

**FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN MARIDI COUNTY, CENTRAL  
PAYAM OF WESTERN EQUATORIA STATE: SOUTH SUDAN**

**BY**

**PHILIP ADIGO LAWRENCE KUMYANGI**

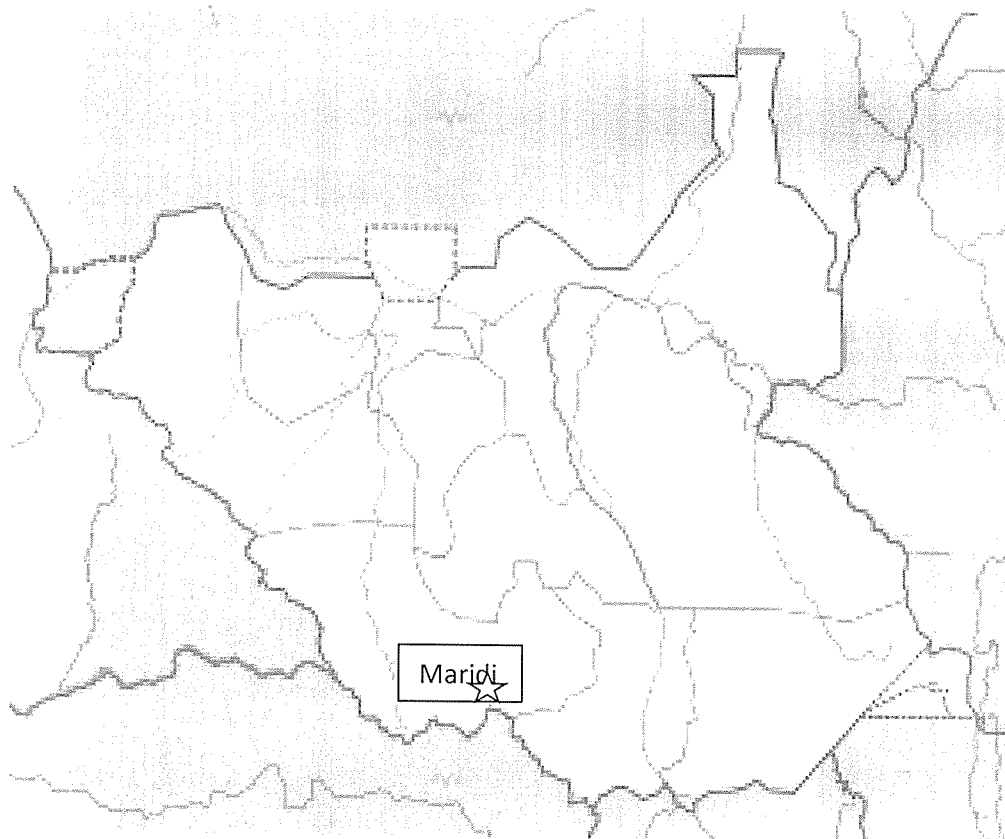
**BPA/11926/62/DF**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES; DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL &  
ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES AT KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY AS A PARTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR OBTAINING  
BACHELOR DEGREE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
OF**

**KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**SEPTEMBER, 2015**


## MAP OF SOUTH SUDAN SHOWING THE STUDY AREA



## DECLARATION

I, Philip Adigo Lawrence Kumyangi, hereby declare that this work is originally mine and that it has never been submitted to any institution of learning for the award of a degree.

Signed:



Philip Adigo Lawrence Kumyangi

Date: 23/09/2015

## APPROVAL

This research report has been under my supervision and submitted for examination with my approval as the University supervisor of the candidate.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Muzaare Gerald', written over a dotted line.

**Dr. Muzaare Gerald**

A handwritten date in blue ink, '24/09/2015', written over a dotted line.

**Date**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my beloved late Parents, Lawrence Kumyangi and Cecilia Nadi and my uncle Sebit Ndua and his late wife Medina who brought me up in a fatherly and a motherly manner as well as showing me the way of God and hard work as the best ways to live my life.

The same also goes to my brother, Fr. Stephen Lawrence Kumyangi, who always stood with me in good and bad times, giving me moral, material and Spiritual Supports. I also dedicate my work to my brother James Avio and my nephew, Michael Mijok Akok Tor who financed my University study. The same dedication goes to my niece, Semira Pasquale, who took good care of me during my University Studies.

You all did your part to the full and may Almighty God reward you abundantly.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I sincerely thank the people who have contributed immensely to my research and I mention the entire College staff particularly, the Head of Department of Public Administration, my academic supervisor, who gave me all the guidance that have made my research a success.

Special appreciation also goes to Angelina Suad for her financial support to carry out my research

I am also greatly indebted to all my respondents, to my lecturers especially Dr. Rusoke Otanga and Mr. Kaddu Ronald and all the staff, and students with whom we did group discussions and who in one way or another made my learning easy. I also wholeheartedly thank all who prayed for me without me knowing. Finally, my appreciations go to all who helped me but whose names I have not mentioned here. God know and bless all of you abundantly.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MAP OF SOUTH SUDAN SHOWING THE STUDY AREA .....	i
DECLARATION.....	ii
APPROVAL.....	iii
DEDICATION .....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	v
ABSTRACT .....	x
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY .....	1
1.1 Introduction .....	1
1.3 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.4 Objectives of the study .....	4
1.4.1 General objective .....	4
1.4.2 Specific objectives .....	5
1.5 Research questions .....	5
CHAPTER TWO .....	7
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	7
2.1 Introduction .....	7
2.2 Barriers to community participation in local government programmes.....	7
2.2.1 Lack of understanding the local government programs and the weak socio-economic position of the community.....	8
2.2.2 Political patronage .....	9
2.2.3 Lack of access to information.....	10
2.2.4 Elite capture .....	10
2.3 Existing mechanisms for community participation.....	11
2.3.1 Community mobilization and decision-making.....	11
2.3.2 Election of local leaders .....	12
2.3.3 Creating awareness and capacity building.....	12
2.4 Strategies for promoting community participation .....	13
2.4.1 Strategic policy committees.....	13
2.4.2 Development of new structures and models of local governance .....	13

2.4.3	The Creation of Mechanisms to act as a Voice of Rural Communities .....	14
2.4.4	Access to Information .....	14
<b>CHAPTER THREE.....</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY.....</b>		<b>15</b>
3.1	Introduction .....	15
3.3	Study population, sample size and sample selection .....	15
3.3.1	Study population .....	15
3.3.2	Sample size .....	16
3.3.3	Sample selection .....	16
3.4	Data sources and methods of collection.....	17
3.5	Data quality control.....	18
3.6	Data analysis and presentation of findings.....	18
3.7	Ethical consideration.....	18
<b>CHAPTER FOUR .....</b>		<b>19</b>
<b>PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS .....</b>		<b>19</b>
4.0	Introduction.....	19
4.1	Socio-demographic characteristics of study participants .....	19
4.2	<b>Factors that hinder community participation in local government activities.....</b>	<b>22</b>
4.2.1	Number of years lived in the Boma .....	22
4.2.2	Awareness of the existence of local government.....	23
4.2.3	Composition of the local government .....	23
4.2.4	Activities of local government.....	24
4.2.5	Participation in local government activities.....	24
4.2.6	The kind of local government activities respondents engage in.....	25
4.2.7	Number of times participated.....	25
4.3	<b>How existing local government mechanisms provide opportunity for community participation ....</b>	<b>25</b>
4.3.1	Structure of the local government .....	26
4.3.2	Are local government leaders elected? .....	26
4.3.3	Community relations with local government .....	27
4.3.4	Community mobilization .....	27
4.3.5	Consultation with the community .....	28
4.4	<b>Strategies for encouraging community participation .....</b>	<b>28</b>

4.4.1	Satisfaction with participation in local government activities.....	29
4.4.2	Suggestions to improve community participation.....	29
4.4.3	Any other issues relevant to the study .....	30
<b>CHAPTER FIVE .....</b>		<b>31</b>
<b>SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>		<b>31</b>
5.0	Introduction .....	31
5.1	Summary .....	31
5.2	Discussion.....	32
5.2	Conclusions .....	34
5.3	Recommendations .....	35
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>		<b>39</b>
<b>QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS .....</b>		<b>39</b>
<b>INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS.....</b>		<b>45</b>
<b>INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION .....</b>		<b>46</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Shows the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents .....	19
Table 2: Shows the number of years lived in the Boma.....	22
Table 3: Show the awareness of the existence of a local government .....	23
Table 4: shows participation in local government activities.....	24
Table 5: Do you elect local government leaders? .....	26
Table 6: Do local government leaders mobilize the community to participate in local affairs.....	27
Table 7: show local government consultation with the community .....	28
Table 8: Are you satisfied with the way the community is participating in local government activities? .....	29

## ABSTRACT

Community participation in development programmes is widely recognized as a basic operational principle of development. Community members have been seen as consumers of services and their role in development is equally important. The study was carried out in Maridi County, Central Payam located in Western Equatoria State in the Republic of South Sudan. The study was guided by the general objective of establishing the factors that influence community participation in local government activities. The study adopted a descriptive case study design and used both interviews and questionnaires to collect data from respondents. These respondents were selected using the simple random sampling technique of the lottery method and stratified sampling respectively. The data collected was analyzed numerically and descriptively presented in text and tables.

The study found out that there is low community participation in local government activities in Central Payam. The reasons given for this occurrence were that: local government officials are not elected although the Local Governments Act advocates for it; the masses are not involved in local government programmes; there is limited knowledge of local government affairs and that local government officials are inefficient.

Findings from the study have a strong bearing with other studies in some countries where community participation in local government activities has also been found to be very low due to lack of information; elite capture, lack of involvement in budgeting and planning activities and excessive corruption among local government officials.

The study finally made recommendations that: there is need for more involvement of community members in local government activities if they are going to own the local government and therefore participate in it; local government official should be elected, but not appointed; there is need for community mobilization and that corruption need to be fought and resources be put to proper use.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This study focused on the issue of community participation in local government activities in the Republic of South Sudan, with specific reference to Central Payam, Maridi County located in Western Equatoria State.

This section of the study gives a general overview of the system of local government as practiced in the Republic of South Sudan as well as the historical events that have led to the creation of the Republic of South Sudan. It also covers the purpose of the study, objectives of the study, scope of the study and the significance of the study.

Soon after a second Sudanese Civil War began and dragged on until 2005 when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in Nairobi, Kenya. In the same year, Southern Autonomy was restored when the Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan was formed. Following a referendum in 2011 to decide whether to remain part of the united Sudan or not, people of South Sudan voted in favour of creating a new republic, hence becoming independent in the same year.

For effective administration, South Sudan is divided into ten states and 86 counties, which are further divided into Payams and Bomas. The ten states correspond with the three historical regions of Bahrel Ghazal which has Northern Bahr El-Ghazal, Western Bahr El Ghazal, Lakes and Warrap states; Equatoria region which has Western, Central and Eastern Equatoria states and the Greater Upper Nile region which comprises of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states.

The study was carried out in Maridi County, Central Payam located in Western Equatoria State.

Community participation in government programmes occupies a centre stage in many policies of countries and it is increasingly being focused on as a tool for improving the livelihoods of the people. If this goal can be achieved, then democracy and development will follow (UNDP, 2010). In South Sudan the subject of local government and community participation started to receive attention following the Transitional Constitution of 2009 and then the Local Governments Act of 2009.

To demonstrate commitment to democracy and community participation, Article 1, Clause 4 and Article 36 of the Transitional Constitution states that South Sudan shall be governed on the basis of a decentralized democratic system and that all levels of government shall promote democratic principles and political pluralism and shall be guided by the principle of decentralization and devolution of power to the people through the appropriate levels of government where they can best manage and direct their affairs (Transitional Constitution, 2009).

In line with the Constitution, the Local Government Act was enacted in 2009, in which the local government structure is established. The Act establishes a three tier level of local government that is the County, City, Municipality and Town Councils; the Payam and Block Councils which are coordinative administrative units and the Boma and quarter councils which are the basic administrative units (Chap III, Section 15). The local government is further divided into councils which are located in rural areas, urban areas and industrial areas. As the names goes, a rural council is created in a rural settlement or area whose economy is mainly agricultural, pastoral or mixed with a strong base of traditional administration and cultural practices known as a County Council. It is a corporate body divided into Payam and Boma Councils.

An urban council is established in in an urban or cosmopolitan area where more than sixty percent of the economic activities are non-agricultural, with a considerable level of urban infrastructure and public utilities. The urban council is a corporate body divided into block councils and quarter councils; municipal council which is also divided into block councils and quarter councils and Town Council which is also a corporate body divided into quarter councils (Local Governments Act, 2009).

Community participation is one of the pillars of democracy, for it provides the motivation for inviting the masses to take part in the affairs of government of their country. Local government gives the masses the chance to exploit this opportunity. Community participation further enables the masses to explore the other democratic principles of political equality, popular sovereignty, majority rule and consultation (Cloete, 1995: 21). In the democratic process, community participation conveys important information from the grassroots to the policy makers and from the policy makers to the grassroots.

The concept of community participation in South Sudan is associated with the current decentralization policy adopted in 2009. It is argued that community participation promotes devolution of powers to local government units and invites the masses to participate in the planning, decision-making and implementation of development programmes at the local level. The drive towards decentralization is based on the experiences from the colonial and post-colonial regimes which were highly centralized and practiced a top down system of administration without actively involving the masses in the governance of their affairs. Accordingly, community participation is being cultivated as a response to the past development failures that were caused by implementing development initiatives in a predominantly top down fashion. While this system of local government is capable of inviting the community to participate in the affairs of their locality and decide how they wish to be governed, it is observed that over time this is not the case. This study, therefore, aims at examining the existing participatory framework in order to establish the factors that explain the low morale of the masses when it comes to participation in local government affairs.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Like all the other countries in Africa, the colonial administrative structure in Sudan encouraged a top-down approach in which the masses did not have a say in how they wished to be governed. Instead, the colonial government made policies on their behalf without consulting them. The state of affairs encouraged abuse of power, human rights violations and a nonresponsive culture and lack of access to information regarding the making of public policy. On achieving

independence, Sudan inherited the colonial system and used it for some time as a way of delivering services to the community. However, under the system of democracy a wind of change has blown across the globe requiring governments to be more responsive to the needs of their people. This has also been promoted by the donor community as a requirement for qualification for international assistance.

Since the adoption of decentralization policy in 2009, the government of South Sudan has been making efforts to promote local governance through democratic participatory mechanisms contained in the Local Government Act of 2009. Community participation has however remained weak in all states. Indeed, not only is the local population largely uninvolved in the matter relating to deciding and directing what local government officials and elected leaders do, but also how they should legally operate in order to effectively respond to the collective needs of the local citizens. A related perspective to this limited or lack of community participation in local government activities is the presumed level of inefficiency among public office holders which indicates the inability of the community to hold local government officials answerable for their actions and inactions and how local resources should be utilized to promote local governance (Lambright 2010). It is not clear whether it's the level community awareness or local politician's perception of community participation at the local level that serves to limit the community from participating in the matters of their locality. The purpose of this study is therefore to establish this actual cause of this problem by taking Central Payam located in Maridi County, Western Equatoria State as a case study.

## **1.4 Objectives of the study**

### **1.4.1 General objective**

The general objective of the study was to investigate the factors that influence community participation in local government activities in Central Payam, Maridi County, Western Equatoria State in South Sudan.

### **1.4.2 Specific objectives**

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

1. To investigate the factors that hinder community participation in local government activities
2. To establish the extent to which the existing local government mechanisms provide opportunities for community participation
3. To design appropriate strategies for encouraging community participation in local government activities

### **1.5 Research questions**

1. What factors hinder the community from participating in local government activities?
2. To what extent are the existing local government structures providing opportunities for community participation?
3. What strategies can be employed to encourage the community to participate in local government activities?

### **1.6 Scope of the study**

#### **1.6.1 Geographical Scope**

The study was conducted in Central Payam, Maridi County Western Equatoria State of South Sudan. South Sudan is bordered by the Republic of Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the southeast, Uganda to the south, Democratic Republic to the southwest and Central African Republic to the west. The Republic of South Sudan is the world's newest Republic created in 2011 following decades of civil war.

### **1.6.2 Content Scope**

The research focused on investigating the level of community participation, how it is understood, and the relationship between the community and local government officials with a view of developing strategies for improving local governance at the grassroots level.

### **1.6.3 Time scope**

The study focused on the period between 2009 and 2015 and the period was chosen because it is the time when Local government programme was launched according to the transitional Constitution and the Local Government Act (2009). The Study, therefore, covered the entire six years for which the local government system has existed.

This research was conducted in a period of three months starting with proposal development in July 2015. Data collection was taken in August 2015 and the final report submitted in September 2015.

## **1.7 Significance of the study**

The study will benefit all stakeholders involved in the promotion of local governance in South Sudan and in Maridi County in particular.

In Maridi County, it is hoped that the research will go a long way in helping local government policy designers with the information concerning the conduct of local government affairs at all levels. The involvement of the community members in the affairs of their locality will help to improve the achievement of development goals.

The research findings will help the government of the Republic of South Sudan to create social awareness in the community on matters relating to participation in local government activities. This will be in line with the late Dr. John Garang's policy of 'taking the town to the people.'

The findings from the study shall further provide information to other researchers and scholars on the subject as a basis for research in the area of local governance and community participation.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the literature on the topic from the works of various scholars who have carried out studies related to community participation in local government affairs.

#### 2.2 Barriers to community participation in local government programmes

Macfarlane (1993) defines community participation as collective efforts to increase and exercise control over resources on the part of groups and movements of those until now excluded from control. Thus, community participation is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives, and the decisions and resources which affects them.

Community participation may also be viewed in terms of the active engagement of individuals and groups to change problematic conditions and to influence policies and programmes that affect the quality of their lives or the lives of others (Skinner, 1995).

Win Stanley (1995) views community participation as a means used by stakeholders to control rural development by contributing to project design, influencing public choices and holding public institutions accountable for the goods and services they provide. It is also seen as the direct engagement of affected populations in governance systems. Participation seen as an operating philosophy that puts affected populations at the heart of humanitarian and development activities as social actors with insights competencies, energy and ideas of their own.

Arnstein (1969), for example, argue that the term participation has been used to build local capacity and self-reliance, but also to justify the extension of control of the state. It has been used to devolve power and decision making away from external agencies, but also to justify external decisions. It has been used for data collection and also for interactive analysis. But more often

than not, people are dragged into participating in operations of no interest to them, in the very name of participation.

Government and policy makers have recognized the important role communities can play in policy development and efforts are being made to allow them to become more involved in the policy-making process. However, despite these efforts, there are still many barriers and challenges that can stand in the way of community participation. Understanding and anticipating these barriers and challenges is important when a community is getting organized for or involved in policy activity. This understanding can help individuals and organizations more effectively impact the policy-making process.

Dukeshire & Thurlow (2002) and Kakumba & Nsingo (2008) have identified the following factors as influencers or barriers to community participation in development policies generally and local government programmes in particular.

### **2.2.1 Lack of understanding the local government programmes and the weak socio-economic position of the community**

Before communities can make attempts to participate in local government programmes, it is important that they have an understanding of the programme itself. Understanding the programme can help individuals and the community to decide whether they will become involved in it or not. Unfortunately, sometimes understanding such programmes becomes very difficult for the masses. There is need therefore for sensitization of the community about local government programmes and how such programmes will help uplift their lives as community members. The community needs to be involved at all stage so that they become part and parcel of all the activities of their locality thereby building a strong sense of belonging and ownership of such programmes.

Lack of understanding of local government programmes is on most occasions compounded by the weak socio-economic position of the people. In addition to being poor and sometimes unemployed, the people are also uneducated or have low levels of education, have poor

infrastructure and poor communication means. All these serve to keep the community away from the active participation in local government programmes.

In order for communities to play an active role in local government programmes, it is necessary for their members to have access to resources. These resources include adequate funding, government training programmes, education, leaders, and volunteers to support their causes and initiatives. Many rural communities tend to lack one or more of these resources, a situation which interferes with their ability to effectively impact the policy-making process. On the other side, the weak financial capacity of the local government also reduces its capacity to involve the masses in development projects and further affects the local government's ability to respond to the needs of the community. Faced with shortage of resources, local governments become victims to cumbersome conditions and requirements from donors and the central government. In the end they become agents of the state and not of the citizens.

### **2.2.2 Political patronage**

Drawing from the experiences of Uganda, Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) have identified yet another factor which hinders community participation in local government programmes. According to these scholars there has been a general lack of political commitment on the side of central government towards effective devolution of powers which is evident in the continued influence and interference in the functioning of local government units. The growing political culture is that of polarization, where top government officials do not only interfere in local government activities, but also frustrate local communities that do not seem to subscribe to the ruling party. During elections, for example, local leaders are by law supposed to be non-partisan and elected on individual merit, the central government officials openly campaign for them because they are seen to be on side of government. Whereas the Local Government Act (1997) makes the district the highest political unit in its area of jurisdiction, and the Council Chairperson as its political head, on many occasions, officials from the central government take decisions concerning their localities without involving them. The central government also interferes in the operations of local government sometimes by pushing for constitutional amendments to enable

them exercise more control over local governments. For instance, in 2005 the central government successfully managed to take over the appointment of the Chief Administrative Officers who were in the past appointed by the District Service Commission. The constitutional amendment now authorizes the Public Service Commission to appoint the Chief Administrative Officer.

### **2.2.3 Lack of access to information**

Experiences from Canada have also showed that rural citizens feel that there is a lack of access to information about local government programmes and services. Rural Canadians have also reported that the information that is available on policy, government programmes and services is difficult to obtain and interpret. There is a desire to learn about and access information about government programmes and services that is understandable, concise and timely (Rural Dialogue, 2000). Recently, the Federal government has moved towards increasing access to information concerning programmes and policies. For example, a 1-800 number and website has been created that allows all Canadians to easily access information concerning Federal programmes.

Another information challenge is the fact that little research has been conducted concerning rural communities and the policy-making process. Further, this research often is difficult to obtain. Rural Canadians have also indicated that they need access to information specific to the status of their communities. Once again, this information, if available, tends to be difficult to access and may be expensive. One of the goals of the Rural Communities Impacting Policy (RCIP) project is to provide rural Nova Scotians with greater access to data specific to rural communities and how to use this data to better understand their communities and impact the policy-making process. Another paper in this series entitled, “Understanding the Link between Research and Policy” (Rural Communities Impacting Policy, 2002), provides an overview of different types of research and how rural communities can use research to impact policy.

### **2.2.4 Elite capture**

Local governments have officials and civil servants who become powerful and influential by taking decisions relating to planning, allocation of resources, awarding of tenders and collection

of revenues as well as its expenditure. It is common for some members of the public to offer sponsoring of campaigns for local government representatives in anticipation of returns. In the rural setting, most local government councilors draw from the affluent homes who give inducements to the poor in the form of household goods in order to be elected (Francis and James, 2003). Such councilors and a few well to do members of the community constitute the local elite whose interests override those of the rest of the members of the community. While local government operations are intended to be participatory and built on the voices of the masses, the limited capacity experience of elected local government representatives and officials at the various levels of local government play in the hands of the elites. While discussing issues of local government and development in Uganda, relating to technocratic and patronage modes, Francis and James, 2003, insist that the latter only draws on the language of participatory planning, while in actual sense, the performance is ritualized with little community participation owing to lack of resources and monopolization by the elites. The more the local government structures have gained legal recognition and political authority, the less they have become of people's institutions (Makara, 1998).

### **2.3 Existing mechanisms for community participation**

Literature related to mechanisms of community participation in local government activities reveals that such mechanisms are the legal and structural systems that facilitate people outside government to demonstrate their competence in the broadest sense possible by way of participating in the shaping and functioning of the political, judicial and legislative institutions and policies used by the state to respond to the people's preferences through delivery of necessary services (Holmes, 2011). The discussion below considers how the various initiatives have tilted the socioeconomic and political platform for community participation.

#### **2.3.1 Community mobilization and decision-making**

The legislative framework mandates the local councils to devise mechanisms to facilitate the effective involvement of the communities in articulating their needs and design programmes that suit local priorities. Accordingly, local councils have continued to take decisions relating to administrative and legislative, planning and development of local projects within their areas of

jurisdiction, within the framework of the constitution. The lower councils are supposed to engage people through meetings, where they discuss various issues affecting their locality. In such meetings, the local official invites the community to collectively contribute towards generating solutions to the problems of their locality in the spirit of self-help. Accordingly, there have been schemes of participation by the community to use their vast and cheaply available labour force to work on public utilities. Experience from Uganda show that the Local Government Act (1997) establishes a district local government as a planning authority required to prepare an integrated development plan which must incorporate plans of lower councils. District plans are supposed to be developed from using a bottom-up approach, with each village making its community plan. The parish committees incorporate these into the parish plan, and then sent for integration into the sub-county or division plan. The sub-county plans are submitted to the district and the District Technical Planning Committee is supposed to produce an integrated plan for discussion by the different stakeholders, before approval by the district council. In principle, the district plans have to observe and make their plans in accordance with the priorities based on national priority programme areas (Kiyaga, 2001).

### **2.3.2 Election of local leaders**

Participation in local elections is arguably the most successful activity involving a majority of local citizens. It has created an opportunity for the electorate to exercise their freedoms and rights in choosing their own leaders in local government councils, through elections held at regular intervals. In some cases those who do not perform well are not returned to office, something which enhances political accountability.

### **2.3.3 Creating awareness and capacity building**

According to the various surveys conducted in Uganda, Zimbabwe and Canada (Onyach-Oola, 2003; Chifamba, 2013; Dukeshire and Thurlow, 2002), community participation through local councils promotes a greater sense of ownership of local projects, as well as enhancing learning different skills and enhancing capacity building. Under the Local Government Development Programme vote (Nsibambi, 1989), there has been a deliberate effort towards community training awareness. This enthusiasm of community involvement is indicated by the growing

number of community savings organizations in rural areas. Community savings organizations supported by local governments have engaged underprivileged groups in acquiring knowledge and skills related to environmental conservation, health and utilization of indigenous knowledge in production, food security, microfinance activities and community policing.

## **2.4 Strategies for promoting community participation**

Governments have increasingly realized the need to promote community participation in development programmes. Lessons from around the globe have showed the following:

### **2.4.1 Strategic policy committees**

This involves creating committees within the local authority system, which bring together elected members and community representatives and sectoral interests. The establishment of the strategic committees gives councilors a more meaningful role in policy review and development, also offers an opportunity for deeper involvement of councillors in the corporate governance of the local authority and provides an enhanced opportunity for citizen involvement. Elected members chair the committees and councillors are in the majority on each committee. These committees should at least one-third of the members of each committee drawn from bodies within the community that are relevant to the work of the committee.

### **2.4.2 Development of new structures and models of local governance**

There is need for the development of new structures and model of local governance to replace the existing ones. These would take, for example, the creation of new County Development Boards based on the principles of partnership and participation with meaningful involvement of all sectors; social inclusion, that is, inclusion of many of the local development structures; community development, that is, providing an outlet for the involvement of local communities in decision-making and should also be performance driven, facilitate initiatives, and should recognize the importance of the process of participation for marginalized groups.

### **2.4.3 The Creation of Mechanisms to Act as a Voice of Rural Communities**

Grass roots citizens often feel frustrated when trying to have their policy concerns heard by government. This frustration may be due in part to a structure that seems to limit opportunities for community members to communicate with government. Changing this structure requires the development of mechanisms that provides both communities with a voice and government with a means to hear community concerns. One way communities can speak with a louder voice is through the use of network type organizations that have as its mandate to provide a forum to encourage dialogue, share information, and create strategies and actions that promote the survival and development of local communities. Not only is there the need to create speaking mechanisms, such as network organizations, but there is also the need to create mechanisms that allow government to listen to and represent rural concerns at government tables.

### **2.4.4 Access to Information**

Communities and government have also recognized the need for increased access to information and knowledge. In 1999, the Federal Government set a goal to be known around the world by 2004 as the government most connected to its citizens, with Canadians able to access all government information and services online at the time and place of their choosing (Community Access Programme, 2000). One recent initiative to increase access to information is the Community Access the Community Access Programme is a Government of Canada initiative, administered by Industry Canada, which aims to provide Canadians with affordable public access to the Internet and the skills they need to use it effectively.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the description of the methods that were used in data collection, analysis and analysis. It covered areas like research design, study population, sample size, sample selection, data sources and methods of collection, data quality control and ethical considerations.

#### **3.2 Research design**

The study was based on a case study research design. A case study design was chosen from among other designs because it offered the researcher the opportunity to examine the research issues very closely. This research design was used because it facilitates getting insight into a particular subject matter in order to draw generalizations (Slocum, Backman and Baldwin, 2012; Stake, 1995). It further helped in getting a deep understanding of a subject concerning the levels of and the relationship between community participation and local government, as well as the strategies that can be used to strengthen local governance. With case study, the unit of analysis may be an organization, or community or even a department (Gordin, 2006). For this study, the unit of analysis was the local community based at Central Payam in Maridi County of Western Equatoria State, one of the ten States found in South Sudan. The local community in this area was used to understand the factors that influence their participation in local government activities; the nature of existing mechanisms of participation as well as the strategies that can be designed to improve their participation in local government affairs. Although the study focused exclusively on Central Payam, the findings can be related to the entire country.

#### **3.3 Study population, sample size and sample selection**

##### **3.3.1 Study population**

The population from which data was collected targeted all members of the community of 18 years and above, since these are eligible voters in South Sudan, local government officials and local chiefs. These were targeted as respondents on the key variables of the study because they

are stakeholders in local government matters. Central Payam has an estimated population of 82,460. 55% of this population is below the age of 18 years, while 45% are above 18 years (Maridi County population Report, 2013). This implied that the study target 45% of Central Payam's population.

### 3.3.2 Sample size

The sample size for the study was 38 respondents. The size was determined using the formular for the maximum standard error of sample size estimation adopted from Kothari (2004) as follows:

$$n = \frac{pqN}{(SE)^2 N + pq}$$

Where: **n** = the required sample size

**P** = the proportion of the population with the desired attribute (45%)

**q** = the proportion of the population without the desired attribute (55%)

**N** = the entire population size (82,460)

The sample was selected at an allowed confidence level of 95% and confidence interval of 5%.

Therefore:

$$SE = \frac{\text{Confidence interval}}{\text{Confidence level}} = \frac{5\%}{1.96} = 0.02551$$

Therefore,  $n = [45\% \times 55\% \times 82460] / [82460 (0.02551)^2 + 45\% \times 55\%] = 38.01 \approx 38$

### 3.3.3 Sample selection

The sample for the study was selected by using a combination of sampling techniques. Below are the population categories that were included in the sample.

Central Payam is comprised of five Bomas:

- a. Town Boma
- b. Mabrindi Boma
- c. Mudubai Boma
- d. Nagbaka Boma
- e. Mboroko Boma

Using a simple random technique of the lottery method, three Bomas (Mboroko, Nagbaka and Town) were selected into the sample.

In each of the Bomas is a chief. Using the same technique, three chiefs were selected. These were drawn from Mabrindi, Town and Nagbaka Bomas.

The researcher also selected three Payam administrators, Boma Administrators, three (from Town, Madubai and Mboroko Bomas) still using the simple random sampling technique of the lottery method. The technique was found suitable for this purpose given the small number of elements to be selected.

Other than the above categories, the study also included the Executive Director of Local Government, the Local Government Inspector, and a member of parliament. These were purposively selected because they are clearly identifiable.

Having selected the three Bomas out of the five, the researcher set out to select the respondents from the community. A total of 30 respondents were selected from the three Bomas identified above, by taking 10 respondents from each. These respondents were selected using the stratified sampling technique.

### **3.4 Data sources and methods of collection**

The selected respondents were the source of data. Data was be collected from them using interview guide (for the key informants), while questionnaires were employed to collect data from the other community members. Two focus group discussions were also organized to further interact with the community and share their experiences. In addition, the researcher also

consulted documents such as the Transitional Constitution and the Local Government Act especially on the structures and roles of local government.

### **3.5 Data quality control**

To ensure that the process of data collection moved smoothly and accurately, the researcher pre-tested the instruments before issuing them out to the actual respondents. This aimed at testing validity and reliability of the instruments. While at the stage of data collection, the researcher was present in the field just in case there were issues that required clarification.

### **3.6 Data analysis and presentation of findings**

The data was analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods of analysis. Qualitative interview responses were analyzed by developing themes out of them according to the context of the variables covered in the research. The developed themes and all responses were coded, entered into the statistical package for social sciences, screened and analyzed using appropriate descriptive methods. Findings were presented using tables.

### **3.7 Ethical consideration**

A number of ethics were observed during data collection. They included: access, informed consent, attention to anonymity, confidentiality and briefing of respondents. In particular a permission letter was obtained from the relevant authorities of the selected Bomas and local governments.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study and goes on to discuss and analyze them according to the various themes

#### 4.1 Socio-demographic characteristics of study participants

The study involved 30 community members drawn from the three Bomas of Mboroko, Madubai and Town. The participants' socio-demographic characteristics are presented in table 1 below.

**Table 1: Shows the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents**

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Male (Freq.)	(%)	Female (Freq.)	(%)
Sex (N=30)	15	50	15	50
Age (N=30)				
18-25	03	10	02	05
26-33	03	10	03	10
34-41	02	07	05	17
42+	08	27	04	13

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Male (Freq.)	(%)	Female (Freq.)	(%)
<b>Marital Status (N=30)</b>				
Single	04	13	02	07
Cohabiting	00	00	03	10
Married	09	30	05	17
Separated	00	00	02	06
Divorced	02	07	03	10
<b>Level of Education (N=30)</b>				
Never been to school				
Primary	05	17	04	13
Intermediate	00	00	03	10
Secondary	06	20	05	17
Tertiary	05	17	02	06
<b>Income levels (N=30)</b>				
500-1,000				
1,500-3,000	08	26	05	16
4,000-10,000	07	23	07	23
20,000+	02	06	01	06
<b>Source of livelihood(N=30)</b>				
Subsistence agriculture	01	03	03	10
Business	02	06	02	06
Salary earner	10	33	08	26

<b>Socio-demographic Characteristics</b>	<b>Male (Freq.)</b>	<b>(%)</b>	<b>Female (Freq.)</b>	<b>(%)</b>
Other	02	06	02	06

The study involved an equal number of respondents according to sex. In other word study included 15 males and 15 females representing a50% participation for each category.

In terms of age, the largest number of study participants were males in the age of 42+ representing 27% followed by females in the age bracket 34-41. There were a few respondents in the age bracket 18-25 representing 10% and 5% for males and females respectively. In the age bracket 26-33, there was even representation of 10% for both sexes.

Majority of the respondents were married representing 47% while those who were single represented 20%. These were followed by those who are divorced 17% and cohabiting 10%. Those who were separated represented 6%. This implies that the majority of the study respondents, that is 57 % (Married and Co-habiting), spend much of their free time engaging in subsistence farming, therefore, may not find time to attend to local government activities.

All study participants had attained education. There were more males than females with higher education qualifications. In all, more males (54%) compared with females (46%) had attained education at all levels. It is also observed that a large number of respondents reached secondary school level, but few continue to tertiary level. There is higher illiteracy level among females compared with males and also it's observed that more males had attained tertiary level of education. The low level of education among females may hinder their participation in local government activities because there is a tendency to think that government activities are for the employed who in all cases must be educated up to tertiary level.

Study participants were spread into the following income levels. None of respondents earned below 1,000 South Sudanese Pounds in a year. Those in the income bracket of 1,500-3,000

represented 42%. The largest number of respondents was in the income bracket of 4,000-10,000 representing 46%, while those in the bracket 20,000 and over were 12%.

Majority of the respondents (59%) reported that they earned salary for a living, while, 13% mentioned subsistence agriculture. Those in business and those engaged in other income generating activities mentioned 12%. This implies that the large section of the community had no time to participate in local government activities because they spent most of their time doing business, agriculture and other activities from which they earn a living.

## 4.2 Factors that hinder community participation in local government activities

This was set out to be the first of the three specific objectives of the study. Respondents were requested to answer the following questions in order to ascertain the factors that may stand in their way for involvement in the activities of their local government.

### 4.2.1 Number of years lived in the Boma

**Table 2: Shows the number of years lived in the Boma**

	1-3 years		4-6 years	
	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Response	06	20	24	80

The length of time spent in the Boma was taken to be important in determining the respondents' awareness and probably their ability to participate in local government activities. The duration spent was limited to six years because local government was officially launched in 2009 after the promulgation of the Transitional Constitution and the Local Government Act. Accordingly, 6 respondents representing 20% of the study participants mentioned that they had lived in the Boma for a period ranging between 1 and 3 years, while 24 respondents equivalent to 80% said that they had resided in the Boma for a period between 4 and 6 years. Either way, the two sets of

respondents had spent some considerable amount of time in their respective Bomas enabling them to know what is happening around them.

#### **4.2.2 Awareness of the existence of local government**

The table below shows the respondent's awareness of local government in their locality

**Table 3: Show the awareness of the existence of a local government**

Response	Freq.	%
Yes	20	67
No	10	33
Total	30	100

As reflected in the table above, the majority of the respondents (67%) mentioned that they were indeed aware of the existence of local government in their locality. On the other hand, 33% of the study participants mentioned that they were not aware of the existence of local government in their area. Generally there is awareness of the existence of local government in the locality. However, there need to boost the awareness level so that all community members get to know about local government. This will help the community to participate in local government activities.

#### **4.2.3 Composition of the local government**

For the category of respondents who mentioned that they were aware of the existence of local government in their area, they were asked to mention the composition of the local government. In response, they mentioned that the local government is comprised of the Boma Administrator, the paramount chief, Chief, sub-chief, headman, women leaders and youth leaders, the commissioner, Payam administrator and the local people.

#### 4.2.4 Activities of local government

Respondents were asked to mention the kind of activities in which local government engage. The following were mentioned.

Local government enlightens people about political issues; mobilise the local people to work on public utilities; sensitize the community on government programmes; sensitize the community on health and education; local governments keep law and order; collecting money from markets and motorcycle operators.

Other than the above, responses, there are voices in the community who mentioned that although they are aware of the existence of local government in their areas, they have not seen them engage in any activity.

#### 4.2.5 Participation in local government activities

The masses were asked whether they participate in the activities of local government. The response is reflected in the table below:

**Table 4: shows participation in local government activities**

Response	Freq.	%
Yes	15	50
No	15	50
Total	30	100

From the table above, half of the study population representing 50% mentioned that they participate in local government activities, while the same number of participants said they do not take part in the activities of local government.

When contacted, *the Executive Director admitted that indeed there are low levels of community participation in local government activities. This, he attributed to insecurity, lack of awareness, limited funding and transport. He, however, mentioned that awareness creation is being done at the state level where community members are transported. He also added that they request United Nations agencies to facilitate local government activities by transporting participants to the state level. Although this is being done, there are future plans of mobilizing people at the local level when resources get available.*

#### **4.2.6 The kind of local government activities respondents engage in**

In reaction to the above, respondents mentioned that they participate in local government activities by casting their votes, paying taxes and attending community meetings. However, it can also be seen from the responses that some respondents participated in one activity and not the other, while there are those ones that were actively involved in all, indicating that those who are sensitized about local government activities engage in all activities of local government, while those with limited knowledge only participated in a few activities.

#### **4.2.7 Number of times participated**

In order to establish the levels of participation in local government activities, respondents were asked to at least mention the number of times in a year they participate in the activities mentioned above. In answering this question some respondents mentioned that they participate less than three times, others said they attend every time the local government calls them.

### **4.3 How existing local government mechanisms provide opportunity for community participation**

This informed the second specific objective of the study. It aimed at establishing how the existing local government mechanisms provided an opportunity for the community to participate in the affairs of the local government.

### 4.3.1 Structure of the local government

Respondents were asked to describe the structure of the local government in their area. The answers were rather mixed. Some knew the exact structure of the local government, while others kept crisscrossing them. This notwithstanding, they mentioned that the local government comprises of the county, the commissioner, paramount chief, the executive director and department heads, below whom are the payams, the payam administrators and head chief; then the Boma, the administrator, the sub-chief and lastly women and youth leaders.

### 4.3.2 Are local government leaders elected?

In the table below, respondents were reacting to the question as to whether local government leaders are elected or not

**Table 5: Do you elect local government leaders?**

Response	Freq.	%
Yes	04	13
No	26	87
Total	30	100

13% of the respondents mentioned that local government leaders are elected, while 26 representing 87% said that local government leaders are not elected. For those who said that they are not elected, they were tasked to explain how such leaders assume office. They mentioned that they are appointed by the central government, while others said that they are selected from the community.

*This question was put to the Member of Parliament wondering why local government officials are not elected as laid down in the Local Government Act 2009. In reaction, she said, “at the moment local government officials are appointed due to lack of capacity from the community to run their affairs. But as*

*we settle, and people get educated they will be responsible for electing their own leaders."*

#### **4.3.3 Community relations with local government**

Respondents were asked to describe their relations with the local government. Respondents gave a variety of answers to this question. Some said that the relationship is very poor; others said it is fairly good, while others mentioned that it was very good.

#### **4.3.4 Community mobilization**

In the table below, respondents were reacting to the question of whether local governments mobilize the community to participate in local government affairs.

**Table 6: Do local government leader mobilize the community to participate in local affairs?**

Response	Freq.	%
Yes	10	33
No	20	67
Total	30	100

Out of the 30 study participants, 10 representing 33% mentioned that local government mobilize the community to participate in local affairs, while 20 respondents representing 67% of the study population said no to this question. For those who answered yes, they mentioned that mobilization is done through calling meetings; through sub-chiefs; women and youth leaders and sometimes through community gatherings such as churches and mosques. In the same vein, those who said that local governments do not mobilize the community said that this is not done for reasons such as corruption among leaders, laziness and lack of knowledge about what to do as leaders after all they are just appointed.

#### 4.3.5 Consultation with the community

The researcher also wished to find out whether the local government consults with the community over matters relating to their welfare. In the table below the following responses were recorded.

**Table 7: show local government consultation with the community**

Response	Freq.	%
Yes	07	23
No	23	77
Total	30	100

According to the table above, seven respondents (23%) admitted that local government consults with the community over matters of their locality, while 23 (77%) said no. Asked how the consultations are done, those who said yes to consultation mentioned that when there is a matter related to the community, for example a development project, the masses are mobilized and requested to give their input on how they wish the project to be run. It was also mentioned that local governments act as mediums for transferring information from the county to the Bomas and from the Bomas to the county.

#### 4.4 Strategies for encouraging community participation

This informed that last specific objective of the study. It aimed at identifying strategies through which community participation in local government activities can be improved or even encouraged.

#### 4.4.1 Satisfaction with participation in local government activities

In the table below, respondents were asked about their satisfaction with local government activities.

**Table 8: Are you satisfied with the way the community is participating in local government activities?**

Response	Freq.	%
Yes	02	7.0
No	28	93
Total	30	100

Out of the 30 respondents, only 2 mentioned that they were satisfied with their involvement in local government activities, while 28 representing 93% said that they were not satisfied. Asked why they were not satisfied, respondent mentioned that there is limited community input.

*“We are only involved during elections. After that we do not hear from them anymore.”*

Other respondents mentioned that they are not invited; local governments are based on tribe and are corrupt, while others mentioned that they simply do not understand what is going on with their local government.

#### 4.4.2 Suggestions to improve community participation

Study participants were asked to suggest ways through which their participation in local government activities can be improved. They made the following suggestions:

Local governments should create awareness among the community in order to encourage the masses to participate. Local government should come down to the people, but not to operate at the county and other levels. They need to be at the grassroots if the masses are to be involved.

There is also need to offer training session to local government leaders on how to go about the matters of local government. Some leaders do not seem to be aware of what they are supposed to do. They only sit and wait to issue policies concerning the community without actually involving the community.

Local governments should regularly meet with the community and keep them updated on what is happening in the area.

Accountability needs to be improved. The community should be kept aware of how their taxes are being utilized by the local government.

#### **4.4.3 Any other issues relevant to the study**

Respondents were asked to mention any other issues which they felt were important for the study, but not mentioned. Many said they did not have anything to add, while others re-echoed the need to make local government more local by becoming part of the local community. They also suggested that local leaders should be elected by the community, but not appointed by the central government and lastly, that corruption and inefficiency should be fought.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter of the report presents a summary, conclusions and recommendations arising out of this study. The discussion of the findings is based on the objectives of the study.

#### **5.1 Summary**

The study was guided by the general objective of establishing the factors that influence community participation in local government activities in Maridi County, Central Payam, South Sudan. It was based on three specific objectives of: establishing the factors that hinder community participation in local government activities; how existing local government mechanisms provide an opportunity for the community to participate in local government affairs and designing strategies to improve and encourage community participation. Literature related to community participation was extensively reviewed. Experiences from such literature reveal that community participation in development programmes is important if they are going to succeed. Literature also revealed that where participation is ignored, most of the development programmes fail to take off or dies shortly thereafter.

The study employed both random and non-random sampling techniques to select the 38 study participants. Purposive sampling was used to select the key informants, while stratified random sampling was used to select the community member. Data form the respondents were collected using interviews for the key informants and questionnaires for the community members. To further ensure that true information was generated, two focus group discussions were conducted. Data was analyzed and interpreted according to themes developed along the specific objectives

## 5.2 Discussion

When findings from the study are compared with the experiences from other studies done elsewhere in the world, the following picture emerges:

It is widely held that local government promotes community participation in development and it also empowers the masses in that it expands space for them to exercise their freedom of choice and action and makes them have more control over the affairs of their lives (Kiyaga, 2009). In some countries, this is more of a myth than a reality.

On the contrary, however, the reality has turned out to be that the grassroots people lack sufficient knowledge and organization to participate in local government activities. According to Prinsen and Titeca (2008), lack of knowledge about the operations of local government exposes the masses to elite capture. They draw from the experience of School Management Committees in primary schools in Uganda. They found out that the majority of parents being poor peasants; they exercised minimum control over the decisions that affected their schools. Even in circumstances where they made a contribution, not all ideas got included in the development plans. They further observed that the parents never knew which services were to be delivered and how much was spent on them. Their place as stakeholders in the running of the school was hijacked by a section of people who were more knowledgeable about management. This is contrary to Section 36 of the Local Governments Act of 1997 which encourages involvement of all stakeholders in development planning and implementation so that they are more responsive to the needs of the people (Republic of Uganda, 2003).

A similar experience is observed in Kenya, where civil society organizations with the greatest voice tend to be those of the business community and readily resort to courts to secure their interests at the expense of the less influential sections of the community (Devas and Grant, 2003).

In addition, Francis and James (2003) observed that community participation is further strained by lack of understanding of local economies and that they usually find the planning and

budgeting processes very complicated. Although the masses are required to follow up such activities, they rarely do so due to their inability to analyze the financial information even when it is put at their disposal. This issue was equally raised in Kenya, where local government remain non-transparent with most decisions still being made behind closed doors without involving the masses. This has bred corruption, improper accounting and abuse of tender procedures (Devas and Grant, 2003).

Findings revealed that lack of accountability was raised as one of the barriers to community participation in South Sudan. Experience from Uganda has also showed that, accountability issues have proved problematic. According to Olum (2009), citizens are rarely informed about how resources are being utilized and the impact arising from their utilization. The masses are supposed to be informed through their representatives in the local councils, but the councillors never provide feedback to the community. The masses on the other hand have limited means of holding the councillors accountable, except during elections. It is common for councillors only to meet with the masses during funerals ceremonies, or over parties in drinking joints, but rarely organize meetings to inform the community about local government issues.

Olum (2009) further noted that community participation is severely challenged by low levels of education and lack of civic education among the community. Lack of civic education and sensitization on their local economies has prevented ordinary citizens from understanding local development issues and to demand accountability from local governments.

Local government as a tool for empowering the community was also challenged by Crook and Manor (1995) following their studies in the four South Asia and West African States. They found out that while decentralization may invite community participation, it had not empowered the loves of the poor and the vulnerable groups. This observation is in agreement with the experience of South Sudan where involvements of the poor in local government programmes remain very low.

In terms of the structure, Local Government Act 2009 creates a number of power centers beginning with the County as the highest level below which is the Payam and the lowest being the Boma. At all these levels of authority are supposed to be elected local government officials but on the contrary they remain appointed by the Central government. At the Boma is the

administrator, the sub-chief, the headmen and then the Community. Each community is empowered by the Local government Act to organize its local institutions of governance, promote and protect the welfare of its people [Section 107 (3) 2009].

Given the above experience where local leaders are appointed, community initiative is suffocated and Central Government patronage is promoted. The experience of South Sudan was shared by Uganda, where local government structures were filled by central government appointees during the 1960s. This frustrated community participation because the people or the community did not own the development programmes. Although the situation changed from 1997 after the new Local Government Act established a pro-people local government structure, community participation has declined due to elite capture and failure to elect new leaders (Kakumba, 2008).

Findings also revealed that there is a great need for awareness creation if the community can really engage in any meaningful participation in local government activities. In the mind of Mulwa (2008), social awareness creation is paramount to community participation and hence poverty alleviation for the poor, which he said has four elements: Firstly, awareness raising through reflection leads to action and that action in turn leads to another reflection and action, the integration of which leads to more awareness and hence more involved. Secondly, awareness creation takes place within a group and as such leads to community empowerment. Thirdly, awareness creation also enables people to understand their own reality, and fourthly that although awareness creation may start with some kind of relief and welfare services, the ultimate aim, however, is to change unjust social, economic and decision-making structures which are the root causes of poverty.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

From the study, it is seen that there is limited awareness of local government activities in Central Payam. Although the community seems to be aware of the existence of local government, they do not seem to be interested in local government activities. Information has also revealed that they rarely participate in the affairs of the local government, due to limited knowledge, or just lack of interest.

It is further revealed, that community members do not have a strong hand in the operations of local governments. The majority mentioned that they leaders are not elected but imposed upon them by the central government and for that reason the masses feel no sense of belonging and ownership to the local government.

Corruption and inefficiency among local government officials was also highlighted as a major barrier to community participation in local government activities. Respondents mentioned that since local leaders are appointed, some do not have the skills to operate such offices and end up doing nothing.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, a number of recommendations were made in order to improve local government administration.

Local government needs to be indeed local, that is to say, it should be based at the local level and should be owned by the community. Local leaders should be elected by the community, but not appointed by the central government if meaningful administration is to be achieved

There is need for sensitization of the masses on the existence of local government so that they become part of it. The local government should also make itself available to the community by mobilizing them in identifying problems and suggesting solutions.

There is also need to create structures in local government that involve the masses at all levels. These structures should begin at the grassroots and then move upwards. The central government should recognize these structures and support them.

Corruption and inefficiency ought to be fought because it was identified as one of the barriers to effective community involvement in local government activities.

## REFERENCES

- Arnstein, S. R. (1969). *A Ladder of Citizen Participation*, J. American Plann. Asso. 35 (4): 216-224
- Atkinson, R., and Cope, S. (1997). *Community Participation and Urban Regeneration in Britain* In Hoggett, P. (Ed) *Contested Communities*, Bristol: Policy Press.
- Crook, R.C. and Manor, J. (1995). Democratic Decentralisation and institutional performances: four Asian and African experiences compared. *Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 33(3): 309-334.
- Devas, N. and Grant, U. (2003). *Local Government Decision-making-Citizen Participation and Local Accountability: Some Evidence from Kenya and Uganda*, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, UK
- Dukeshire, S. and Thurlow, J. (2002). *Challenges and Barriers to Community Participation in Policy Development*, Rural Communities Impacting Policy Project
- Francis, P. and James, R. (2003). Balancing Rural Poverty Reduction and Citizen Participation: The Contradictions of Uganda's Decentralisation Program. *World Development*, 31 (2)
- Gordin, P.C. (2006). *An Instrumental Case Study of the phenomenon of Collaboration in the Process of Improving Community College Development Reading and Writing Instruction*
- Kakumba, U. and Nsingo, S. (2006). *The Challenges of Personnel decentralization and Local Government Performance in Uganda: The Case of Luwero District*
- Kiyaga, N. J. (2009). *Local Governance and Local Democracy in Uganda*: Commonwealth Journal of Local Governance in Uganda, Issue no. 2, 2009

Kiyaga, N. J. (2004). *Decentralisation, Local Governance and Poverty Reduction: A Theoretical Exploration. Basic Principles of Decentralisation: Working Papers*. Kampala: Uganda Management Institute

Kiyaga, N. J. (2001). *Uganda's Decentralization Policy and Process, What Lessons Learnt?* In Nakanyike, B and Cole, P. (eds.) *Transformations in Uganda*. (MISR/CUNY Centre)

Lowndes and Pratchett, (2001). *CLEAR: Understanding Citizen Participation in Local Government-And How to Make it Work Better*. Available online: [www.europeanchallenge.eu/.../ws1](http://www.europeanchallenge.eu/.../ws1) Keynote Lowndes and Pratchett C. Accessed: 23 July 2015.

Macfarlane, R. (1993). *Community Involvement in City Challenge: A Policy Report*, London: NCVO

Mulwa, F.W. (2008). *Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation of Community Projects*, Paulines Publications Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

Nsibambi, A. (ed), (1998). *Decentralisation and Civil Society in Uganda: The Quest for Good Governance*. Kampala: Fountain Publishers

Olum, Y. (2004). The Transition and its Implications on Participatory Democracy. *Discussion of a Paper Presented by Minister of Local Government, during the Constitutional Day Conference, held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at Hotel Africana, Kampala*

Onyach, O. (2003). The Challenges of Implementing Decentralisation: Recent Experiences from Uganda. *Public Administration and Development*, 23 (1)

Republic of South Sudan, *Interim Constitution 2005*

Republic of South Sudan, *Transitional Constitution 2011*

Republic of South Sudan, *Local Governments Act 2009*

Sabiti, M. (1998). Political and Administrative Relations in Decentralisation. In *Nsibambi, A. (ed). Decentralisation and Civil Society in Uganda: The Quest for Good Governance*, Kampala Fountain Publishers

Skinner, S. (1995). *Building Community Strengths*, London: Community Development Foundation.

Stoker, G. (1997). *Local Political Participation*. New York: Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

Winstanley, D. (1995). *When the Pieces Don't Fit: A Stakeholder Power Matrix To Analyze Public Sector Restructuring*. Public.Mon.Manage. 13 (1): 19-26

## APPENDICES

### QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

#### Questionnaire for community members

##### Introduction:

Dear respondent,

I am Adigo Philip a student at Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration. I am carrying out a study on the topic: *The Factors Influencing Community Participation in Local Government Activities in Maridi County, Central Payam: South Sudan*. You have been selected to participate in this study by answering the following questions. Please answer them as honestly as you can. The responses you will give shall be treated with confidentiality and for academic purposes only.

Thank you for participating in this study.

##### Instructions:

Please tick or fill in the boxes and spaces provided.

##### Section 1:

##### Socio-demographic characteristics of study participants

1. Name of Boma .....
2. Sex    Male ☐                      Female ☐
3. Marital Status Married ☐                      Cohabiting ☐                      Single ☐  
Divorced ☐                      Separated ☐

4. Age 18-25 ☐ 26-33 ☐ 34-41 ☐ 42+ ☐

5. Education Level:

Primary ☐ Intermediate ☐ Secondary ☐ Tertiary ☐

6. Income levels:

500-1,000 ☐ 1,500-3,000 ☐ 4,000-10,000 ☐ 20,000+ ☐

7. Source of livelihood:

Subsistence agriculture ☐ Business ☐ Salary ☐

None of the above ☐

## Section 2

### Factors that hinder community participation in local government activities

1. How many years have you lived in this Boma?

1-3 years ☐ 4-6 years ☐

2. Are you aware of the existence of a local government in your area?

Yes ☐ ☐

If yes, who composes this local government?

---

---

---

3. What activities does the local government engage in?

---

---

---

---

4. Do you participate in local government activities?

Yes ☐ No ☐

5. What form or kind of participation do you engage in?

- a. Voting
- b. Meetings
- c. Paying taxes

6. How many times, for instance, in a year do you participate in local government activities?

---

---

---

### Section 3

#### How existing local government mechanisms provide opportunity for community Participation

1. How is the local government structured in your area?

---

---

---

---

---

2. Do you elect your local government leaders?

3. Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, how do they assume office?

---

---

---

---

4. How does the community relate with local government leaders

---

---

---

---

5. Do local government leaders mobilize the community to participate in local affairs?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how?

---

---

---

---

If no, why do you think they don't?

---

---

---

---

6. Does the local government consult with the community over matters relating to their welfare?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how is it done?

---

---

---

---

#### Section 4

##### Strategies for encouraging community participation

1. Are you satisfied with the way the community is participating in local government activities?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, why?

---

---

---

---

---

b. What suggestions would make in order to improve community participation in local government activities?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2. Are there any other issues which you feel should have been relevant to the study, but have not been captured? If yes, please mention them.

---

---

---

---

---

Thank you for participating in the study.

## **INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS**

### **Interview guide for Key Informants**

1. How is the system of local government structured in this country?
2. How do local government leaders assume office?
3. How long have you served in this office?
4. Does the local government structure create opportunity for the community to participate in the affairs of the local government?
5. How is community participation mobilized?
6. Are the community members eager to participate in local government activities?
7. What in your view would be the barriers to community participation in local government activities?
8. How can these barriers be broken?
9. Do you think community participation can be improved?

## **INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. How is the system of local government structured in this country?
2. How do local government leaders assume office?
3. Does the local government structure create opportunity for the community to participate in the affairs of the local government?
4. How is community participation mobilized?
5. Are the community members eager to participate in local government activities?
6. What in your view would be the barriers to community participation in local government activities?
7. How can these barriers be broken?
8. Do you think community participation can be improved?