



## **The impact of democratic processes on the development of Kigali City: *Study findings from “The impact of democratic governance on the development of urban areas in Rwanda”*: A case of Kigali City (2003-2013)**

**Omar Khalfan<sup>1</sup>, Salomon Asiimwe Muchwa<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Former Lecturer of International Relations and Comparative Politics at University of Rwanda; Scholar at College of Liberal Arts- International Comparative Politics/SPIA-Wright State University and Independent Senior Research Fellow, Ohio, USA

<sup>2</sup> Acting Director, Graduate Studies and Research, Senior Lecturer of International Relations, Diplomacy and Security Studies at Nkumba University, Uganda

### **Abstract**

This study was conducted in order to figure out if democratic governance influences development in Kigali City, Capital of Rwanda. The results for development are aligned with the causal factor (Democratic governance) of theoretical interest through the causal mechanism (actors: political, civil society, community, local and international organizations, legal framework and policies. The pathway under different actors has affected an outcome of theoretical and practiced interest which is development. To further benchmark this study, variables have been worked on in our field research and the discussion was done on the basis of the study objective, research question and hypothesis.

**Keywords:** democracy, democratization, development, governance

### **Introduction**

The study on “The Impact of Democratic processes on the Development of Rwanda, the case of Kigali City” is premised on the understanding that democratic governance (here we chose to have three of the democratic governance’s components: decentralization, political parties and elections) do affect development of urban areas, as good governance’s principles go hand in hand with development of urban or rural settings. The overall objective of this study was to analyse the impact of democratic processes on the development of Kigali city and how one (democracy and development) can impinge another if it is left behind. This study was conducted in Kigali City, capital of Rwanda covering three districts namely; Gasabo, Kicukiro and Nyarugenge. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative methods. The main methods’ tools used in data collection are in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), questionnaire, observation, and review of secondary data. In order to establish the contribution of different respondents in supporting democratic processes and development of urban areas, this study used a sample of 158 respondents selected from a study population of which is equal to 0.05. and this means that we make the poll to 5% of the population. Data sources included primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected mostly from Kigali city’s officials and employees, politicians and members of political parties, Civil Society organizations and communities, academicians and research centres. Data were collected through the period of three years: 2011-2013. Finally, we cannot ignore the impact that democratic processes may put on development factors, specifically in policy formulation, adoption and implementation; as one is political and another is about social welfare, i.e. both are interlinked and should go hand-in-hand in order to influence

one another for better political stability and sustainable development.

### **Understanding Democratic Processes and the Development Democracy and democratization.**

The word “democracy” can be loosely translated to mean “a government of the people, by the people and for the people”, Lincoln, Abraham (1863) [7]. According to Nsibambi (1998:7) [8] “Democratization” is a process of putting in place systems, structures, and practices of governments which answer the following: freedoms (of opinion, association, press, and worship), periodic, free and fair elections of national and local leaders, decent of living standards for every member of the society, and accountable administration.

### **Understanding Development**

One of the simplest definitions of development can be considered as the objective of moving towards a state relatively better than what previously existed. In this regard, development could mean any positive change in life, Chambers, Robert (1997) [3]. In his book 'Development as Freedom' the Nobel Prize winning economist, Sen, K. Amartya (1999) [12] defines development as: “Enlarging people's choices, capabilities and freedoms, so that they can live a long and healthy life, have access to knowledge, a decent standard of living, and participate in the life of their community.”

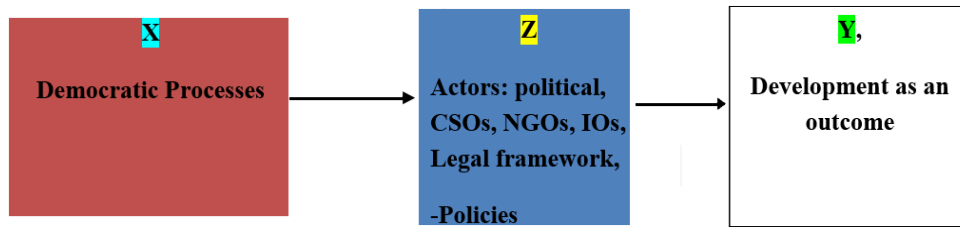
### **Development and Democracy**

A lack of economic development does not constitute a fundamental obstacle to democracy, Rustow claims. In countries like England, Sweden and the United States, processes of democratization started far back in history – at

a time when these countries could hardly be considered ‘developed’ in the sense used in modernization theory. When the process began, these countries were backward indeed. Yet the project succeeded all the same. What made this possible? In Rustow’s view, the democratic achievements in these and other countries were a result of skilful political manoeuvring on the part of the political actors involved. In each process of transformation, it was the interaction between elite actors that decided the outcome of the game in the long run. To be successful, elite representatives from different political camps had to come together and work out some kind of accord, thus making cohabitation and cooperation possible. A process of democratization thus starts with ‘a deliberate decision on the part of the political leaders to accept the existence of diversity and unity and, to that end, to institutionalise some crucial aspects of democratic procedures’, (Rustow 1970:342)<sup>[11]</sup>.

**Study Methodology**

The study was supported by both quantitative and qualitative methods.



Source: Adapted by the Researcher using John Gerring basic causal Diagram

Fig 1

According to John Gerring, (2010 <sup>[6]</sup>, P.144), with his Basic Causal Diagram, Democratic processes (X) is a causal factor of theoretical interest; (Z, Actors) Causal mechanism or pathway by which X affects Y which is development; while Y is an outcome of theoretical and practiced interest

**Study Findings**

The study was conducted in order to figure out if democratic

Quantitative approaches are objective, and help establish a basis of behaviour towards issues being addressed within a study. In our study these quantitative approaches allowed data accumulation in a controlled environment to prevent any biased outcome.

**Independent Variable**

Democratic governance processes, because using our research methods tools allowed us to reach the conclusion that the political process had affected positively the ongoing development in the Kigali city. This is shown in detail in our study findings.

**Dependent variable**

Development is affected by different tools within democratic processes and governance and it is an outcome.

**Mutually reinforcing determinants**

Determinants’ Reinforcement

This study considers the following: Mutually reinforcing determinants:

processes influences development in Kigali City, Capital of Rwanda. This article presents the study findings and has discussed, analysed and interpreted results found in this study. The discussion and interpretation oscillate between the theoretical foundation about democratic governance and development, and their historical and philosophical aspects. The empirical evidence containing this study has showed its weight in the real life of the people of Rwanda.

Table 1: Relationship between economics and politics

| Responses         | Staff (Kigali and its districts ) |       | Politicians |       | Civil society |       | Academics and researchers |      |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------------------|------|
|                   | No.                               | %     | No.         | %     | No.           | %     | No.                       | %    |
| Strongly agree    | 28                                | 65.11 | 17          | 56.66 | 15            | 33.33 | 18                        | 45   |
| Agree             | 11                                | 25.58 | 13          | 43.33 | 19            | 42.22 | 15                        | 37.5 |
| Disagree          | 4                                 | 9.30  | 0           | 0     | 11            | 24.44 | 7                         | 17.5 |
| Strongly disagree | 0                                 | 0     | 0           | 0     | 0             | 0     | 0                         | 0    |
| Total             | 43                                | 100   | 30          | 100   | 45            | 100   | 40                        | 100  |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table above shows that the following question “Do you agree that politics and economics are intertwined as some political scientists and experts have pointed out”? 28 (65.11%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts’ staff have responded by “strongly agree”; 17 (56.66%) out of 30 political parties’ members took the same opinion by responding as “strongly agree”; 15 (33.33%) out of 45 from civil society members echoed the same ideas with “strongly agree” and 18 (45%) out of 40 from academics and research centres members have also responded by “strongly agree”. The above data show that from the total number 158 (100%)

respondents, who have responded with “strongly agree” were 78 respondents all together. This number 78 represents 49.36 % who gave their responses with “strongly agree”. For those who responded with “agree”, we have 11 (25.58%) out of 43 from staff of Kigali City and its districts, 13 (43.33%) out 30 from Politicians, 19 (42.22%) out of 45 from civil society, and 15(37.5%) out of 40 from Academicians and centers’ researchers. The table above shows that respondents who responded with “agree” were all together at the number of 58 out of 158, they represent 36.70%. Respondents who gave their answer as “disagree”

are represented in table above as follows: 4 (9.30%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts have responded with “disagree”, 0 (0%) out of 30 from politicians, 11(24.44%) out of 45 from civil society, and 7 (17.5%) out of 40 from academicians and centres’ researchers, all together were 22 out of 158 and they represent 13.92%.

The result on this “Do you agree that politics and economics are intertwined as some political scientists and experts have pointed out”? Confirmed that politics and economics are intertwined with the total respondents of 78 out of 158 participants (Strongly Agree) with the percentage of 49.36. In addition to that, the total respondents with “Agree” were 58 out of 158 for the all participants with the percentage of 36.70. While another negligible result has shown that the number of 22 (13.92%) out of 158 has disagreed with the philosophy, and this is the line that while an effective political process with good governance’s principles may provide a basis for development, but in some cases, it cannot grant it; that is why this small number of participants (22 respondents) has disagreed with the above view. These 22 respondents who disagreed with the view that politics and economics are intertwined; they may endorse the idea that by nature, developing countries feature processes of economic development that are inimical to democratic openings, Haynes Jeffrey, (2005). However, supporting the idea that democracy plays a great role in causing development result(s) and stabilizing it, one participant in the study from Kigali City Officials had this to say; “ After 1994 Genocide against Tutsi, the Government of Unity had

established good governance principles and adopted democratic processes as a way to democratize the country but also as a means to reach stable and sustainable development; so, as one who started with this process, I am witnessing the result around this country. Take examples of how Kigali City was before, and how it is appeared today. Different policies have been adopted, and affected the change, positive ones. Among these policies, I may cite that of poverty reduction, in practice, since 2007 up to 2012 within only five years, it enabled 1,000,000 citizens to shift from below poverty line to another step of life standard; you can imagine how good governance (emanating from democratic processes: financial, administrative, and political decentralization vibrant “parties’ regular and effective elections”) has promoted and affected positively development in general and urban development in this country.” (Kigali City, on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013) According to Ikpi (1997) it is important to note that governance consists of two distinct but intimately intertwined dimensions: one is political and relates to commitment to good governance and the other is technical and relates to issues of efficiency and public management. It should be noted that without political commitment, little can be achieved. Even with an efficient public administration no government can be effective however benevolent. According to Morton H., *et al* (2005) “ Democratic, accountable political institutions are both an end in themselves and an effective means toward development”.

**Table 2:** Informal institutions affect development and politics

| Responses    | Staff (Kigali and its districts ) |     | Politicians |     | Civil society |     | Academicians and researchers |     |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-------------|-----|---------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|
|              | No.                               | %   | No.         | %   | No.           | %   | No.                          | %   |
|              | Yes                               | 43  | 100         | 30  | 100           | 45  | 100                          | 40  |
| No           | 0                                 | 0   | 0           | 0   | 0             | 0   | 0                            | 0   |
| I don't Know | 0                                 | 0   | 0           | 0   | 0             | 0   | 0                            | 0   |
| Total        | 43                                | 100 | 30          | 100 | 45            | 100 | 40                           | 100 |

Source: Primary data, 2013

Do you agree that informal institutions affect development and politics in one way or in another? As confirmed by the all participants in the study 100 percent, informal institutions affect development and politics in one way or in another. As Heynes pointed out, informal institutions play an important role causing development result in the third world, and this was the case in Rwanda, where a vibrant society specifically the informal workers country-wide aftermath in 1994 have impacted positively the outcome of Rwanda’s development. According to Heynes, (1997) <sup>[4]</sup> during the third wave of democracy from the mid-1970s to mid- 1990s, various informal institutions were judged to be significant for developmental outcomes in democratizing countries. Attempts to establish democratic political structures and processes in new democracies of which there were many in the developing world marked a phase

whereby a range of political and newly politicized actors searched for new, binding, democratically legitimate rules of political competition and engagement. Furthermore, Rueschemeyer, Stephens and Stephens (1992) argue that these kinds of relationships were pivotal in explaining developmental outcomes in various kinds of state. This is because the nature and characteristics of relationships between various groups – for example, large-scale capitalists, the bourgeoisie, the middle classes, industrial workers, landlords, and peasants – profoundly affect developmental outcomes. Cammack (1997) <sup>[1]</sup> puts in another way, a country’s political trajectory – for example, towards or away from democracy – is typically influenced by various historically determined structures, often driven by particularistic chronicles of capitalist development.

**Table 3:** The impact of democracy and good governance principles on development of Kigali City

| Responses         | Staff (Kigali and its districts) |       | Politicians |       | Civil society |       | Academicians and researchers |      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------------|------|
|                   | No.                              | %     | No.         | %     | No            | %     | No                           | %    |
| Strongly agree    | 22                               | 51.16 | 16          | 53.33 | 19            | 42.22 | 13                           | 32.5 |
| Agree             | 21                               | 48.83 | 14          | 46.66 | 22            | 48.88 | 22                           | 55   |
| Disagree          | 0                                | 0     | 0           | 0     | 4             | 8.88  | 3                            | 7.5  |
| Strongly disagree | 0                                | 0     | 0           | 0     |               | 0     | 0                            | 0    |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table above shows that the following question “to what extent democracy’s and good governance principles affect development of Kigali City”? 22 (51.16%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts’ staff have responded by “strongly agree”; 16 (53.33%) out of 30 political parties’ members took the same opinion by responding as “strongly agree”; 19(42.22%) out of 45 from civil society members echoed the same ideas with “strongly agree” and 13 (32.5%) out of 40 from academics and research centres members have also responded by “strongly agree”. The above data show that from the total number 158 (100%) respondents, who have responded with “strongly agree” were 70 respondents all together. This number 70 represents 44.30 % who gave their responses with “strongly agree”.

For those who responded with “agree”, we have 21 (48.88%) out of 43 from staff of Kigali City and its districts, 14 (46.66%) out 30 from Politicians, 22 (48.88%) out of 45 from civil society, and 22(55%) out of 40 from Academicians and centers’ researchers. The table above shows that respondents who responded with “agree” were all together at the number of 79 out of 158, they represent 50%. Respondents who gave their answer as “disagree” are represented in table 6.3 above as follows: 0 (0%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts have responded with “disagree”, 0 (0%) out of 30 from politicians, 4(8.88%) out of 45 from civil society, and 3 (7.5%) out of 40 from academicians and centres’ researchers, all together were 7 out of 158 and they represent 4.43%. For those who responded to the question, none of them has answered with “strongly disagree”.

The table above shows that the following question “to what extent democracy’s and good governance principles affect development of Kigali City”? It is noted from the above study findings in the table that the total of respondents who answered on the question above with “strongly Agree” is 70 out of 158 total of participants which equals to 44.30%. Furthermore, the number of respondents who favored the answer “Agree” to the asked question is 79 out of 158 with 50%; “Strongly Agree” and “Agree” together have percentage of 94.30; so this shows that citizens in Kigali City have witnessed the development which emanates from interaction between democratic processes and good governance. There is a small number 9 with percentage of 5.69 which disagreed on the above view that democracy and good governance principles affect development of Kigali City. For those who responded to the question, none of them has answered with “strongly disagree”.

**One key informant confirmed that**

*“Development of Kigali City does not come from scratch! It is a result of combination of many elements such as political process, democratic governance, political decentralization: “elections of grassroots level which produce elected local leaders, and they compete for local development in order to be re-elected!”; this made them to be accountable leaders; to implement decentralization policy; to have well elaborated projects, well implemented projects.”* (Kigali City, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013)

On the other hand, with the same view of those who responded to the asked question ascertaining that there is no impact of democratic processes on the development of Kigali City, one from the political opposition side had this to say; *“There is no impact of what you are saying, I mean impact of the so-called democratic processes on development of Kigali City; development process is dictated from RPF ruling party; I accept there is a development, we see it; we as political parties’ members, we have just to follow. Different projects are in the few hands of businessmen and women; this cannot last for long.”* (Kigali City, Gasabo District on 03 April 2013) Even though the above view minimizing the role of democratic processes towards development outcome, by contrast Mayor of Kigali City, Mr. Fideli Ndayisaba and a member of RPF Ruling party had this to say; *“Rwanda’s democratic processes started after 1994 Genocide against Tutsi, RPF together with some of political parties which had no hands in genocide have formed government of unity in July 1994 according to the Arusha Peace Agreement between the then RPF Rebel Group and former Rwandan Government; political process continued with Village Urugwiro Talks in the period of 1998-1999 between different stakeholders in the country, they deliberated on tangible recommendations, then in 2003 Rwanda had a new constitution which is the foundation of what we are doing now: effective periodic local leaders elections, parliamentarian and presidential elections; Rwanda is experiencing the notion of democracy which leads to a sustained development. Every trip I do, I am always asked many questions, the main is “How did we manage to overcome many problems that Rwanda had?”, and entering into modernizing and urbanizing the country? My simple answer often is that: when there is a serious political commitment, other elements will follow; that is, how we got into developing Rwanda, specifically the City of Kigali, I am leading.”* (Kigali City, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2013)

**Table 4:** Achievement of Good Governance’s principles

| Responses | Staff (Kigali and its districts ) |       | Politicians |       | Civil Society |     | Academicians and researchers |      |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|-----|------------------------------|------|
|           | No.                               | %     | No.         | %     | No.           | %   | No.                          | %    |
|           | Yes                               | 37    | 86.04       | 25    | 83.33         | 36  | 80                           | 33   |
| No        | 6                                 | 13.95 | 5           | 16.66 | 9             | 20  | 7                            | 17.5 |
| Total     | 43                                | 100   | 30          | 100   | 45            | 100 | 40                           | 100  |

Source: Primary data, 2013

Having responded to the following question “Do you feel proud of the good governance’s principles achievement in your City, District”? The table above shows that 37 respondents (86.04%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts; 25 respondents (83.33%) out of 30 from Politicians; 36 respondents (80%) out of 45 from Civil Society, 33 respondents (82.5%) out of 40 from academicians and researchers feel proud of what is realized in Kigali City and its districts as developmental achievements that are being result from implementation of good governance principles; while 6 respondents (13.95%) out of 43 from Kigali city and its districts; 5 respondents (16.66%) out of 30 from Politicians; 9 respondents (20%) out of 45 from Civil Society; 7 respondents (17.5) out of 40 from academicians and researchers are not proud of what is achievable as it will be discussed in the next chapter.

The study outcome of this question “Do you feel proud of the good governance’s principles achievement in your City, District”? Has revealed that the total number of respondents

who said “YES” to the above question is 131 out of 158 which equals to 82.91%; while the total number which responded to the question with “NO” is 27 out 158 with percentage of 17.08.

For those who said “YES” this is encouraging sign of how people in Kigali follow different activities in the city. In addition, citizens in Kigali City feel proud of what they witness in the city for different projects that are carried out for its development. However, there is a non-negligible number 27 with a percentage of 17.08 which feels not proud of that remarkable development in the City of Kigali because of many reasons: some of them see this development as a threat to them. In my further research I discovered that some of them had land(s), and those lands were expropriated without a full consent from their owners, other cases are those related to unemployment, some Genocide Survivors who are still living under poverty line; so this is a group of people who are not happy at all with the developmental progress in Kigali City.

**Table 5:** The promotion of public financing of political process for the incomes distribution to Kigali city

| Responses       | Staff (Kigali and its districts ) |       | Politicians |       | Civil society |       | Academicians and researchers |      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------------|------|
|                 | No.                               | %     | No.         | %     | No.           | %     | No.                          | %    |
|                 | Major extent                      | 27    | 62.79       | 20    | 66.66         | 29    | 64.44                        | 23   |
| Moderate extent | 16                                | 37.20 | 10          | 33.33 | 16            | 35.55 | 17                           | 42.5 |
| Minor extent    | 0                                 | 0     | 0           | 0     | 0             | 0     | 0                            | 0    |
| Total           | 43                                | 100   | 30          | 100   | 45            | 100   | 40                           | 100  |

Source: Primary data, 2013

To what extent has public financing of political process promoted even the distribution of incomes to Kigali City and its Districts? The table above explains on the “Government’s help to enforce decentralization policy with the following question: “to what extent Central Government helps to enforce decentralization policy in the decentralized entities”? It is clear that staff of Kigali city and its districts have expressed their opinion on Government’s help enforcing decentralization policy with “subsidies and training “ 33 out of 43 representing 76.74% their answer was “Major extent “; with “subsidies only”, 6 out of 43 representing 13.95% the answer was “Moderate extent”, and finally with the “advices” 4 out of 43 representing 9.30% responded with “ Minor extent”

To what extent has public financing of political process promoted even the distribution of incomes to Kigali City and its Districts? The above question was asked to assess different views from our respondents and the study findings in that table shows that 99 out of 158 all participants with a

percentage of 62.65 have appreciated with “Major Extent” the promotion of public financing of political process for the distribution incomes in Kigali City, and this is a positive reaction from the people; while 59 (37.34%) out of 158 have responded with “Moderate Extent” this also is not negligible sign as it shows how people do follow the day-to-day business in their respective entities. In the above view of public financing to promote political process, one key informant had this to say; “Rwanda is among first countries in Sub-Saharan Africa which utilizes well the public fund, and this was appreciated by developmental partners such as DFID, USAID, GIZ, IMF, European Union, UNDP-UN; etc. Consequently, Rwanda had got financial supports from above donors and the government of Rwanda supports financially political process under political decentralization (Local Elections, and political parties’ training). I think every Rwandan has to be proud of what the country is achieving politically and economically”. (Kigali City, on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)

**Table 6:** Interaction between democratic advancement and economic development

| Responses         | Staff, Kigali and its districts |       | Politicians |       | Civil society |       | Academics and researchers |     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|---------------------------|-----|
|                   | No.                             | %     | No.         | %     | No.           | %     | No.                       | %   |
|                   | Strongly agree                  | 26    | 60.46       | 18    | 60            | 13    | 28.88                     | 16  |
| Agree             | 12                              | 27.90 | 10          | 33.33 | 23            | 51.11 | 14                        | 35  |
| Disagree          | 5                               | 11.62 | 2           | 6.66  | 9             | 20    | 10                        | 25  |
| Strongly disagree | 0                               | 0     | 0           | 0     | 0             | 0     | 0                         | 0   |
| Total             | 43                              | 100   | 30          | 100   | 45            | 100   | 40                        | 100 |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table above shows that the following question “ Do you agree that if political process is left behind as well as democratic advancement, economic development will meet obstacles”? 26 (60.46%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts’ staff have responded by “strongly agree”; 18 (60%) out of 30 political parties’ members took the same opinion by responding as “strongly agree”; 13 (28.88%) out of 45 from civil society members echoed the same ideas with “strongly agree” and 16 (40%) out of 40 from academics and research centres members have also responded by “strongly agree”. The above data show that from the total number 158 (100%) respondents, who have responded with “strongly agree” were 78 respondents all together. This number 73 represents 46.20 % who gave their responses with “strongly agree”. For those who responded with “agree”, we have 12 (27.90%) out of 43 from staff of Kigali City and its districts, 10 (33.33%) out 30 from Politicians, 23 (51.11%) out of 45 from civil society, and 14 (35%) out of 40 from Academicians and centers’ researchers. The table above shows that respondents who responded with “agree” were all together at the number of 69 out of 158, they represent 43.67%. Respondents who gave their answer as “disagree” are represented in table 60 above as follows: 5 (11.62%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts have responded with “disagree”, 2 (6.66%) out of 30 from politicians, 9 (20%) out of 45 from civil society,

and 10 (25%) out of 40 from academicians and centres’ researchers, all together were 26 out of 158 and they represent 16.45%. For those who responded to the question, none of them has answered with “strongly disagree”.

The table above shows that the following question “ Do you agree that if political process is left behind as well as democratic advancement, economic development will meet obstacles”?

The study findings revealed that 73 out of 158 from all respondents with a percentage of 46.20% have responded with “Strongly Agree” in favor of Interaction between democratic advancement and economic development, that is to say, there is a strong linkage between factors (democratic processes and development); while 59 (37.34%) responded with “Agree” which demonstrates the said linkage above, and 26 out of 158 from the total number of our respondents disagreed with view that democratic advancement has a direct linkage to development. One participant in the Kigali City had this to say; “ *The two factors, political process or democratic governance are very important to cause good results in different projects of our local entities as democracy produces accountability, transparency and responsiveness which definitely impact positively the outcome of any political or developmental deal.*” (Kigali City, on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2013)

**Table 7:** Taxes as incomes to finance development of Kigali city

| Responses     | Staff (Kigali and its districts ) |     | Politicians |     | Civil society |     | Academics and researchers |     |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
|               | No.                               | %   | No.         | %   | No.           | %   | No.                       | %   |
|               | Prefer                            | 43  | 100         | 30  | 100           | 45  | 100                       | 40  |
| Do not prefer | 0                                 | 0   | 0           | 0   | 0             | 0   | 0                         | 0   |
| Total         | 43                                | 100 | 30          | 100 | 45            | 100 | 40                        | 100 |

Source: Primary data, 2013

As the table above indicates, the following question: “would you prefer paying adequately taxes so as to finance the cost of development of decentralized entities”? Was responded as follows: all respondents from Kigali city and its districts, Political parties’ members, civil society members, and academicians and researchers have answered with “ Prefer” which means that they support Kigali city and its districts’ development process by paying and honoring their taxes’ duties. None of them responded with “ Do Not Prefer”. As the table above indicates, the following question: “ would you prefer paying adequately taxes so as to finance the cost of development of decentralized entities”?

The study result gives the essence that all study participants had understood that tax is a paramount and primary element

in promoting development of decentralized entities, that is why they responded a hundred percent (100%) with “Prefer” paying adequately taxes so as to finance development needs of local entities. An official from Kicukiro District, in Kigali City had this to say;

“Rwanda is landlocked country, she has no huge natural resources as some of our neighboring countries; only the Rwanda’s financial resources is the people; so, taxes are well collected, well allocated to different institutions and entities, and well utilized. In addition, citizens have been sensitized to pay taxes and now those who are in commercial business have modern and technological machines which facilitate them to pay taxes without big effort to calculate what they have to pay. Rwanda is among

few countries in Sub-Saharan Africa which have set up strong mechanism of tax collection; and furthermore, it

fighters against corruption.” (Kigali City, on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2013)

**Table 8:** Political parties’ promotion for social integration in favor of economic development

| Responses | Respondents                       |       |             |       |               |       |                              |     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------------|-----|
|           | Staff (Kigali and its districts ) |       | Politicians |       | Civil society |       | Academicians and researchers |     |
|           | No.                               | %     | No.         | %     | No.           | %     | No.                          | %   |
| Yes       | 36                                | 83.72 | 29          | 96.66 | 30            | 66.66 | 34                           | 85  |
| No        | 7                                 | 16.27 | 1           | 3.33  | 15            | 33.33 | 6                            | 15  |
| Total     | 43                                | 100   | 30          | 100   | 45            | 100   | 40                           | 100 |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table above shows that the following questions “Do you agree that political parties promote the culture of social integration so as to have a harmonious society which, in turn will work together in order to achieve economic development”? Has been answered as follows: 36 (83.72%) out of 43 respondents from Kigali City and its districts staff, 29 (96.66%) out of 30 from Political Parties’ Members, 30 (66.66%) out of 45 from Civil Society and 34 (85%) out of 40 from Academicians and Researchers responded with “YES”. While 7 (16.27%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts, 1 (3.33%) out of 30 from Political Parties’ Members, 15 (33.33) out of 45 from Civil Society Members, and 6 (15%) out of 40 from Academicians and Researchers have answered with “NO”. This shows that among Rwandans, we still have persons who perceive political parties as divisive as they were in the past; the more detail will be discussed in the chapter six.

The table above shows that the following questions “Do you agree that political parties promote the culture of social integration so as to have a harmonious society which, in turn will work together in order to achieve economic

development”?

The study findings show that 129 out of the total number of all respondents (158) with a percentage of 81.64 have responded to the above question by YES. While 29 with 18.35% have said “NO” which means they do not agree with the philosophy that political parties promote the culture of social integration so as to have a harmonious society Which may lead to achieving economic development. One key informant had this to say; “As far as I know, political parties have played a great role in this country; historically there is a negative side, I do not want to come back on it; logically we have to learn from our past, sure. But parties of Post-Genocide Rwanda are not of before 1994 Genocide. From our recent history, we have learned how we should be, that is why Rwanda had set up “ a Political Party Forum” where all parties may work together for any national issues and interests with “Consensus”. So parties played a great role, I repeat in reconciling Rwandans, but also how in educating people how to work hard in order to foster economic development.” (Political Parties Forum, Headquarters, Kigali, on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013)

**Table 9:** Elections as element of stability for the development Respondents of Kigali City and its districts

|                                    | Responses                                    |                 |              |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
|                                    | Kigali City and its districts 43 respondents |                 |              |
|                                    | Major extent                                 | Moderate extent | Minor extent |
| Teaching civic education           | 18 (41.86%)                                  |                 |              |
| Conducting free and fair elections | 25 (58.13)                                   |                 |              |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table 6.9 above indicates that the following question: “to what extent elections do affect developmental stability of Kigali City”? Was answered as follows: 18 (41.86%) out of 43 from Kigali City and its districts have responded with “Major Extent” to “Teaching Civic Education” which means that teaching Civic education took second position after

Conducting free and fair elections which had 25 (58.13%) out of 43 respondents from Kigali City and its districts.

The way in which elections are conducted in Rwanda makes peace and security, which in turn, leads to stabilize developmental process.

**Table 10:** Respondents of Political Parties Members

|                                   | Responses                  |                 |              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                   | Politicians 30 respondents |                 |              |
|                                   | Major extent               | Moderate extent | Minor extent |
| Teaching civic education          | 9 (30%)                    |                 |              |
| Conducting free and fair election | 21(70%)                    |                 |              |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table above indicates that the following question: “to what extent elections do affect developmental stability of Kigali City”? Was answered as follows: 9 (30%) out of 30 from Political Parties’ members have responded with

“Major Extent” to “Teaching Civic Education” which means that teaching Civic education took second position after Conducting free and fair elections which had 21 (70%) out of 30 respondents Politicians.

**Table 11:** Respondents of Civil Society

|                                   | Responses                    |                 |              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                   | Civil Society 45 respondents |                 |              |
|                                   | Major extent                 | Moderate extent | Minor extent |
| Teaching civic education          | 21 (46.66%)                  |                 |              |
| Conducting free and fair election | 24 (53.33%)                  |                 |              |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table above indicates that the following question: “to what extent elections do affect developmental stability of Kigali City”? Was answered as follows: 21 (46.66%) out of 45 from Civil Society Members have responded with

“Major Extent” to “Teaching Civic Education” which means that teaching Civic education took second position after Conducting free and fair elections which had 24 (53.33%) out of 45 respondents from Civil Society Members.

**Table 12:** Respondents of Academicians and Researchers

|                                   | Responses                                  |                 |              |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------|
|                                   | Academicians and Researchers 4 respondents |                 |              |
|                                   | Major extent                               | Moderate extent | Minor extent |
| Teaching civic education          | 16 (40%)                                   |                 |              |
| Conducting free and fair election | 24 (60%)                                   |                 |              |

Source: Primary data, 2013

The table above indicates that the following question: “to what extent elections do affect developmental stability of Kigali City”? Was answered as follows: 16 (40%) out of 40 from Academicians and Researchers have responded with “Major Extent” to “Teaching Civic Education” which means that teaching Civic education took second position after Conducting free and fair elections which had 24 (60%) out of 40 respondents from Academicians and Researchers. The analysis of this question’s result on the impact of elections on stability of Kigali City and its development proves that Rwanda has experienced election which is a political process tool to democratic exercise as to lead to stabilized developmental process.

The tables above indicate that the following question: “to what extent elections do affect developmental stability of Kigali City”? The study findings revealed that 64 (40.50%) out of the total number of all participants 158 responded with “Major Extent” in favor of “Teaching Civic Education” with “Major Extent” they confirmed that elections do affect positively developmental stability of Kigali City. While 94 (59.49%) out of 158 have responded with “Major Extent” as to say if elections are free and fair conducted would affect positively on the stabilizing of development; which is the case in our study findings in Kigali City. In the same view of the above respondents regarding the developmental stability in Kigali City, one official had this to say; “Elections are sign of democracy, when elections are carried out peacefully, the country encounters stability and peace; so projects in place do not face any problems in terms of security issues; in return you can imagine how elections contribute to stability and security of the country.” (An Official at the NEC: National Electoral Commission Headquarters, Kigali, on 09 July, 2013)

### Conclusion

This study has proved that democratic processes (political decentralization “ Elections and parties operations”) have caused accountability and responsiveness at the local levels where an elected leader has worked for the common interest and development in order, as a new reward, to be re-elected for another term. As it was found in another separate study, leaders’ accountability has been slowed down, and has led

to resignation of some mayors and deputy mayors specifically in the second phase of decentralization (2006-2011).

The over-all findings in this study show that the following hypothesis ‘Democratic processes contribute positively to the Development of urban Areas in Rwanda’ is assumed to be true, and this was revealed through our respondents during the research study field. Decentralization policy implementation was in its phase three, where it showed that during phases one and two (2001-2006, and 2006-2011) there were lessons learnt from each phase which led to increase improvement in the next phase. Furthermore political components of democracy i.e. political parties and elections together with decentralization according to our findings affect development of Kigali city.

### Reference

1. Cammack P. Democracy and dictatorship in Latin America, 1930-80’, in D, 1997.
2. Potter D. Goldblatt M Kiloh, P. Lewis (eds), Democratization, Cambridge and Milton Keynes: Polity Press in association with the Open University, 152-73.
3. Chambers, Robert. Responsible Well-being: A Personal Agenda for Development. *World Development*, 1997.
4. Heynes J. Democracy and Civil Society in the Third World. Politics and New Political Movements, Cambridge: Polity Press. (2005). Development Studies, Antony Rowe Ltd, Chippenham and Eastbourne, London, UK, 1997.
5. Ikpi A. *Democratic Governance and Development in 21<sup>st</sup> Century West Africa*, in J. K. Olayemi and A. E. Ikpi (eds.), *Governance and Development in West Africa: Perspective for the 21 Century*. Arlington: Winrock International, 1997.
6. John Gerring. Social Science Methodology: A Critical Framework, Cambridge, 2010.
7. Lincoln, Abraham’s speech, USA, 1863.
8. Nsibambi A. Making Decentralization an Instrument of poverty Eradication. *Uganda’s challenge, UNDP Development Forum, Kampala University Press, UK, 1997.*
9. Omar K. The Impact of Democratic Governance on the



- Development of Urban Areas in Rwanda” - A Case of Kigali City (2003-2013). Unpublished PhD Thesis. Nkumba University Uganda, 2019.
10. Rueschemeyer D. Capitalist Development and Democracy. Chicago, IL University of Chicago Press, 1992.
  11. Rustow DA. Transitions to democracy: toward a dynamic model', *Comparative Politics*, 1970.
  12. Sen K Amartya. Development as Freedom. *New Delhi: Oxford Press*, 1999.