which are essential for sustainable development and effective service delivery. It also highlights the role of institutions, such as parliaments, in promoting good governance through oversight, legislation and public engagement. The relevance of this theory to the study is that it will provide the foundational principle to evaluate the actions and effectiveness of the Ugandan Parliament in fostering good governance practices.

1.9 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The study consists of a conceptual framework which is in form of a visualized table aimed to summarize and bring out the aspect of good governance looking which looks at the principles such as accountability, transparency, participation, the rule of law and the representative functions of Parliament. These principles pointed out to bring out the aspect of the Ugandan parliament in ensuring that good governance is obtained in Uganda.



Explanation of the Conceptual Model

1. Parliamentary Functions and Good Governance:

- Legislative Function: The Parliament rules out laws that establish enhance practices for good governance which include anti- corruption laws, financial accountability, and preservation of human rights. These laws are ruled out to

promote accountability, transparency, and the rule of law through Amendments or Acts that are passed by the parliament (Oloka- Onyango) that is to say the Anti- Corruption Act (2009) which aims at targeting corruption cases to ensure that the culprits are caught and to mitigate the vice.

- Oversight Function: Through its oversight role, Parliament monitors the actions of the executive and other government agencies to ensure they comply with the law efficiently. for example the Ugandan Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) plays a crucial role in auditing government expenditures and holding officials accountable for financial irregularities (Bukonya, 2013)
- Representative Function: Parliament serves as a conduit for public participation in governance, ensuring that the interests of the electorate are represented in the policymaking process. For example the Ugandan Parliament's consultation processes, such as those conducted for the Public Finance Management Act (2015), allow citizens to participate in decisions affecting national resource management (Kakumba, 2008)

2. Challenges to Good Governance:

- Corruption: Corruption undermines the effectiveness of parliamentary functions by eroding public trust and diverting resources away from public goods and services. When corruption infiltrates the legislative process, it can lead to the enactment of laws that favor special interests rather than the public good. For example cases of alleged corruption within the Ugandan Parliament, such as the 2013 oil bribery scandal, highlight how corruption can compromise the institution's ability to promote good governance (Mwenda, 2007)

- **Executive Dominance:** This means over influence by the top powers or those that hold more power within the country. This as a result it can weaken the legislative institution to perform its oversight function to maximum capability due pressure from the executive, leading to unrealistic decision making processes and this is well illustrated from the removal of the presidential term limit, which posed questions unanswered . (Oloka- Onyango,2015)

Relationship between Concepts

The conceptual framework illustrates a visual summary tries to bring out the interconnectedness between the functions of Parliament and the principles of good governance which continues to show and identify how challenges such as corruption and executive dominance negatively affect the role of Parliament in ensuring good governance in Uganda. This can be illustrated from the perspective where the parliament's legislative institution is intended to enhance accountability and transparency through passing of laws, but is limited due to factors such as corruption or executive dominance.

1.10 Limitations of the Study

The study relies on secondary data sources, including academic literature, government reports, and media articles, which may pose as hindrances to the study because it limited by the over reliance of data especially in areas to deal with the effectiveness of parliaments, and oversight bodies as well as the implementation of legislative institutions. The lack of access to confidential or sensitive information may

hinder the intended basis of analysis on certain issues like executive influence over parliamentary decision making as well as other aspects intended for the study.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Literature review in simple terms means reviewing literature that will be used for this particular study which is the role of parliament in promoting good governance. Therefore the chapter analyzes literature that will be used.

Good governance: This prospect relatively means maintaining the principles essential for the functioning of any government, ensuring transparency accountability, and responsiveness. In Uganda, like many other countries, the role of Parliament in promoting good governance is crucial for enhancing service delivery to the population; therefore the analysis of this literature review aims to explore the specific ways in which the Ugandan Parliament contributes to good governance. The information helps to show a clear relation between the parliament and promoting good governance within the study which is aimed at achieving in partially. This section also conceptualizes the existent terms within the study to allow better analysis of conclusions and meaning of study issues. This section also partially and theoretically answers some research questions like the role of parliament in promoting good governance and the challenges faced by parliament in promoting good governance. (Kaufmann, Kraay and Matruzzi 2010). Good governance is crucial for sustainable development, political stability, and the overall well-being of citizens.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 1997) defines good governance as the exercise of political, economic, and administrative authority to manage a

country's affairs and levels and therefore good governance is characterized by eight key principles and these include:

1. Participation: It focuses on the, inclusiveness of all categories of citizens such as marginalized groups, public citizens, stakeholders in decision making areas that are made by the government. According to USAID (2005), greater involvement of people in decision making is essential for the advancement of democracy and the promotion of good governance.
2. Rule of Law: It ensures that the laws passed on by the legislative body that is enforced to protect the rights of citizens within the country through also the oversight body.
3. Transparency: This ensures the free flow of information that is given out to the public or citizens by the government to ensure transparency and access to information and decision making processes
4. Responsiveness: This principle ensures that institutions like the parliament serve mustserve the public within the required period of time to meet their needs.
5. Consensus oriented: For good governance to be ensured mediation procedures must be reached and therefore a society that is consensus oriented is needed to ensure this prospect.
6. Equity and inclusiveness: These two principles work hand in hand to ensure that all rights are preserved and reserved by the government to ensure an inclusive society that is justifiable.

7. Effectiveness and Efficiency: This principle requires that the reforms produced by institutions are effective and can efficiently be reliable such that the needs of the people and society are met while using resources.
8. Accountability: Decision makers in government, the private sector, and civil society organizations are accountable to the public and to institutional stakeholders.

In the context of Uganda, good governance has been central to the country's policy discourse, particularly in the aftermath of conflicts and political instability. The Ugandan government's adoption of the National Development Plan (NDP) emphasizes governance reforms as key to achieving sustainable development (Government of Uganda, 2020). Scholars like Grindle (2017) argue that good governance is essential for development, as it enhances the capacity of governments to provide public goods and services, ensures the rule of law, and promotes accountability. However, the implementation of good governance principles can be challenging in contexts where political, social, and economic structures are deeply entrenched in corruption and inefficiency. "Grindle, M. S. (2017). *Good governance: The inflation of an idea. Governance, 25(3), 411-434.*"

The United Nations (UN) also defines good governance as the process of decision making and the process by which decisions are implemented or implemented. Good governance encompasses a set of principles that guide decision making processes within a government and these key principles include transparency, accountability, and rule of law, participation and inclusiveness. When these principles are upheld,

governments are better equipped to deliver services efficiently and effectively to their citizens. Good governance

Consequently good governance implies that public resources and authority are used to benefit the entire community. In practical terms, democracy and good governance require, among others, active participation in decision making processes by the people directly or through their duly elected representatives, parliaments and associations. Governance entails a series of decision making and their implementation. It is the quality of these decisions and the manner by which they are implemented that determines the effectiveness of governance. The quality of decisions and effectiveness of their implementation depends on a variety of factors, ranging from the constitutional or legal and ethical, the human and material resources, the working environment, leadership, commitment and the political will as well as the pattern of decision making and its management.

INSTITUTIONS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

Institutions of good governance are the structures that are put through to enforce the good governance principles through use of operational measures. These institutions include the legislature, executive, electoral bodies and anti- corruption agencies and they crucial for ensuring that governance is carried out effectively, transparently, and in a manner that promotes the public good and in democratic societies.

1. The legislature: Parliaments are law makers who are meant to be representatives of the people as well as being watchdogs of on behalf of the executive. It is at this point that parliament is viewed to be very paramount in

ensuring that government works well in the interest of the public and that the laws reflect democratic values and principles.

2. The Executive: It is the arm of government which is responsible for implementing laws and policies thus it is answerable to the legislature and the people ultimately.
3. The judiciary: The judiciary is responsible for seeing fair interpreting and application of laws, to ensure that justice is served impartially.
4. Electoral Bodies: These are Independent institutions that oversee the conduct of elections, ensuring they are free, fair and transparent. These bodies are fundamental to legitimacy of the democratic process
5. Anti- corruption Agencies: These are specialized institutions set up to fore tell, investigate and prosecute corruption for effective governance procedures to be implemented effectively. The IGG of Uganda is one example of anti-corruption institutions mandated to investigate and persecute corruption cases, enforce compliance with leadership code, and promote good governance.(Barken 2005)
6. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): They play an important role in advocating for accountability, transparency, and participation hence they hold the government accountable.
7. Media: This is another ingredient for good governance since it will provide citizens with information, organize public debate, and act as control against arbitrary power.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PARLAMENT

A survey of different notions of good governance reveals that there are many different understandings of the concept good governance. Institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), for example and due to partly its limited political mandate, stress on the conditions of market economy and sound financial management as the main attributes of good governance. Other institutions like the United Nations and the German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) have a much more inclusive approach in terms of political and social aspects. The two institutions stress their focus on key attributes such as participation, rule of law, responsiveness, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, and equity as well as inclusion.

The parliament as an important arm of the State has a crucial role in promoting and protecting good governance thereby establishing not only the necessary check and balances, but also developing norms and standards for institutions of governance. The role of parliament to promote good governance assume great significance today in view of the basic principles and assumptions associated with parliamentary democracy (Sayeed 1992).A parliamentary democratic system acknowledges the fact that, parliament derives its powers directly from the consent of the people expressed through periodic elections and that parliament is to implement the will of the people, among its functions.In addition to this, good governance refers to a system of government that is transparent, accountable, responsive, and inclusive, the government's actions are in line with the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law and therefore parliaments play a critical role in promoting good governance through overseeing the government's activities, making laws and

representing the citizens' interests and by doing so, parliament can ensure that the government is accountable to its citizens and that public resources are used effectively.

What is a Parliament?

A parliament is a legislative body that represents the people in a democratic system of government. It is a key institution responsible for promoting good governance, democracy and development and in detail a parliament is a deliberative assembly at the national level that is vested with the power to make laws and hold the government accountable. It serves as the legislative branch of the government and plays a crucial role in the democratic process. In a parliamentary system, the parliament is typically composed of elected representatives who debate and pass laws, allocate resources through budget approvals, and hold the government accountable for its actions.

THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT

The Parliament of Uganda is the country's unicameral legislative body. Its most significant function is to pass laws that provide good governance in Uganda. The government ministers are required to answer to the people's representatives on the floor of the house. Through various parliamentary committees, the parliament scrutinizes government programs, particularly as outlined in the President's State of the Nation address. The parliament must approve the government's fiscal issues such as taxation and loans, after appropriate debate. It also has the power to confirm

some Presidential nominations and can force a Minister to resign by passing a motion of censure.

After the country attained independence from the United Kingdom, Uganda established a parliamentary system of government with a bicameral legislature. The National Assembly served as the lower house, while the Senate acted as the upper house. However, this democratic system was short lived. In 1966, Prime Minister Milton Obote suspended the constitution and abolished the Senate, transforming Uganda into a one party state under his Uganda People's Congress (UPC) party. This period of one party rule was interrupted by military coups, with Idi Amin seizing power in 1971 and establishing a brutal dictatorship until his overthrow in 1979. After Amin's fall, Uganda underwent a tumultuous period with various transitional governments until 1986, when the National Resistance Movement (NRM) under Yoweri Kaguta Museveni took power. The NRM initially banned political parties, but in 2005, a multiparty system was restored, and the parliament was reconstituted as a unicameral legislature and the current 11th Parliament of Uganda was elected in 2021 and will serve until 2026. It consists of 557 seats, with 353 representatives elected through first- past-the-post voting in single-member constituencies. As an additional 146 seats are reserved for women with one seat per district. The remaining 30 seats are indirectly filled by representatives of the army, youth, elders, unions and people with disabilities

ROLE OF THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT

With the current Parliament of Uganda in action, there have been several steps that have been done in order to promote good governance for better service delivery. For a country like Uganda, here are some key roles which the Ugandan Parliament plays to ensure good governance for better service delivery and some of these include legislative oversight, approval of government budgets, policy formulation processes among several others.

- I. Legislative oversight: this is seen where the Ugandan Parliament has the responsibility to enact laws that promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in government. By passing legislation laws that protect human rights, the parliament contributes to good governance and the fair treatment of all citizens, public administration and service delivery, which sets a framework for good governance practices. The parliament uses its oversight role to scrutinize government programs and hold ministers accountable, through parliamentary committees, they have closely examined the President's State of the Nation address and government policies to ensure that they align with needs of the citizens and this has helped identify gaps in service delivery and push the executive branch to be more responsive. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Ugandan Parliament regularly reviews government financial statements and reports, highlighting instances of mismanagement and corruption. The PAC's investigations into the misuse of funds in the Ministry of Health in 2012 led to reforms aimed at improving financial management in the sector (Bukenya 2013)

- II. Another role of the parliament is to approve government budgets: This is done through scrutinizing budget proposals and allocations; by doing this the parliament ensures that public funds are used effectively and efficiently for service delivery to the citizens. The parliament must approve the government fiscal policies such as taxation and loans after an appropriate debate. This in return allows the government to ensure public resources are being used effectively and efficiently to fund public services.
- III. Furthermore, the Ugandan Parliament holds the government accountable through mechanisms such as question time, debates, and inquiries and oversight committees. This is so because the parliament also has the power to confirm some presidential nominations and therefore can force a minister to resign by passing a motion of censure which helps to check on the executive's power. Therefore by questioning government officials on their policies and actions, Parliament ensures transparency and responsiveness in the governance system.
- IV. The Parliament influences national policy through legislation that sets the framework for government actions and public administration hence participatory in policy formulation processes by debating proposed policies, providing input and shaping legislation that impacts service delivery sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure and social services. The Ugandan parliament acts as representation of citizens whereby the elected representatives of the people, Members of Parliament (MPs) advocate for the needs and concerns of their constituents. By voicing citizen feedback and

demands within the parliamentary setting, MPs contribute to better service delivery by ensuring that policies align with public interests. The passage the leadership Code (Amendment) Act, 2017 by the Ugandan Parliament is an example of Legislation aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability among public officials. The Acts requires public officials to declare their assets, liabilities, and incomes thereby reducing the likelihood of corruption (Barya 2019)

Overall, the Ugandan parliament has leveraged its constructional powers to scrutinize the government, approve fiscal policies and hold leaders accountable and service delivery, though challenges like corruption and political interference persist as to be discussed below.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA IN PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Despite efforts to increase accountability, corruption remains a major issue that undermines the parliament's oversight role affecting both parliamentarians and government officials. Factors like bribery, falsification of accounts, and procurement related corruption by public officials continue to undermine the proper utilization of public resources.

1. Corruption:Corruption is a significant barrier to good governance in Uganda and this is because it undermines the effectiveness of institutions, erodes public

trust and hinders economic development. Despite the presence of anti-corruption agencies, corruption remains pervasive in both the public and private sectors. The 2013 Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) scandal is a significant example which involved the misappropriation of funds which were meant for post war recovery in Northern Uganda. The scandal highlighted the deep rooted corruption in government institutions and the challenges faced by anti-corruption agencies in holding high level officials accountable (Mwenda and Tangri 2013)

2. Political Interference: The governance institutions in Uganda are easily compromised especially due to political interferences, coming in from the executive. This erodes the effectiveness of institutions like the judiciary, anti-corruption bodies or even Parliament itself. For instance, the 2017 removal of the presidential age limit was largely perceived to have been a result of executive pressure on Parliament to amend the Constitution in favor of the then-incumbent president. This event thus raised concerns about democratic principles and the integrity of the legislative process (Rwengabo,2019)
3. Influence on Patronage Politics: One major challenge to good governance in Uganda pertains to indulgence in patronage politics, where there is exchange of political support for favors like government appointments, contracts and other benefits. The practice undermines meritocracy and fuels corruption, hence distorting the allocation of public resources. For example political considerations often come into play in appointments or distribution of public contracts rather than by merit or public interest. For instance public servants

are appointed and contracts in infrastructure works usually get awarded, not on open competitive grounds but in line with the need to develop political friends. In Uganda, the hallmark of patronage politics has been the entrenchment of a political culture where loyalty to the ruling party is placed ahead of competence and integrity. This not only undermines public confidence in government institutions but also hampers the execution of policies aimed at promoting good governance (Mwenda, 2007).

4. Civic Engagement and Political Participation: The hallmarks of good governance are that citizens are involved in the decision making processes and that they can hold their leaders accountable. In Uganda, however civic engagement remains very low due to limited awareness, political repression and insufficiency of active platforms that allow citizen participation. The 2013 Public Order Management Act is another important example for it has been accused of limiting freedom of assembly and expression in Uganda. The Act requires organizers of public meetings to obtain permission from the police, which has often been denied or used to suppress opposition activities .This has curved citizens' ability to engage in political discourse and advocate for their rights (Oloka Onyango, 2015)

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES TO GOOD GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA

Ways that can be adopted to get through these challenges of good governance in Uganda include promoting civic engagement and education, safeguarding

human rights, adequate allocation of resources, and checking on patronage politics. This requires committed efforts from the government, civil society, and support from the international community.

1. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity:** This can be done by strengthening key institutions such as the judiciary, electoral bodies, and anti-corruption agencies through capacity-building exercises and increasing their funding, along with a number of institutional reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency and accountability.
2. **Civic Engagement and Education:** There is need to increase the extent of civic education programs in citizen's participation geared toward further engaging Ugandans in the political process. This ranges from encouragement regarding voter participation and promotion of citizen's rights to facilitation of civil society organizations fighting for good governance.
3. **Safeguarding Human Rights:** Protection of human rights can be possible in a democratic and inclusive society wherein security forces respect citizen's rights, perpetrators of human rights violations are held accountable and independence of the judiciary is strengthened.
4. **Patronage Politics:** Taming patronage politics calls for deep and wide promotion of merit-based recruitment and procurement processes as well as enforcing anti-corruption laws in place. That way, one is promoting a political culture that encourages public interest as opposed to personal interests, which enables the combating of the vice at large.

Challenges like these can make Uganda move closer to the principles of good governance, by taking into consideration the features that are indispensable for sustainable development, political stability, and the welfare of people.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the methodology used in conducting the study. Therefore the term methodology can be described as the rationale of a research project. It explains how the research will be conducted and it also involves the studying methods to be used in the study. This chapter presents the research design, methods of data collection and the techniques of analysis. It mainly describes the manner in which the research was carried out for answering Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance. Other sections underscore detailed examples and references used in the delineation of the methodological choices, as would be appropriate, and in this regards, the chapter elaborates on the importance of both primary and secondary data sources in understanding the functions of the Ugandan Parliament.

3.2 Research Design

The methodology of this research will be the use of the qualitative data approach, Therefore where the Ugandan Parliament forms a case study. A case study approach is an appropriate design that enables the researcher to gain concrete contextual insight for exploring complex governance structures within particular contexts (Yin 2018). This design will enable the in-depth learning of the Parliament's contribution to good governance, inclusive of its duties in making laws, responsibilities of oversight, and roles of representation. However, its qualitative nature will help in clearly establishing exploration in regard to subjective experiences and perceptions of key stakeholders.

3.3 Data Collection Methods

3.3.1 Primary Sources

Primary data was extracted through semi structured interviews with key informants, which included Members of Parliament (MPs), parliamentary staff, and experts on governance. The semi structured format allowed for flexibility during the interviews, enabling respondents to detail their experiences and views while at the same moment ensuring that the central themes of the study were covered (Kvale and Brinkmann) For example MPs disclosed that it is difficult to reconcile party loyalty issues with constituency interests, as in the case of the debate on the Land Amendment Bill, an MP testified. In addition to the interviews, direct observations of parliamentary sessions and committee meetings were made.

3.3.2 Secondary Sources

The paper relied mainly on secondary data in providing context and historical background for the understanding the role of the Ugandan parliament in promoting good governance. Secondary sources include parliamentary records, government publications, academic literature, NGO reports, and media reports.

3.3.2.1 Parliamentary Records and Reports

Records like committee reports, and legislative documents, were of importance in analyzing the legislative output and oversight activities of the Ugandan Parliament. These records provided a detailed account of the debates, decisions, and actions taken by parliament. This is shown by the Hansan records of the 2017 debate on the Presidential Age limit Amendment Bill that were analyzed to understand the arguments made by MPs and the influence of the executive on the legislative process. (Parliament of Uganda, 2017)

Government publications, including policy papers, white papers, and official reports were used to understand the institutional frameworks and policies related to governance in Uganda. For instance the Public Finance Management Act of 2015 and its accompanying regulations were reviewed to assess their impact on transparency and accountability in public financial management (Government of Uganda 2015)

3.3.2.2 Academic Journals and Books

The academic literature provided theoretical frameworks and comparative perspectives on the role of parliaments in governance. A number of key themes are legislative effectiveness, accountability and executive-legislative relationship. According to Gloppen 2016, provides an analysis of the executive legislature relationship in Uganda, highlighting the challenges of parliamentary independence in a dominant party system. This was crucial for framing the study's analysis of executive influence on Ugandan legislative process.

3.3.2.3 NGO and Civil Society Reports

The reports from Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil society organizations gave critical insights into the performance of the Ugandan Parliament, especially on transparency, accountability and representation. Reports by Human Rights Watch 2018 and the Uganda Debt Network 2019 contributed to elaborate on the role of Parliament in overseeing the government actions and protection of human rights. These were particularly useful in assessing the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight.

3.3.2.4 International Organization Reports

Documents from international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the World Bank, and the African Union helped in understanding the wider governance

standards and how the Ugandan Parliament aligns to those standards. For example, the Worldwide Governance Indicators provided a comparative framework from the World Bank for the assessment of Uganda against global standards on governance performance, thereby contextualizing findings on parliamentary effectiveness. (World Bank report 2020).

3.3.2.5 Media Reports

Media reports, both news articles and opinion were sourced to identify contemporary illustrations of actions and inaction by Parliament related to matters of governance is. For instance press coverage of the 2019 parliamentary investigation into the UNRA corruption scandal provides extensive details of the probe and resultant findings, thereby complementing the information gleaned from parliamentary records. (Daily Monitor 2019)

3.4 Data Analysis

The data collected from both primary and secondary sources were analyzed using thematic analysis. This is a process used to identify, analyze and report patterns or themes within the data, as explained by Braun and Clarke, 2006. Key themes addressed in the analysis included legislative oversight, transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of parliament in promoting good governance, This thematic analysis was chosen for the current study because of the versatility and appropriateness of the methodology within the qualitative research that gives a proper interpretation of the data. The process included coding the data, generating themes, and then analyzing these themes in relation to the research questions. One of the main themes identified was the influence of the executive on the legislative process and this theme came out

from both primary data and secondary data which involved analysis of Hansards and media reports which was explored in detail elaborately in chapter four.

3.5 Ethical considerations

The researcher ensured confidentiality and privacy of sensitive information through obtaining Informed consent which was elicited from all the interviewees whose anonymity was respected where requested. During interviews for instance, some of the MPs were concerned about the possible repercussions of talking about sensitive aspects like corruption and executive interference.

The researcher also used appropriate data collection methods and analysis where secondary data were used in respect of copyright laws. Proper citation practices were put in place, to account for all sources duly and this involved putting permission to use certain copyrighted materials where necessary.

3.6 Limitations of the Study

While the study is of importance in understanding into the Ugandan Parliament, there are some limitations. The most seeable is the reliance on secondary data may have been subjected to biases and inaccuracies. For instance, government publications and parliamentary records mainly represent the official narrative and may not capture dissenting views or behind the scenes dynamics (Golooba-Mutebi 2021)

The study is also limited by the availability of secondary sources to provide data as some government documents and parliamentary records were difficult to access, particularly those related to sensitive topics such as national security or executive privileges.

Conclusion

This chapter has therefore, highlighted the research methodology applied in the use study, and specific area of concern is the secondary source which are widely relied on to form the greater part of the data collection process. The adoption of a qualitative case study approach supplemented with both primary and secondary data is therefore sufficient in facilitating a comprehensive study of the Ugandan Parliament's role in promoting good governance.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The findings on the role played by the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance are presented in this chapter. Data collected through both primary and secondary sources are thoroughly analyzed and discussed. This research specifically looks into the role played by the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance, with respect to its legislative, oversight and representative functions. The challenges faced by the Parliament on governance are also explored.

4.2 Legislative Function of the Ugandan Parliament

4.2.1 Overview of Legislative output

The promotion of good governance in the country is a central legislative role of Parliament. Parliament exercises its role through passing legislation that establishes frameworks for accountability, transparency, participation and the rule of law. The study established that the Ugandan Parliament has had a good history in making some of the significant legislation laws that have directed governance in the country. For example the Anti-Corruption Act of 2009 is key legislation aimed at combating corruption within public institutions. The Act provides for the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Court and gives penalties for offenses relating to corruption as provided by Oloka-Onyango, 2015. Therefore this legislation does illustrate the Parliament role to promote accountability and the rule of law. Another legislative output is the Public Finance Management Act of 2015 which meant to enhance transparency and accountability in public finance. In actual fact this act has been

lauded for having set well-defined procedures in matters of budgeting and expenditures

4.2.2 Influence of the Executive on Legislation

Over dominance of power by the executive on the legislative process is remains an area of concern. For instance, the controversial Public Order Management Act of 2013 which was passed despite widespread opposition parties, who argued that the law infringed on fundamental freedoms. The executive's role in pushing this legislation through Parliament highlights the challenges of maintaining parliamentary independence (Gloppen, 2016). In interviews, some MPs expressed frustration with the rubber stamp nature of Parliament, where bills originating from the executive are often passed with minimal amendments, reflecting the limited the limited capacity of Parliament to challenge the executive branch (Author's interview 22024)

4.2.3 Analysis of Legislative Effectiveness

Despite the passage of important laws, the effectiveness of Parliament in promoting good governance through legislation has been mixed. Several factors, including executive dominance and political interference, have at times undermined the legislative process. For instance the Public Finance Management Act (2015) was intended to enhance transparency and accountability in the management of public finances. However, the implementation of the Act has been hindered by executive dominance, particularly in the budgeting process, where the executive often overrides parliamentary input. Some critics argue that the law's enforcement has been inconsistent, which has limited its effectiveness (Mwenda, 2011).

4.3 Findings on the Oversight Function of the Ugandan Parliament

4.3.1 Role of Parliamentary Committees

Parliamentary committees form the backbone of legislative oversight in Uganda. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in this regard played a very important role in the discovery of corruption within government ministries. One notable example is the 2007 Global fund scandal, which the investigations by PAC led to the resignation of several high ranking officials and increased public awareness of the misuse of donor funds. According to Ongodia 2008, findings indicated that in fact PAC has been effective in pinpointing mismanagement of finances and bringing government officials to book. For example the investigation by PAC into the embezzlement of money set aside to hold the CHOGM in 2007 revealed some shocking mismanagement of public funds. It is from the report by this committee that some high ranking officials were taken to court for persecution, an example of Parliament's oversight role in bringing people to book for actions.

4.3.2 Challenges in Oversight Effectiveness

Notwithstanding the successes, parliamentary oversight effectiveness has been several times challenged by among other factors, limited resources, political interference, and lack of enforcement power. Such challenges have resulted in no follow-through on committee recommendations and hence weaken parliamentary oversight. Although PAC has successfully been able to identify the irregularities in the financial sector, its recommendations are never fully implemented by the executive and lack of enforcement diminishes the ability of committee hold the government accountable (Oboth, 2015). Further more the effectiveness of committees is often compromised by limited resources. For example, the Committee on Natural Resources

has not taken the oil sector due to a lack of technical expertise and funding comprehensive fieldwork (Bategeka and Matovu 2011). This gap undermines the Parliament's ability to exercise robust oversight over a sector critical to Uganda's economy.

This is further evident in the 2018 inquiry by the parliamentary oversight into Uganda National Roads Authority. Massive financial mismanagement was unearthed, leading to several top officials being fired and reforms done in the agency. The success of the inquiry also showed the Parliament's reactive rather than proactive approach to oversight, with most issues only being handled after public scandals come up to light (Khan 2020). More often than not political dynamics override effective oversight. For instance, the 2011 Temangalo land scandal that implicated the then Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi once more exposed the limits of parliamentary oversight in cases that involve powerful political actors. "(Bukenya. B. (2013). *The politics of Corruption and the Dynamics of Accountability in Uganda. Developmental Leadership Program Working Paper No. 26*)."

4.4 Findings on the Representative Function of the Ugandan Parliament

4.4.1 Representation of Constituents

Members of Parliament are expected to represent their constituents' interests in Parliament. An example of this is the 2017 debate on the Land Amendment Bill, where many MPs voiced their constituents' concerns about the potential for land grabbing. Despite these efforts, the final legislation did not fully address these concerns, highlighting the tension between party loyalty and constituency representation. In rural areas, Members of Parliament often focus on issues like

infrastructure and service delivery. For instance, MPs from northern Uganda have been vocal about the need for increased investment in post- conflict recovery, yet progress has been slow, reflecting the Parliament's limited influence over budgetary allocations (Branch 2013)

4.4.2 Public Participation in the Legislative Process

The study found out that public participation in the legislative process is facilitated through mechanisms such as public hearing and these are not always effectively utilized. The Public Hearings on the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill of 2017 serve as a significant example of how public input can be overlooked. Despite significant public opposition to certain provisions of the bill, it was passed largely unchanged, raising questions about the parliament's commitment to genuinely incorporating public views into legislation (Jjuuko 2018).

4.5 Challenges Facing the Ugandan Parliament in Promoting Good Governance

4.5.1 Political Environment

The political climate of Uganda creates a much challenging situation for parliamentary independence. The removal of presidential age limits in the year 2017 is an apparent case, where intense pressure from the executive and financial inducement saw the passing of a very controversial amendment. This is because the process was marked by violence and allegations of bribery, pointing out the challenges Parliament faces in acting independently in a politically charged environment (Rwengabo 2019). The domination of Parliament by members of the National Resistance Movement in addition, means that Parliament means that opposition voices are often at the periphery, reducing the scope for proper debate

and oversight. The lack of a strong opposition delegitimizes the role of Parliament in checking the executive, as is evidenced by its performance over the 2021 elections. (Golooba Mutebi, 2021)

4.5.2 Capacity and Resources

The capacity of the Ugandan Parliament to deliver its mandate remains constrained by reduced capacity. For example, MPs point to a lack of research support that constrains effective legislating and oversight roles. The Budget Committee often than not stretched in an effort to adequately scrutinize complex budget proposals within a short period, characterized with inadequate technical support. (Tumushabe and Muhumuza, 2014). Similarly, the Parliamentary Service Commission has been criticized for failing to effectively address capacity building needs of MPs, especially new members who need induction and training on how to go about with different parliamentary procedures. This lacuna hinders effective functioning of Parliament. It is also faulted for failing to effectively address the capacity - building needs of MPs, especially new members who require orientation and training on parliamentary procedures thus limiting the effectiveness of Parliament in performing its governance functions. (Kiiza 2020)

4.5.3 Corruption and Patronage

The persistence of cases to deal with corruption and patronage issues remain significant challenges. For instance the 2013 bribery allegations involving MPs on the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee during the debate on the Marriage and Divorce Bill highlighted how financial incentives can undermine the integrity of the legislative process (Mwenda, 2014). Such incidents erode public trust in Parliament

and its role in promoting good governance. Patronage also plays a significant role, with MPs often coopted by the executive through appointments to ministerial positions or other lucrative government posts. This blurred the lines between the executive and the legislature, reducing Parliament's ability to act as an independent check on the government (Tangri and Mwenda 2013)

4.6 Impact of the Ugandan Parliament on Good Governance

4.6.1 Legislative Impact

Despite the challenges, the Ugandan Parliament has led a notable impact on governance through its legislative role. The Anti-homosexuality Act of 2014, though later annulled by the Constitutional Court, sparked a national and international debate on human rights and the role of the legislature in shaping social policy. The act demonstrated the Parliament's ability to influence the national agenda, even as it highlighted the tensions between local and international governance standards. (Tamale, 2014) Similarly, the Access to Information Act of 2005 is another example of positive legislative impact. This law has been instrumental in promoting transparency by providing a legal framework for accessing government-held information. However, its implementation has been uneven, with many government agencies failing to comply fully with the law (Florini 2018)

4.6.2 Supervision and Accountability

Some of the results of Parliament's oversight role have been increased transparency and accountability. For example, the investigation of the Office of the Prime Minister scam which saw millions of dollars meant to finance the post-war recovery of northern Uganda being embezzled, in 2012, leads to the prosecution of a number of

officials and places greater scrutiny into government expenditures, according to Mwenda in 2013. The example here illustrates the potential ability of parliamentary oversight to enforce accountability, even in cases that are very challenging.

This is however generally weakened by non-implementation of recommendations made by committees. For example, there are several reports by the public Accounts Committee yet follow-up by the executive is usually very slow or not done at all hence making the efforts to offer oversight ineffectiveness. (Golooba-Mutebi, 2016)

4.6.3 Public Trust and Perception

Public perceptions of the Ugandan Parliament are quite mixed. Despite this, according to a 2020 Afrobarometer survey, many Ugandans recognized the significance of Parliament, at the same time there is widespread of discontent over its performance, most especially in dealing with corruption and the general public's interest. The Age Limit Amendment that was passed in 2017 had huge painting on public in Parliament.

Conclusion

This chapter has presented a summary of the finding of the study analyzing the role of the Ugandan Parliament in fostering promoting good governance. The findings indicated that, albeit the fact that Parliament has been effective in its contribution to the good governance through its roles- legislative, oversight, and representative functions, its effectiveness is most times undermined by corruption, executive domination, and institutional weaknesses. These challenges pose real threats to the

promotion of good governance in Uganda and therefore the need for reforms to strengthen the independence and capacity of Parliament. A careful analysis of such findings does show a complex interaction between institutional functions and governance outcomes and indeed suggests that what is necessary is comprehensive in bringing about necessary reform in the challenges about the Ugandan Parliament. A more effective role by Parliament in addressing the issues at hand will lead to the promotion of good governance and democratization of processes within Uganda.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter summarizes the main findings, makes conclusions based on those findings, and gives recommendations to improve on the role of the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance. The discussion is led the data analyzed in the previous chapters, focusing particularly on the legislative, oversight, and representative functions of Parliament. The thesis that, while the Ugandan Parliament plays a very instrumental role in the advancement of good governance, there are several challenges that need to be addressed in order to enhance its effectiveness is supported by specific examples and references.

5.2 Summary of Findings

This research work attempted to investigate the role of the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance, particularly with regard to the ideals of accountability, transparency, participation and the rule of law. The summary of the main findings is herein presented.

5.2.1 Legislative Role

The Ugandan Parliament has enacted various laws aimed at entrenching good governance. Among the key ones are the Leadership Code Act of 2002, which sought to enforce good ethical standards on public officials, and the Access to Information Act 2005, meant to enhance transparency by providing citizens with access to information in the public domain. All these laws, however, lack effective mechanisms

of enforcement and remain only at the level of political appeasement, according to Oloka-Onyango. (2015).

5.2.2 Oversight Role

Among other things, the Parliament oversight role, particularly through committees like the Public Accounts Committee, has been very instrumental in keeping the executive in check. For example, it was the PAC's investigation into the Global Fund scandal in 2005, that brought to light mismanagement and corruption in the disbursement of funds for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. There have been far-reaching reforms in fund management as a result. (Kjaar, 2009). Notwithstanding these successes, the study found out that the overall effectiveness of parliamentary oversight is undermined by a lack of enforcement power and persistent executive dominance.

5.2.3 Representative Role

The study found out that while Parliament is intended to represent the interests of the Ugandan people, most often there are Members of Parliament and disconnections from their constituents. Participation of the public in the processes of legislation is limited an aspect clearly depicted during debates on the Constitution Bill, 2017, where the public dissent over the scrapping of presidential age limit was largely overridden by MPs, as captured in Mwenda 2018, This raises concerns about the responsiveness and representation of Parliament to the will of the people.

5.2.4 Challenges

The study has identified a number of challenges that hinder the effectiveness of the Ugandan Parliament in regard to the promotion good governance. The challenges

range from corruption, in which MPs have been implicated in scandals for example, by the scandals over the 2011 bribery allegations over the oil sector to executive dominance, which brings about limitation in parliamentary autonomy. Moreover, there is institutional weakness like inadequate resources and lack of technical expertise further diminish Parliament's role. This competence shall further hinder Parliament's potential to perform its role effectively (Barken, 2009).

5.2.3 Conclusion

The findings of the study underline the very critical role that Parliament plays in promoting good governance in Uganda. Through its legislative, oversight, and representative functions, Parliament is able to uphold the core principles of accountability, transparency, participation and the rule of law. The study has also brought out very important challenges that hinder Parliament from fully realizing this potential.

The effectiveness of the Legislature: Even though the Ugandan Parliament has been effective to the extent of passing some crucial laws toward promoting good governance, political interference and ineffectiveness of the enforcement mechanisms in the legislative process most of the time make such very beneficial and important laws ineffective.

Oversight Function: No doubt, role of Parliament, especially through committees like the PAC, is important in ensuring executive accountability. The power of this function however is most often limited by executive dominance and a follow-through on recommendations made by committees. A case in point is that of the Global Fund

scandal with regard to the effectiveness and weaknesses of parliamentary oversight (Kjaar, 2009).

Representation and Participation: An estrangement of the MPs from the citizens, as can be evidenced from the officials' manner of dealing with the constitution Bill, 2017, however points that there is a visible gap in the representation of the Parliament of Uganda: a representation which supposedly is true to the interests of the Ugandan populace undermines the confidence which the public have in the process of legislation and overall paradigm of governance.

Challenges: Corruption permeates Parliament, along with executive dominance and institutional weaknesses, among the major challenges provides an opportunity to continue evolving and strengthening the status of Parliament under the democratic system in Uganda.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations are proposed to strengthen the role of the Ugandan Parliament in promoting good governance:

5.3.1 Strengthening Legislative Autonomy

To reduce executive dominance and enhance the effectiveness of Parliament's legislative function, it is essential to:

- **Amend Laws to Ensure Parliamentary Independence:** Reforms should be introduced to limit the executive's influence over Parliament, particularly in areas such as the budget process and conditional amendments. For example introducing a requirement for a

supermajority in Parliament to pass certain types of legislation could help ensure broader consensus and reduce the likelihood of executive overreach (Young, 2010).

- **Enhance Enforcement Mechanisms:** Strengthening the enforcement of laws passed by Parliament, such as through the establishment of independent oversight bodies, could improve the effectiveness of legislation aimed at promoting good governance. For example the creation of an independent Parliamentary Monitoring and Evaluation Unit could ensure that laws like the Leadership Code Act are properly implemented and adhered to by the public officials (Oloka-Onyango, 2015)

Enhancing Parliamentary Oversight

To improve the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight, the following actions are recommended:

- **Increase Resources for Committees:** Providing parliamentary committees, especially those involved in oversight, with adequate resources, including access to independent experts, could enhance their ability to scrutinize government actions effectively. For example the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office to provide independent analysis of government expenditure could strengthen financial oversight (Schick, 2008).

- **Strengthening Follow-Up Mechanisms:** Ensuring that recommendations made by parliamentary committees, such as the PAC, are implemented by the executive is crucial for maintaining accountability. Instituting regular follow up reports on the implementation of committee recommendations, similar to practices in the UK Parliament, could help ensure compliance (Fox, 2012)

Improving Public Participation and Representation

To ensure that Parliament more effectively represents the interests of the Ugandan People:

- **Increase Public Engagement in the Legislative Process:** Mechanisms for public consultation should be strengthened to ensure that citizens have a meaningful role in shaping legislation. This could involve more extensive use of public hearings and digital platforms for soliciting public input. For example the adoption of participation tools, similar to those used in Estonia, where citizens can directly contribute to legislative proposals online, could enhance public involvement in Uganda (Margetta, 2013)
- **Enhance Constituency Representation:** MPs should be provided with better resources and support to engage with their constituents and advocate for local development needs. For instance establishing Constituency Development Offices with dedicated staff and budgets, as

seen in countries like India, could help MPs better serve their constituencies (Keefer and Khemani, 2009).

5.4 Combating Corruption

To address the issue of corruption within Parliament and the broader political systems:

- **Strengthen Anti-Corruption Institutions:** Enhancing the capacity and independence of institutions like the inspectorate of Government and Anti-Corruption Court is essential for tackling corruption effectively. Adopting measures similar to Rwanda's anti-corruption strategy, where the Ombudsman's office has been given significant powers to investigate and prosecute corruption cases, could be beneficial for Uganda (Transparency International 2020).
- **Promoting Transparency in Parliamentary Processes:** Making parliamentary proceedings more transparent and accessible to the public can help reduce corruption and increase accountability. The introduction of a parliamentary transparency portal, where all legislative activities, including voting records and committee reports, are published online, could increase public scrutiny of Parliament's work (Fox, 2012)

5.4.1 Addressing Institutional Weaknesses

To overcome the institutional weaknesses that limit Parliament's effectiveness:

- **Increase Funding for Parliamentary Operations:** Allocating more financial resources to Parliament is crucial for supporting its legislative, oversight, and representative functions. This includes funding for research, constituency offices, and committee activities. Following the model of the Australian Parliament, where committees have dedicated budgets and resources , could help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of parliamentary operations (Young, 2010)
- **Invest in Infrastructure and Technology:** Upgrading the physical and digital infrastructure of Parliament, including ICT systems and research facilities, is essential for enhancing operational efficiency. The digitalization of parliamentary processes, as seen in Estonia's e-Parliament initiative, could significantly improve the efficiency and transparency of legislative activities in Uganda (Margetts, 2013)

5.5 Final Thoughts

This study has highlighted the critical role that the Ugandan Parliament can play in promoting good governance. However, to fully realize this potential, significant reforms are needed to address the challenges of corruption, executive dominance, and institutional weaknesses. By implementing the recommendations outlined above, there is an opportunity to strengthen Parliament's capacity to uphold the Principles of accountability, transparency, participation, and the rule of law thereby contributing to the overall enhancement of democratic governance in Uganda.

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