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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

**The impact of the centralized system of governance on the development
trajectory of Tsholotsho rural district council**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
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RELEASE FORM

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**THE IMPACT OF THE CENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE
ON THE DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORY OF TSHOLOTSHO
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Submitted by: **NKOSILONDILE MOYO REG # (R143539A)** in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Social Sciences Honours Degree in Politics and Public Management.

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DEDICATIONS

I dedicate this research to my parents Mduduzi Moyo and Ntombiyelanga Moyo from whom I draw my motivation and inspiration.

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I am hugely indebted to my research supervisor Mr W Mudyadzozo for his tireless efforts in guiding me throughout the study. I would like to acknowledge my brother Mehluli Ndlovu for his great input and encouragement during the course of my research. I would like to thank my friends and group mates who played a big role in motivating me during the course of this research. I will also like to express my gratitude to my parents Mduduzi Moyo and Ntombiyelanga Moyo for their unwavering support and inspiration during my academic journey .

ABSTRACT

The thrust of this research is to show how the centralized system of governance has greatly impacted on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho Rural District Council. It identifies the components of the centralized system of governance characterised by the lack of decision making powers, lack of citizen participation in the both decision making and development processes and the centralised policy making powers which are castigated down to local authorities to implement. The top-down approach in these processes greatly impacts the development of the local authorities. Interviews, focus group discussions and structured interviews were used in collection of data from respondents. These methods were helpful in coming up with the relevant information in regard to the centralized system of government and how it impacts on development of Tsholotsho as a whole. The research findings were interpreted and analysed with the aid of pie charts and bar graphs in order to clearly present the data. The research findings clearly show that the centralized system of governance has a great impact in term of development in that issues to do with funding are controlled by the central government. Funding and decision making are the cornerstone for development to take place as a result central government is seen as impinging on the development of the areas through constant interference on the day to day running of local authorities

ACRONYMS

CAMPFIRE – COMMUNITY AREAS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR
INDIGENOUS RESOURCES

TRDC- TSHOLOTSHO RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT- GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE

MLGPWNH- MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS AND
NATIONAL HOUSING

UNDP- UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDCA- RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS ACT (CHAPTER 29:13)

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The research seeks to explore the effects of a centralised local governance system on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho Rural District. The main aim is to establish how centralization of power has had an impact in the service delivery of the Tsholotsho Rural District Council and how this has impacted on the socio-economic and political development of Tsholotsho District as a whole. It is of great importance to note that the governance system is said to be decentralised in the provisions of the Final Draft Constitution 2013 and as a result the research seek to explore how this system of governance has had an impact on the development of Tsholotsho as a whole.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Tsholotsho district is one of the in Matabeleland North province 120 km from Bulawayo city. It covers about 200 square kilometers and has a population of approximately 113,895 people - according to the 2012 Census). Tsholotsho Rural District Council established under the Rural District Council Act Chapter 14 is assigned with service delivery provision meant to enable socio-economic and political development of the District. The Rural Districts Councils Act chapter 29(14) gives powers to the rural district councils though with some limits because the authority is granted by an Act of Parliament which can be manipulated to serve the interests of a particular group or political party. The district is endowed with natural resources such as timber and game which are under the jurisdiction of the local council but it still remains one of the underdeveloped areas in the country though with such resources. The resources continue to be used but the community is not benefiting from proceeds of the utilized natural resources because the central government has the final say in the use of proceeds from the utilized resources. Decision making processes are not clear and they do not suite the needs of the locals needs for quality service delivery in terms of healthcare, education and infrastructure development. National projects take priority compared to the local projects

The government inherited a centralized system of governance from the former colonial masters which was a system meant to disadvantage the local because the final decision was from the central government as a result Councils were seen as an extension of central government. The government as a result sought ways to redress this centralized system by embarking on the decentralization and devolution policy in order to empower the local authorities to operate with minimal influence from the central government. The policies were meant to empower local authorities to make decisions meant to address the local needs and were praised as way to support local development through the down-up approach to decision making. The cabinet adopted the Thirteen Principles to Guide the Decentralization Process in 1996 as a guide to give power to the local authorities. Independent African states according to Kamete (2006) praised decentralization as a way towards developing grass roots levels in the long run and yet they had no institutions to support the decentralization process. Local authorities had no constitutional basing and hence were viewed as an extension of the central government which had the power to create and dissolve local authorities at will.

The Final Draft of the 2013 Constitution chapter 14 gave the local authority some autonomy in the way the conduct their business though the devolution of government powers and responsibilities. One of the principles of devolution of power is the recognition of the right of communities to manage their own affairs and to further their development. The fruits of this declaration on they are yet to be seen because devolution of power is still in paper and not practical. The Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing which is mandated with providing legal and policy frameworks within which the local government should operate on has been playing more of a controlling and directing role rather than an advisory role and as a result the central government impinges on the powers of the local authorities.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Tsholotsho Rural District Council like most Rural District Councils has been failing to provide basic and standard services to the people in the district and many questions have been posed to the cause of poor service delivery. The research seeks to evaluate the effects of the relationship between the central government and the local authority and how the centralized

system of governance has impacted on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho Rural District Council.

1.4 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

The research seeks to add knowledge in Zimbabwe in relation to how centralization of power has impacted on the development of grass-root level governance and also suggest ways in which to improve the center-local relations in order to help develop the local governance. It also seeks to influence the local leadership to advocate for the practise of the decentralisation policy in order to improve service delivery.

1.5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To determine the nature of challenges faced by Tsholotsho Rural District Council in decision making.
- To examine the impact of decision making on the development of Tsholotsho
- To explore the extent of citizen participation in decision making process in Tsholotsho
- To determine the extent decentralization and devolution of power in enhancing development in local authorities.
- To evaluate central government plans relevance to the needs of the Tsholotsho Community

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the challenges faced by Tsholotsho Rural District Council in decision making
2. How decision making process has impacted on the development of Tsholotsho
3. Do citizens participate meaningfully in decision making process on developmental policies?
4. Does decentralization and devolution of power enhance development of local authorities?
5. Are development plans of the central government relevant to the local needs of Tsholotsho?

1.7 Delimitations of the Study

- The research will include the local community in attaining information as a result a more balanced point of view will be obtained. .
- On attaining data on decision-making and service delivery, various departments of the council which provide services would be approached by the researcher in order to get information on the subject at hand. The department will includes Finance Department, Road works and technical Services department as well as the Health and Social Services department

1.8 Limitations of the Study

- The respondents may give false information perhaps due to fear of victimization consequently distorting the findings of the research.
- Internal information may be subjective towards the organizations.
- The official secrecy may derail participation as the staff are obliged by law not give information about the organization to third parties.
- Time is also a restraining factor considering that a research of this magnitude might possibly need nearly 6 months to gather all the facts and findings.

In order to produce credible results in light of these limitations, a strategy in dealing with them may include generalizing the information obtained.

1.9 Collection of data

Primary sources will provide valuable data that is pertinent in the area that is under study. A questionnaire becomes a technique for sourcing data from individuals in a study environment. Interviews with key informants will be conducted largely targeting political parties' leaders, civil society, and non-governmental organization at local level. Interviews will also be conducted with local councilors and employees and different stakeholders

Case study is one technique which the research is going to employ targeting the areas with the most affected groups in development and service delivery and this will be used to gather the data.

The research will also rely on secondary sources that would involve the survey of literature on the subject matter. These would include books, newspaper reports and laws regarding the subject matter

1.10 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The research is going to make use of the Elitist theory in explaining how centralization has impacted on the development of Tsholotsho. The Elitist theory entails that decision making autonomy is only at the hands of the ruling class and decisions take the top-down approach and as a result there is little if any participation by local authorities in decision making process. The theory presupposes that the ruling class makes decisions that suit their needs and maintain them in power and as a result the power is concentrated on the center leaving the local authorities as an extension of the power of the elite.

The realist theory will also help in explaining the research. Politics is viewed as the struggle for power and this entails that there always be struggle for power. The central government will always want to retain power and as a result it gives the local authorities delegated powers and still maintain autonomy over them. This is in line with the issues of putting legislation which maintains the central government as the sources of power and authority from which local authorities derive power from.

1.11 Chapter summary

The first chapter introduces the study by outlining the background against which the study is based. It outlines the objectives, research questions, problem statement and justification of the study. The delimitation of the study and the key terms of the study are also highlighted. The next chapter will focus on the related literature review.

Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The chapter will focus on the work done by other researchers on the subject of centralised government system impact on development of local authorities. It will bring out their findings and give justification for the present study. Bless (1995) is of the view that literature review involves research and evaluation of available literature in a given subject matter. In line with this point of view the chapter review concept of the impact of a centralised government system on the development of local authorities in service delivery.

2.2 OVERVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Governance is about the relationship between the government and other institutions, how they communicate to people, and in what way decisions are taken in a multifaceted domain (Graham and Plumptre, 2003: 2). Hyden and Court (1992: 19) are of the view that governance is the creation and stewardship of the official and natural procedures that regulate the public jurisdiction, the arena in which state and non-state actors interact to make decisions. Governance in this contest is the important relationship between the state and economical and social actors in decision making. The decisions made should be representative of all the actors. It emphasises on the important aspect of involvement in the decision making process for it to be considered a viable governance system.

The government inherited a highly centralised system of governance from the colonial masters. The system was meant to benefit the white minority at the expense of the masses. The system was exploitative and created a huge gap in terms of development between the natives and the colonialists as a result soon after attaining independence the Government sought ways to readdress this system which was crafted to benefit the white minority. The 1980 Constitution and Prime Minister Directives (1984-1985) tried to proffer solutions by engaging on devolution and decentralization policies which were crafted and put forward as a way to address the previous regime. The drawbacks of these solutions were that they only prescribed for the structures of the central government leaving the local government system without any constitutional provision and backing meaning the local governance

system was still under the central government. The 2013 Final Draft Constitution established the local governance system. It states that there should be devolution of power and responsibility to lower tiers of government. The enshrinement of devolution of power in the national constitution meant that local authorities are to enjoy some degree of self-rule in the running of their affairs as a result should be afforded their independence by the central government.

Meyer (1978) argued that the local government or local authority is a local democratic governing unity within a unitary democratic system of a country which are subordinate members of government vested with prescribed, controlled governmental powers and sources of income to render specific local services and develop, control and regulate the geographic, social and economic environment of a defined local area. In line with this argument the local governance system of Zimbabwe was established in a way that the local authority which is the council enjoy powers given to them by the central government. The central government is the one responsible for setting out the guidelines and the environment from which the local authorities are to operate from.

The local governance system Zimbabwe is established under the Urban Councils Act chapter and the Rural District Councils Act which give powers to local authorities on how to manage their affairs. Local governance according to the Rural District Council Act can be defined as the creation of participatory and democratically elected structure that can identify with the needs of the people at grass-root level to ensure the translation of those needs into actual provision and maintenance of essential services. The mandate of local authorities therefore is for the providing and maintaining essential services and as a result should be given some freedom in fulfilling this mandate. Mawhood (1993) contends that local government is the third tier of government deliberately created to bring government closer to the grass-root population and gives a sense of involvement in local governance process that controls their daily lives and as a result participation of the population is vital in making the local governance system work in developing the local communities.

The 2013 Final Draft constitution stipulates that ‘whenever appropriate government powers and responsibilities must be devolved to provincial and metropolitan councils and local

authorities’It also stipulates that Councils have wide ranging authority including the right to govern its own initiatives affairs in its area and all the powers to necessary for it to do so. In reality such powers are only on paper as the broad powers of councils are substantially undermined by the numerous provisions of the Rural District Councils Act ceding authority to the minister. The central government still maintains control of the local authority over the local authorities though in paper the local government is seen as an independent entity with powers to make their own decisions.

2.3 CENTRALISED SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

In essence the central government gives the local authorities power whenever it sees fit. Wunsch (2001) argues that local authorities are given little power to run their areas independently and to develop their areas because the central government often controls them through legislation, economically and centre controlled allocation of resources. The centralised system controls the vital aspects of the council operations in terms of financing and as a result it has the direct impact on the council’s activities. Control of the council finances indeed supports the statement that central government has a great impact on the development of local authorities in that it controls the important component of the council functional capability.

The centralized system of governance hinders the participation of citizens in their development agenda. Citizens become passive recipients of policies crafted by the central government and that do not reflect their needs and as a result lack of participation by the citizens lead to their under development. Passive participation led to the underdevelopment of local communities according to UN (1967). In the centralized system of governance citizens are passive recipients in term of development policies as the central government crafts the policies on their own or with little consultation and only get to implement the policies that are dictated by the central government. Councils then become passive implementers of the policies formulated by the central govern as they are regarded as an extension of the central government.

Chikulo (1998) argues that local authorities are not independent of central government; they enjoy relative autonomy due to sharing of responsibilities for service delivery. The central government gives responsibilities to the local authorities but returns the power .Local authorities are an extension of central government and as a result should follow government

as they enjoy delegated authority from it as postulated by Chombo (2004) and through such statements central governance dictates what the local authorities do and local authorities play an implementation role. The central government therefore has a great influence on the day to day running of local authorities and this has an impact on the development of local authorities as they need to regularly consult the central government and seek permission for most projects to take place. This type of governance system is associated with a lot of reporting hierarchy in terms of reporting standards from local level to provincial level then to national level and as a results it causes a lot of delay at the end frustrating the local authority due to delay in decision making for issues which directly impacts them but has to be taken to national level for political purposes.

2.4 CIVIL PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

Participation of the local populace is of grave importance in development of local authorities. The population should take part in the decision making process because they are the ones who are affected directly by the decision made by the local and central government policies and decisions. Decisions making and policy formulation processes should take a down-up approach in order to craft policies that best suit the needs of the grass root population. Makumbe (1996) postulates that meaningful decision making takes place when citizens effectively take part in the development process and decision making process. The citizens take part in the development of their areas and they do this by partaking in the decision making process and also policy formulation processes which at the end reflects their needs resulting in development oriented policies. The decisions made with the input from the populace is development oriented in that it reflects the community needs and is thus able to effectively address the needs of the community.

All citizens should be able to participate actively in the local democratic process. According to Fung (2001:41) local democracy gives citizens the freedom to participate in making decisions that are locally appropriate and serve the needs of the local community. Makumbe (1996) observed that the democratisation of the development process, by which we mean the empowerment of the people, their involvement in decision making, in the implementation process is a good ground for socio-economic recovery and transformation. This simply means that the involvement of people in decision making results in the democratisation of the development process and as a result the solutions offered will be well-informed in nature. Participation also creates a friendly environment for local authorities as the people become

more open to the ideas from the local authority because they trust the local authority is representing their needs rather than its self-interests and thus citizens partake in developmental projects making the local authority functions easy due to cooperation from citizens and stakeholders

Otzen (1999) defines participation as a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them. Therefore emphasis on participation is crucial in that the formerly disadvantaged must be the central targets. Liebenberg (1999: 6) supports the above assertion by defining participation as “the organised efforts to increase the control over and access to resources and regulative institutions in society, on the part of individual citizens, groups, movements of those hitherto excluded from such control aimed at the socio-economic development of the whole community.” It encourages a sense of ownership in that the resources are controlled by the local people and they partake in issues to do with their utilization and thus at the end of the day their influence and participation is valuable.

Gaventa (2006:150) argues that participatory governance is developing independent engagement through the involvement of citizens in the processes of local governance. In participating democracy, people ought to be actively involved in matters that affect them by demanding accountability from the state ensuring government’s responsiveness to service delivery and other public requirements. The World Bank (2007: 191) points out that precise law directs local authorities through the constitution which recognizes local government and recommends the essential need for local involvement in local matters. Citizen participation in decision making and policy formulation is of grave importance as it reflects back on the protection of their rights through participating in matters that have a direct impact on their livelihood.

2.5 DECENTRALISATION AND DEVOLUTION OF POWER ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT

Decentralization of power in modern day governance is important in the development of grass-root levels. Makumbe (1999) argues that governance in the modern state requires that state relinquishes its responsibilities through decentralization. Decentralization plays a vital role in modern day politics and development of local authorities and this include ceding

political and administrative power to enable local authorities to make decisions that best suit their needs.

According to the Human Development Report (1993) decentralization can take several forms; it might for example be horizontal or vertical. Horizontal decentralization disperses power among institutions at the same level. For example a government's spending decisions, rather than being concentrated in an all-powerful Finance ministry, might be spread across different ministries.

Vertical decentralization is more powerful. It allows some of the powers of government to be delegated downwards to low tiers of authority. This vertical decentralization can itself take three forms. The first one is deconcentration: this is limited to passing down only administrative discretion to local offices of central government ministries. It involves the transfer of workload and selected administrative or decision-making authority and responsibility from the headquarters to lower field-level officials within central government ministries or public agencies.

It implicates the handover of power for decision making, management, fiscal and administration functions by governmental means to different levels under the same jurisdictional authority of although it does result in some dispersal of power, few decisions can be taken without reference to the central government.

The local government transformation and decentralization processes underway in Sub-Saharan Africa have opened space to better participate in decision-making processes and administration (Matovu, 2006: 5). Participation in decision making process helps local authorities to come up with projects and programmes that best suit the needs of the community. It is of great importance to note that decision making is a process that involves a lot of inputs

2.6 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELEVANCE TO LOCAL POPULATION NEEDS

According to Madzivanyika (2011:33) efficient and effective provision of goods and services is compromised by a high level of central interference in the decision-making processes of

local authorities. The central government policies disturb the day to day running of local authorities and as a result local authorities fail to perform their duties effectively due to the central government pressure. The central government control of the financial provisions of the local authorities for instance delays the development of local entities in that for projects to take place there has to be an approval from the Ministry of Local Governance and as a result there is little space for local entities to act independently.

The central government controls most important financial activities of the municipality for instance budgeting, borrowing and the billing system. This scenario is similar to that in Britain. Chandler (1993:21) argues that in Britain the central government has a number of ways of either paying the pipes or exercising a considerable degree of control over the income of local authorities through regulation of the central grant system, influence over local government pricing policies and most importantly attempt to restrict the money that can be raised from the hitherto sacrosanct source of local taxation. The interests of the central government take priority compared to that of local authorities

2.7 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The research is going to make use of the Elitist theory in explaining how centralization has impacted on the development of Tsholotsho. The Elitist theory entails that decision making autonomy is only at the hands of the ruling class and decisions take the top-down approach and as a result there is little if any participation by local authorities in decision making process. The theory presupposes that the ruling class makes decisions that suit their needs and maintain them in power and as a result the power is concentrated on the center leaving the local authorities as an extension of the power of the elite.

The realist theory will also help in explaining the research. Politics is viewed as the struggle for power and this entails that there always be struggle for power. The central government

will always want to retain power and as a result it gives the local authorities delegated powers and still maintain autonomy over them. This is in line with the issues of putting legislation which maintains the central government as the sources of power and authority from which local authorities derive power from.

2.7.1 ELITIST THEORY.

The elitist theory presupposes that decision making powers rests upon the few elite in the society who are the ruling class. Decentralisation entails that there is transferring of power from central government to local levels, however due to political reasons central government puts in place measures to put in check the councils as the decision lies f a political party may attempt to maintain power by keeping municipalities on a tight leash. It is by constantly interfering in affairs of local municipalities as well as through certain laws that exist that compel local entities to always seek approval for locally formulated policies before implementation that decentralisation or decision making independence my only exist on paper (constitution) while on the actual ground its recentralisation. The elitist theory is a theory that explains how only a few members of the economic elite and policy-planning networks are those that hold the most power. In relation to Zimbabwe it could be noted that through the events of 2015 and 2016 by the minister of local government, public works and national housing Savior Kasukwere was an attempt to allegedly keep the opposition led municipalities at a tight leash. It could be noted from the suspension of the mayor of Harare to suspension of various councilors in Gweru and Bulawayo may seems as an attempt to disrupt service delivery and allow central government to interfere hence recentralization

According to Lopez “the concept of ‘elites’ is based on the notion that every society holds a ruling minority, a group that controls and disputes the most important power sources”. It can be applied that this particular theory may be used to explain how central government attempted to maintain hold on local government affairs as witnessed in the ministers continuous invasion on local government decision making autonomy. However his actions may be justified as the minister he has every right to dismiss any official on grounds of abuse

of office serving as balance and checks. Current elite theory defines ‘elites’ as actors controlling resources, occupying key positions and relating through power networks (Yamokoski and Dubrow, 2008). In as much as decentralization or decision making autonomy may be granted to local authorities, it is by keeping them on a tight leash or continuously interfering in their affairs not only disrupts service delivery, but may even have it at a standstill. One scholar added “municipalities in Zimbabwe do not enjoy full decision making autonomy as in every locally formulated policy they must get the approval the central government”. In relation to the above assertion indeed it may be true, with every major decision made approval from central government is needed, in as much as devolution of power (Zimbabwean constitution of chapter 14) and Urban councils act illustrate on decision making autonomy but in actual fact only a few “elitist” possess the power to make decision with whom the local governments seek approval from.

2.7.3 REALIST THEORY.

Realist theory is a theory that seeks to explain politics at an international and domestic level, with Hans Morgenthau as one of the major contributors to the theory may also be relevant in explaining the reason for not completely issuing full autonomy to local municipalities. Mosely (2017) argues that realist take as its assumption that power is (or ought to be) the primary end of political action, whether in the domestic or international arena. In the domestic arena, the theory asserts that politicians do, or should, strive to maximize their power. Such power may be maintained through keeping a close leash on local municipalities hence actions of continuous interference as well as through certain procedures such as approval before implementation from central government may in reality achieve or maintain power even if the constitution speaks on the independence of municipalities with full decision making autonomy. According to Karab-Karpowicz (2010) Realism encompasses a variety of approaches and claims a long theoretical tradition. Among its founding fathers, Thucydides, Machiavelli and Hobbes are the names most usually mentioned. Realist also believe that power is right and one must seek to acquire it, hence if the ruling party that controls the government intends to maintain control of local municipalities at the expense of decision making autonomy as granted by the constitution, according to the realists are justified in their quests

2.8CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter has discussed the literature by other scholars concerning the research study. Data collection methods and theoretical frameworks were covered in this chapter. The next chapter discusses the methodology of the study.

CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter entails the research design, techniques, data collection tools, data analysis and ethical issues that were considered during the conduct of this research. It clearly articulates the intentions and procedures of the study and how it moved from one stage to the next in order to acquire the information that answer the research questions. Thus, in this chapter sources and methods of data collection, sampling techniques proposed, and data analysis procedures are explained.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design provides a guide to various stages of the research. Creswell (2002) explains that the research design is a process that links research questions with the data. This involves formulating a detailed plan that the research follows in collecting the data that answers the research questions. Mitchell and Jolley (2010) states that a research design should enable researchers to get evidence that answers all the research questions and leave no room for doubt or lack of clarity

The research design is a mixed design using both the qualitative and quantitative in matters that are appropriate. Qualitative research, can be generally be defined as any type of research that generates results not attained by any means of arithmetical techniques or other means of quantification as discussed by Strauss and Corbin(1990, p. 17). Patton (2001 p.39) advances that qualitative research articulates outcomes attained from real-life situations where the occurrence of interest develop naturally. The qualitative will be sought through interviews with key informants in the district as well as focus group discussions.

Winter (2000) argues that a quantitative research tries to section and restrict occurrences into determinate or similar groupings that can be applicable to all of the themes or broader and related circumstances. The quantitative nature of the research comes through analysis of questioners.

In terms of sampling, purposive sampling will be employed and it is largely geared towards targeting people who have information about the subject matter.

3.3 THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Questionnaires, interview guide and a focus group discussion guide, were used to obtain data from the research participants. The advantages and disadvantages of these methods were considered.

3.3.1 QUESTIONNAIRES

Questionnaires are a technique in which each person is asked to respond to the same set of questions in a predetermined order as articulated by deVause (2002). The researcher administered questionnaires which were used to collect data and the respondents completed the questionnaires in writing. Staffs of various council departments, councillors, local and local leadership leaders were given the questioners. These were the most likely to be informed and were regular participants in community programmes, gave responses. The questionnaire was simplified to enable them to understand it.

The advantage of using the method is that large quantity of information can be gathered in a short period of time, it's relatively cost effective. Its drawbacks include lack of validity

3.3.2 STRUCTURED - INTERVIEWS

According to CSSR (2007) an interview is a meeting for obtaining information by questioning a person or persons. It is in a sense an oral question and answer session in which the subject or interviewee gives the needed information orally and face to face while the interviewer writes and possibly further probes questions for clarification from the interviewees (Muranda, 2004). Interviews can gather facts about people's beliefs, perspective, feelings, motives, past and present behaviours and events (Ibid). As a matter of its advantage, Chitando (2005) points out that the interview is used where detailed information is required and when the informants are few. In administering the interview, the purpose of the study was explored and respondents assured of confidentiality face to face.

This means that other people apart from the interviewee and interviewer were excluded from the interview, which was to encourage the respondents.

An interview guide was used to solicit information from key stakeholders. This was done so as to get detailed information on local governance and development status Tsholotsho in particular. It was also to give the key informants the opportunity to proffer solutions to the challenges faced by the council in decision making and service delivery issues. The study used this instrument because of these cited reasons and it also facilitates methodological triangulation of data by checking whether what is written on the questionnaire is supported or refuted in the interview schedule.

3.3.3 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGD)

A focus group is a scheduled, simplified discussion among a small group of participants aimed at obtaining insights in a well-defined part of a study in an open-minded environment as articulated by Campbell (2008). FGDs serve on limited time and most of the data was collected through this method to counter the challenge of low literacy levels. FGDs are preferred because everything will be verbal in local language. Interaction among participants will be informative. They were conducted with ten participants in the group which constituted a representative from the District Administrator's office, local councillor, council representative, and development stakeholder representative, representative from the community, and local political leaders.

The focus discussion was used to come up with the views from the targeted population and helped to explain how the council and central government worked together. The composition of the group was chosen with due care in order to make sure that representatives from all facets of the study were included in order to come up with a balanced view point as each side had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the organisation or group that they were representing. The advantage of this method is that the researcher got information from different people at the same time due to the dynamic nature of the group. It helps bring understanding on the topic which might be difficult to achieve using a single data collection method. The drawbacks of this method include that it is liable to facilitator's bias; discussion can be controlled or diverted by a few individuals and that it does not offer valid information at personal level.

3.3.4 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

According to Leedy and Ormrod (2005) population sampling is the selection of some participants to represent the entire population from which participants will be taken. Sampling procedure is a process that makes it possible to draw valid inference or generalization on the basis of careful observation of variables within a relatively small proportion of the population (John and James, 1993).

Non probability sampling provides a research with various alternative techniques based on the researcher's judgement. Non probability sampling size is dependent on research questions and objectives in particular what the researcher wants to find out and what will be useful as articulated by Patton (2002)

Non probability sampling technics

Quota sampling

Quota sampling is usually used for interview surveys and is based upon the fact that the sample will represent the views of the whole population. The technic is cheap and can be done without requiring sampling frame and it saves time as argued by Saunders (et al 2009 p235). The individuals selected from the sample were asked the questions regarding the participation of the citizens in the development projects and also in the decision making process. The sample represented the whole population views as the technique uses the generalised approach in order to come up with the research findings. The individuals selected to participate in the research were directly and indirectly involved in the system of governance whether as a passive or active participate. The technique was mainly centred on the individuals who are involved in the affairs of the district such as the stakeholders and general public.

3.5 ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data collected from stakeholders and questioners was analysed using excel in the computer. The generated responses are then converted into graphs and pie charts for easy

interpretation. Content analysis and textual analysis will be used to analyse data. The analysis will also be based on grounded theory where the task of the researcher is to understand what is happening, and how the players manage their roles in the development and decision making. This will be achieved through observation, conversation and interview. After each session of data collection the researcher notes down key issues. The process involves firstly comparing interview and other forms of data and comparison is done to theoretical approaches that will be employed.

3.6 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

Reliability of the design mainly deals with replicability, that is, the findings can be used elsewhere by other studies while validity is concerned with whether the findings are really about what they appear to be about. Joppe (2000) defines reliability as the degree to which outcomes are constant over a period and a correct depiction of the overall populace under and if the outcomes of a study can be repeated under a similar method. Under such circumstance the research tool is considered to be reliable.

Validity of the research instruments selected in this study will be determined by the advantages and disadvantages of using each in carrying out studies of this type which enhances generalizability. Wainer and Braun (1998) portray the validity in quantitative research as construct validity. The construct is the underlying idea, thought, question or speculation that figures out which information is to be accumulated and how it is to be collected. Hence the above methods are considered exceptionally appropriate to be able to get valid and reliable information to answering the research questions to this study.

3.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cohen et al (2007), articulates that as research is considered as meddling into respondents' personal lives with regard to time allocated and level of sensitivity of questions asked; a high standard of ethical considerations should be maintained. The interviewees were informed that participation in the study was voluntary and that they could withdraw at any time if they felt uncomfortable. This was done to ensure that the participants participated with full consent

and that they know they had the right to change their minds about participation in the research because it was a voluntary exercise.

The purpose of the study was clearly explained to them so as to enable them make informed decisions about whether or not to agree to be interviewed and participate in the research. Disclosure of such information was meant to create a mutual understanding between the researcher and the participants as due to full disclosure of information and also help create a sense of trust between the researcher and the respondents.

Privacy and confidentiality were ascertained to everyone that participated in the exercise so as to protect them; this was done and ensured through non-recording of the respondents' names and any personal details. This was meant to protect the interests of the respondents in case they got into trouble due to disclosure of sensitive information and it also created an open minded environment in that the respondents could participate freely without fear of being exposed for their conflicting views

3.8 CHAPTER SUMMARY

This chapter gave an outline of the research design in which this study falls. The composition of the study subjects, the research instruments, data collection procedures, data presentation and analysis were discussed. The next chapter looks at data presentation, its analysis and interpretation.

CHAPTER 4: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Preamble

The chapter describes the results of the study. The data presented was collected from the council staff, community leaders, community members and key stakeholders in Tsholotsho.

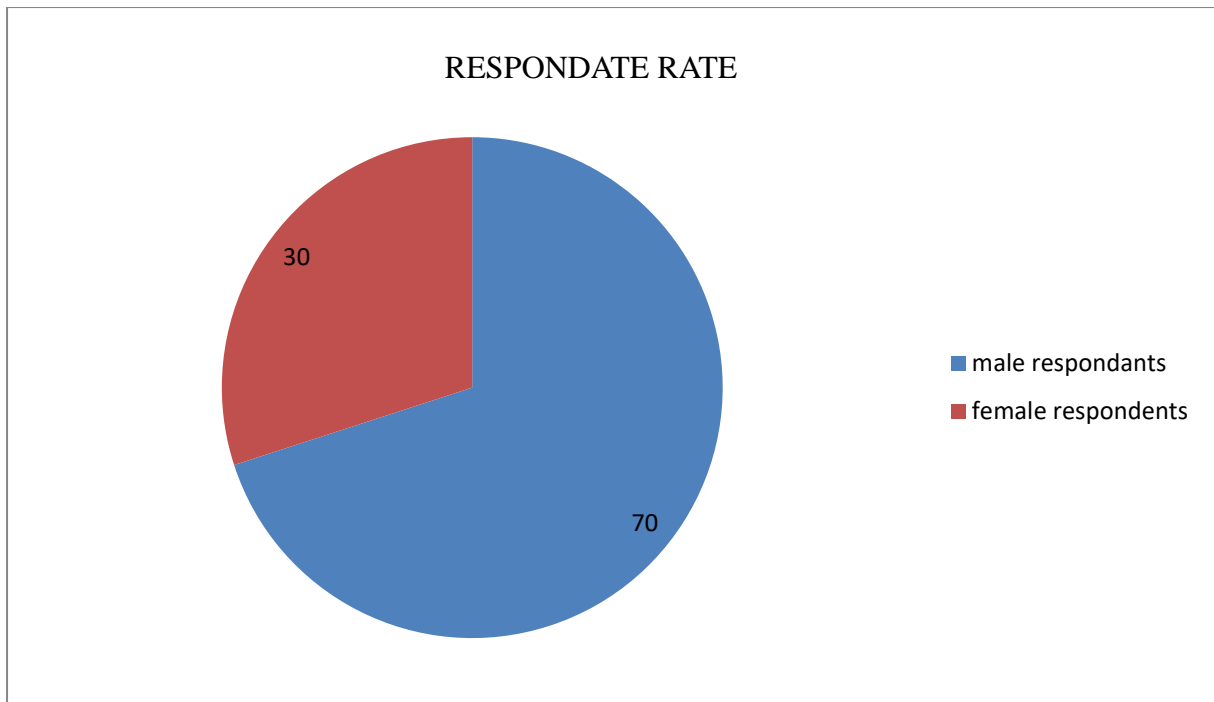
4.0 INTRODUCTION

The researcher used both the qualitative and quantitative information in order to interpret the information given. Discussions were mainly focused on the questions asked during the interviews and focus discussions and questioners in relation to the research objectives. All the 20 questioners were answered and returned. The research objectives which were to be addressed by primary data collection method were revisited in order to come up with the findings.

4.1 RESPONSE RATE

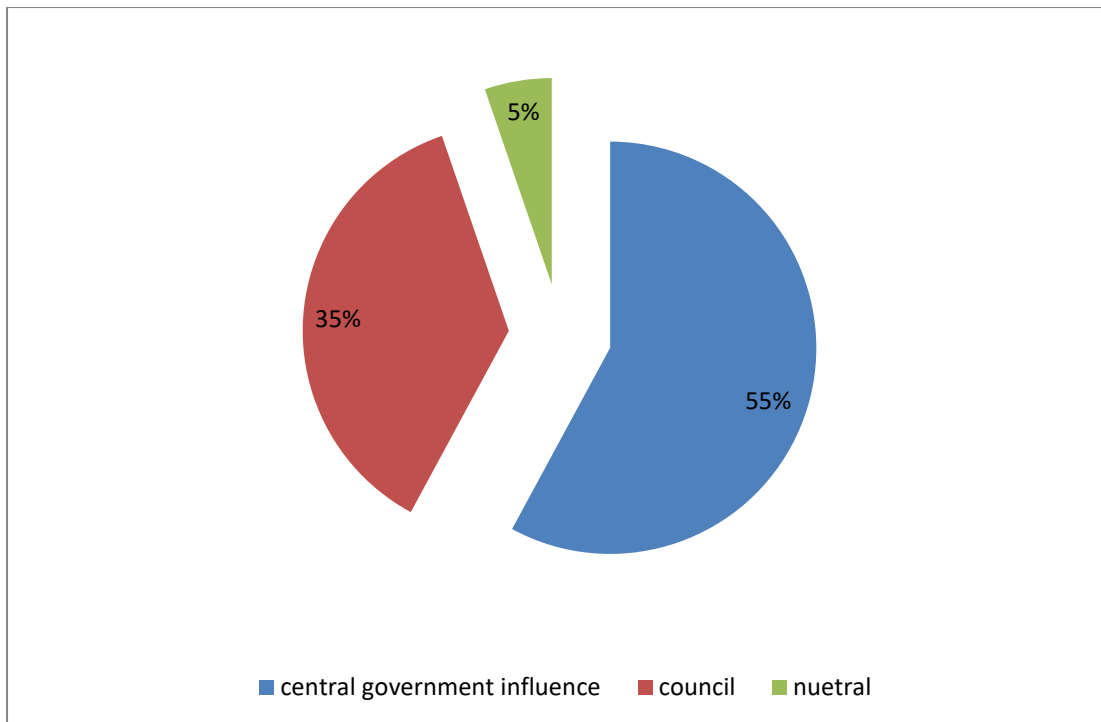
4.1.1 GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

For this study, 70 % of the respondents were male and 30 % were female. The interviews and focus discussion were conducted with employees from the Administration departments, stakeholders that include Non-governmental organizations, local councilors and members of the general public. All the vital members in relation to the study topics took part in these discussions.



4.2 LOCAL COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

Through the use of the questionnaires, 60 % of the respondents were of the view that the centralized system of governances was at the epicenter of problems in decision making as it was unclear who makes the decisions the council or the ministry of local governance. Focus groups explained that the limitations of powers were not clearly defined and thus the ministry would interfere in the running of the councils. A reference made to the effect that for instance the council wanted to construct a stadium for the community and after a great deal of consultation with local stakeholders the local council wanted to start constructing the stadium but due to pressure from the central government the project was put on hold as it was now said to be a national project which is yet to start. 35 % of the respondents were of the view that Council was operating as a separate entity which does not consult people as a result decision making was a flawed process in that the community comes as implementers of policies they did not take part in. 5 % of the respondents were of the view that they do not know any of the decision making process as they were not involved anyhow with Council activities.



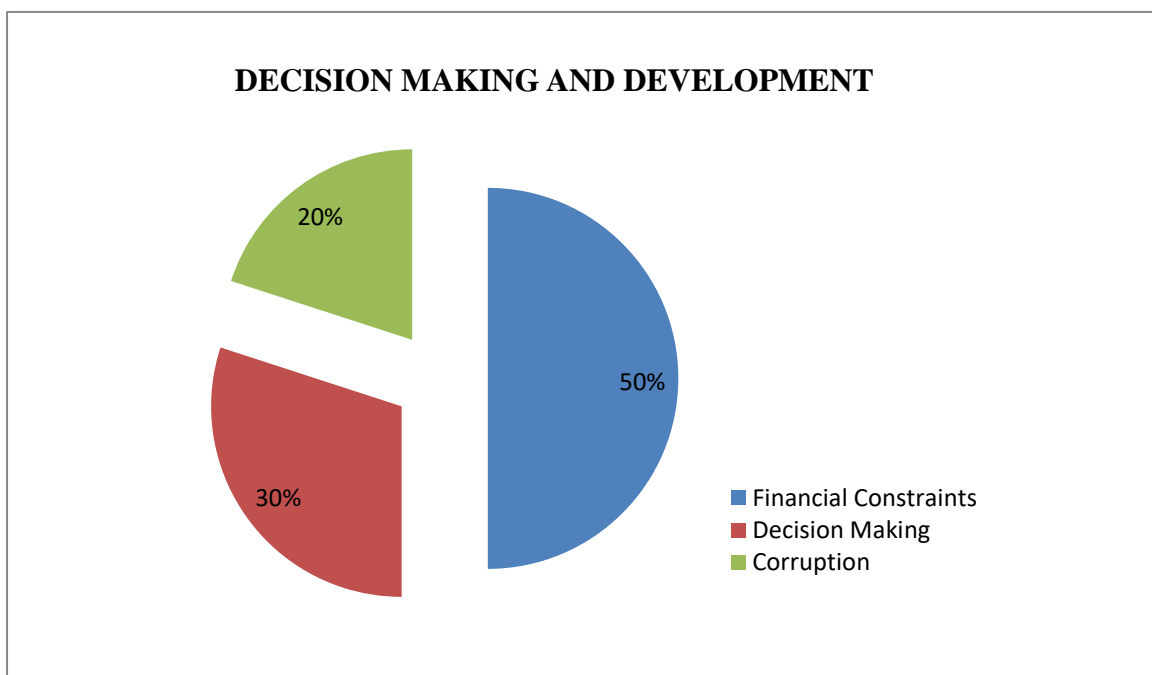
4.3 IMPACT OF DECISION ON DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Decision making has a great contribution in terms of development of local authorities. Through the use of questionnaires, 50% of the respondents were of the view that lack of finance is the greatest hindrance to development. They confirmed that decision making plays a vital role but decision making without financial backing was useless in terms of development as construction of roads, infrastructure development and waste management require capital to be implemented. Key informants indicated that lack of financial muscle was due to the central government control of the councils borrowing powers, approval of the budget and the control of natural resources. The respondents blamed the government for the lack of clarity in the utilization and control of natural resources because Tsholotsho has resources like game and timber yet the proceeds of the utilisation benefits just a small portion through the CAMPFIRE programme. However, 30% of the respondents were of the view that decision making powers are the epicentre of development and for councils to operate freely there was need for the granting of decision making powers without any interference from the central government.

Decision making and development are interlinked and are based on the willingness of the central government to cede its authority to local tiers so that they can freely make decisions

that are locally accepted and are from a down-up approach. The process involves a wide consultation before any final decision and reflects the opinion of the majority. Focus groups were of the view that politics plays an important role in that it takes away the authoritative allocation of resources and decision making is granted as a way to garner support for the ruling elite as development would be viewed as an initiative from the government.

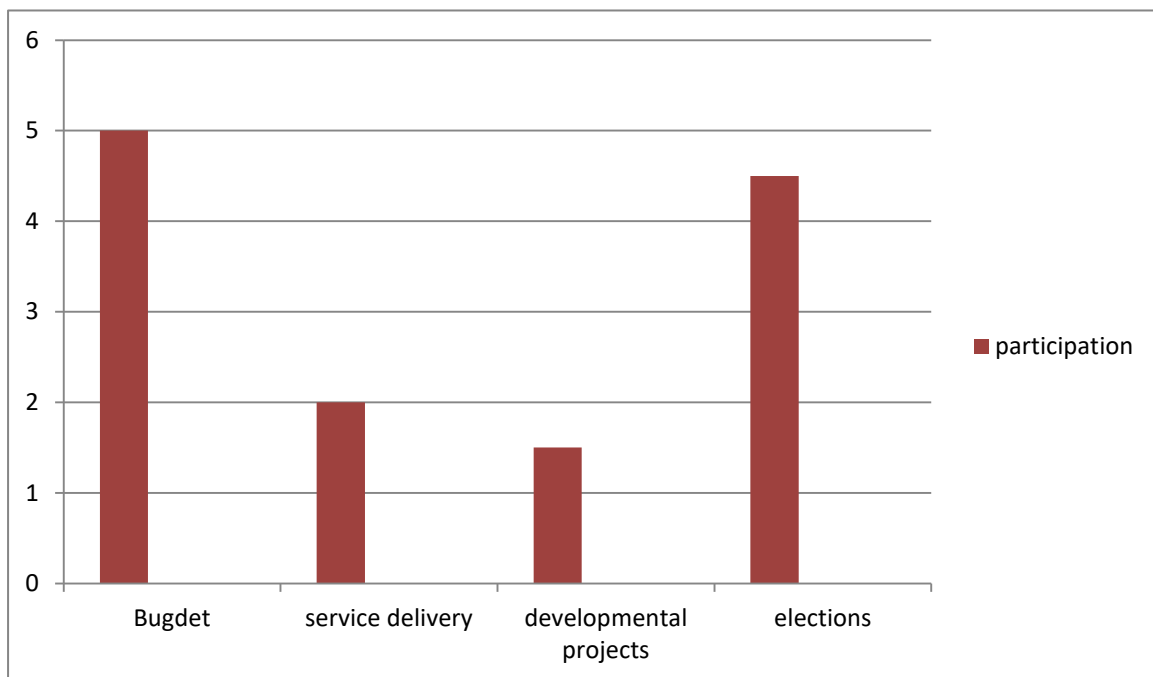
20% of the respondents were of the view that though both financial constraints and decision making played an important role for development to take place, they lamented that corruption played a negative role in development in that there is alleged corruption and misuse of the funds meant for developmental purposes. The focus group were of the view that the role and corruption within the council was a hindering factor which was rampant mainly in awarding tenders to companies, hunting concession was meant to serve the few individuals within the system at the expense of the general populace and thus contributing to the lack of development in Tsholotsho.



4.4 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING PROCESSES

The respondents agreed that citizen participation is vital in decision making processes as citizens are empowered to take part in decisions that involves their livelihood and their development. This was evidenced by 45 % of the respondents who admitted that citizens are passive participates in the decision making process in that they play an implementing role in decisions that they did not take part in for instance the issue of service charges levied by Council yet the Council fails to service stands with road infrastructure and electricity. They pay levies with the hope of getting services but these services are not rendered at the end.

The respondents cited that they participate in the budget consultation forum and their views are taken because it's a requirement to guarantee the budget process. A total of 70% respondents indicated citizen participation is guaranteed and made clear through participation in National and local government elections. In terms of budget consultations, 90% confirmed that there is evident citizen participation as they are consulted



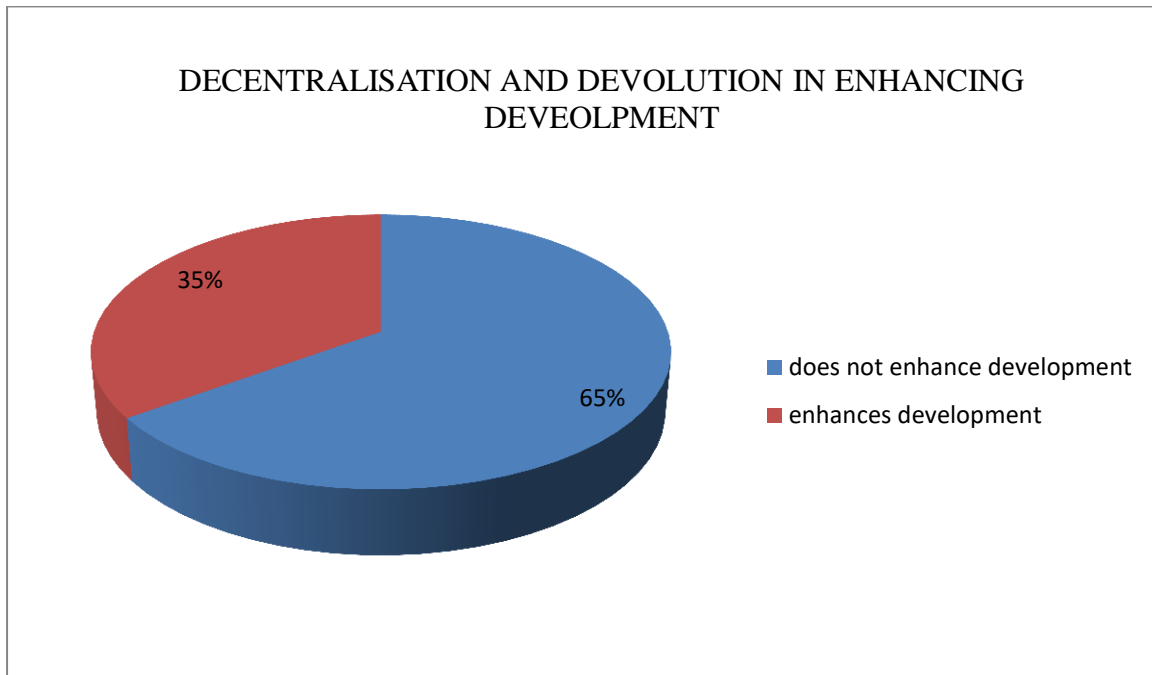
Participation areas

4.6 DECENTRALIZATION AND DEVOLUTION IN ENHANCE DEVELOPMENT

The majority of the respondents professed that decentralization and devolution of power was just a mere political tool which was in paper rather than practical in that the applicability of the policy is yet to show. 65% of the respondents were of the view that decentralization is only in administrative as the real power lays with the government who have the final say in matters of local authorities for instance the approval of the Budget by the minister of local governance which is of vital importance when it comes to funding of the council activities. Resultantly the respondents were of the view that decentralization and devolution of power without the authority to control the budget was a fruitless endeavour because financing of Council projects is based purely on the budget allocation as it is the major source of revenue.

The respondents were of the view that use and control of natural of natural resources play an integral part in the decentralization process in that local authorities are given power to utilise and control of natural resources in their areas for the development of their areas. They were of the view that since the Council is endowed with the timber and game resources through the decentralisation process the council could maximise these to further develop the area but it is not so because the central government through the various legislatives puts measures to ensure that the projects like CAMPFIRE which deals with the utilization of the game resources and it's a branch of the central government which gives rules and guidelines on the utilization of the game resources and as a result makes council under the central government in one of its major source of revenue.

35% of the respondents were of the view that indeed decentralization and devolution of power has a great impact in the development of local authority in that they are given a certain degree of autonomy and are able to make decisions on their own without the influence of the central government for instance through the use service charges rate the council is able to generate revenue also through the sale of stray animals which the central government has no control over. The central government also plays a part in the decentralised system in that it funds some of the developmental projects for example the purchasing of vehicles for council engineering services through the ZINARA funds and also through supporting and funding the construction and maintenance of road infrastructure through the ZINARA funds



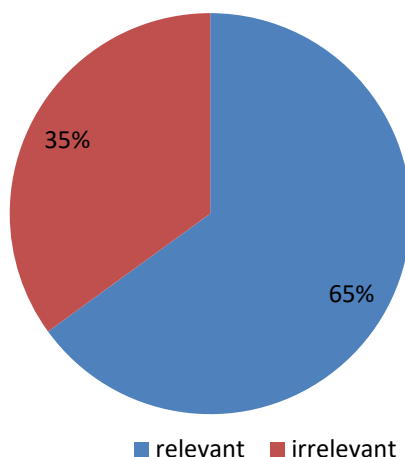
4.7 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PLANS RELEVANCE TO LOCAL NEEDS

65% of the respondents were of the view that central government plans were mainly based on keeping themselves in power rather than serving the local needs of the communities. They argued that plans by the central government took a top down approach rather than the down up approach meaning the plans made were imposed on the people rather than participatory centred policies for example the issue of the stadium which was made a national project while the local authority had the capacity to construct it on their own but the project is yet to be constructed as a result the local needs were overtaken by the central government as the central government wants the community to view it as the source of development.

The respondents in the focus discussions argued that the Council adopts policies made by the central government which are meant to keep them in power. They cited the directive by the government in 2016 to align the plans of local authorities with the ZIMASSET policy yet the policy was adopted in 2013 as a result leaves a lot to be desired in that the same policy was a political manifesto of ZANU PF party. In line with the elitist school of thought decisions are centralised and made by only a few members of the society and these are meant to maintain them in power and as such policies are imposed on the local authorities as they are the third tier of government meant to translate the policies of the government into actionable policies in the grass-root levels.

35 % of the respondents were of the view that the central government policies are relevant to need of the people for instance the sustainable development goal policy which is meant to uplift communities from poverty through provision of basic infrastructure like schools, clinics and community halls which play a vital role in empowering communities in terms of health care, education and social development. These respondents suggested that government gives power to the Council and plays an overseer role and if it intervenes it would be at the best interest of the people in order to protect them from issues like corruption and misuse of resources by putting in place legislation so that councils are held accountable for their actions.

government policies relevance to local needs



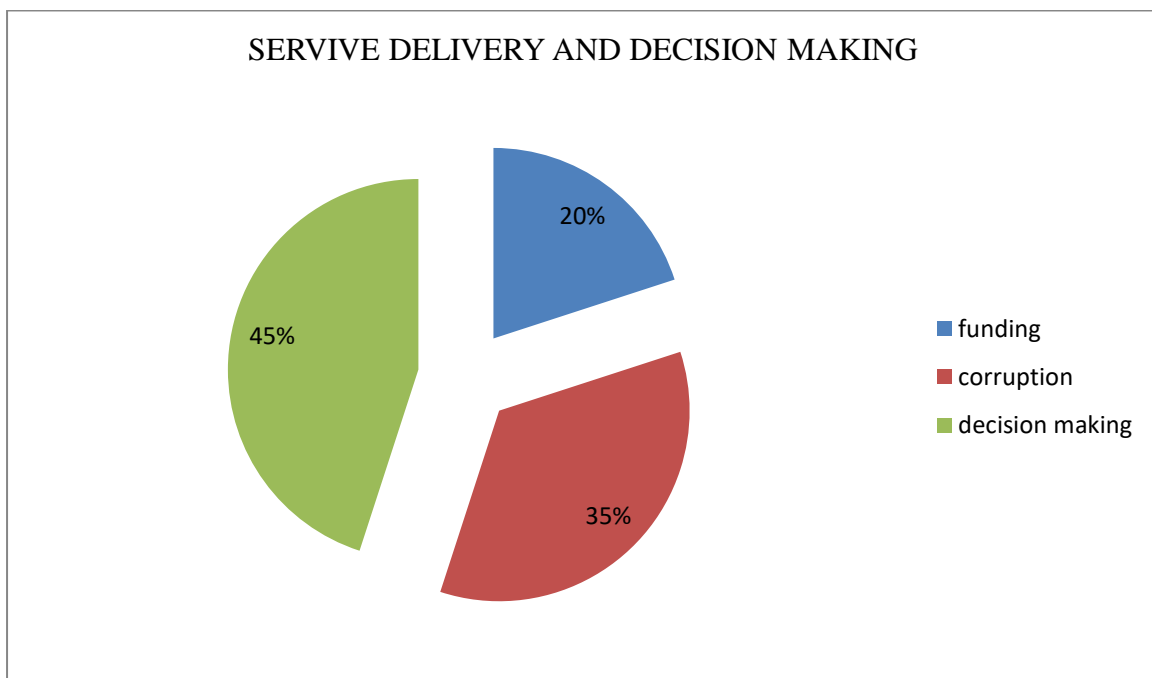
4.8 DECISION MAKING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

45% of the respondents were of the view that decision making has a great significance in terms of service delivery in that the service delivery provision had to be agreed upon by both the local authority and its citizens. The respondents argued that poor service delivery in Tsholotsho should be blamed on lack of decision making initiatives by the council when it comes to service delivery. The people were said to be reluctant to pay service charges because they were not consulted in the crafting of those charges and thus they are justified in that these charges were dictated to them. This was supported by the focus discussion group which argued that the council put in service charges without proper consultation channels and as a result people are hostile towards council because of that. They believe council is after exploiting them rather than giving them satisfactory services.

35% of the respondents were of the view that corruption and poor governance was at the epicentre of poor service delivery rather than decision making. This view was supported by the arguments from the focus group discussion who were of the view that there is corruption and misuse of funds meant for service delivery in that funds are directed to specific and politically strategic areas at the expense of the service delivery like funding of political party activities at the expense of refuse collection and infrastructure development. They argued that some services are only done to impress certain individuals like grading of the role in

preparation for a rally while before such activities the Council would be reluctant to grade such a road.

20% of the respondents blamed poor service delivery on lack of adequate resources for service delivery. The focus group supported this view in that they said the council had no adequate equipment to carry out the service delivery mandates. Lack of funds was one factor they put forward to support their argument. Lack of fund hindered the Council to purchase equipment for refuse collection, road construction and infrastructure development. They argued that the Council relies on seasonal funding from the CAMPFIRE programme and allocation from ZINARA in order to fund their programmes and as a result poor service delivery is blamed on the lack of adequate funding to support the service delivery mandate.



4.8 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The research findings have been discussed and presented. Pie charts and bar graphs were used to present the data. Discussions were used to interpret the meanings and implications of findings. The next chapter will draw conclusions from the study and make recommendations.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Preamble

This chapter presents conclusions established by study findings. It will also show how the study objectives were met. Recommendations to relevant authorities, implementers and communities are also stated

5.1 SUMMARY

The study focuses paid particular attention on how the centralized system of government affects development of the local authorities. The research was based on the idea that the government embarked on the decentralization policy meant to address the centralized system of former colonizers but the fruits of the policy are yet to be seen as the local authorities are still controlled by the central government. The elitist and realist theories were used to show how the central government relates to local authorities in terms of decision making and power distribution.

In terms of the local governance system a majority of scholars are of the view that it's highly centralized in that the central government maintains the overall control of the local governance system through the Acts which empower the minister who is an agent of the central government to interfere with the activities of local authorities. The Rural District Councils Act (29) is an act which subjects TRDC to the power of the minister who has the overall decision making powers. Civil participation in decision making process plays a vital role in promotion of development in that decisions made are to reflect the needs of the civil population who are directly affected by the decisions made. The scholars also reflected that decentralization and devolution of power has a great impact in progressing development if it is applied. It was noted that devolution is there in paper and as a result the local governance system still remains highly centralized.

The researcher utilized both the qualitative and quantitative and quantitative method in an effort to get a better understanding of the study. Questioners, structured interviews and focus

discussion were used to gather information about the impacts of the centralized system of governance on development of Tsholotsho District. These methods were helpful in gathering adequate data because of the advantages associated with these methods. Purposive sampling and quota sampling were used in selecting participants in the research in order to come up with respondents who were most likely to be informed about the council and the government policies.

The research findings were presented and interpreted using the bar graphs and pie charts. The research findings articulated that the centralized system of governance indeed has negative impacts on the development of TRDC and Tsholotsho as a whole in that it causes less participation in developmental activities and the government policies were castigated down to the Councils to implement without proper consultation of the grass root levels involvement.

Lastly the researcher made conclusions from research findings and proffered recommendation in order to improve the centralized system and also that the need to move from centralized system to a decentralized and devolved system in order for the councils to work and fulfil its mandate to the people and develop the areas based on the development initiatives derived from the people.

5.2 Conclusion

The impacts of the centralised system of government on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho District have been heightened in the study. Centralised system promotes a situation which is characterised by limited power and authority of the local government in terms of decision making abilities and as a result the policies made by the central government are only imposed on the local authorities who are viewed as the implementing agents of the central government policies which in turn poses a threat to development in the policies and decisions take an up-down approach which is not ideal in terms of development because the decision makers are not on the ground and they do not understand the situation on the ground. The resolutions made by the Council are frequently submitted for the minister's approval yet the councillors under the RDC Act (29) have to power to make resolutions which are binding and are laws which govern the local authority.

Citizen participation in decision making process is of great important for development to take place. The centralised system impinges on the right of participation in formulation of policies and thus at the end of the day citizens only become passive participant in policies that are meant for them. They become mere implementers of policies that are meant to favour the central government at the expense of the local community as a result due to lack of participation caused by both the central government and the Council it is difficult for locals to take initiative and lobby for their involvement in the policies formulated by the government.

Decentralisation and devolution of power play an important role in enhancing development in local authorities which is the council in this instance. It entails that power and authority is given to the local authorities so that they are able to manage their own affairs without the influence of the central government. It is sad to note that these policies are there in paper and in practise there is recentralisation in that the ministry of local governance still holds more power to intervene in the day to day running of the council and also the Council has to get its budget approved by the minister, he has the right to dismiss the council if the need arises and also to appointment of the CEO of the council has to be approved by the ministry. It is important to note that though decentralisation can be a good policy if practised with a sense of morality in that it increase participation in decision making and local authorities have the power to make decisions and policies that emanate from local people needs at the end of the day have a better chance in developing the local area.

The central government plays an important part in developing local authorities in that it gives power to local authorities in terms of decentralization and devolution of power and most importantly funds to help develop the areas. Central government policies on development like the sustainable development goals are a means towards developing areas like Tsholotsho but the question which is important is whether these policies fit the local requirements for instance for better service delivery, better health services , employment opportunities and better infrastructure in terms of road infrastructure. The policies of government to a little extent suite the needs of the local community in that the area is still backward in terms of infrastructure, education wise, health wise and also in terms of service delivery and such policies by government

In summation, in light of the above arguments the centralised system of governance has impacted negatively to the development of Tsholotsho in that there is constant reference back

to the government for decisions to be made and this has delayed the implementation of some development plans made by the council. The decentralisation and devolution of power is only in administrative matters but the government still retains the power in decision making process through the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and National housing that is given the power by the Rural District Councils Act (29). The centralised system of governance does not give room for participation in development plans and decision making issues as a result there is little participation by the locals in the development plans and they only play the implementing role in policies dictated to them by the government the policies made by the government do not cater for the different levels of development that is in different areas because of the straight jacket approach used by government in decision making and policy implementation process as a result the programmes do not reflect on the needs of the people

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The researcher recommends that Parliament should revise the Rural District Council Act in order to align it with the provisions of the decentralisation policy. This will help in making sure that the ministry responsible for local authorities does not override the decisions made by the Council and clearly state the roles and functions of the Minister with the use of clear articulate language so that interpretation of the law is clear and also it should provide for checks and balances in both places so that there is no abuse of offices by either of the two bodies.

Moving on, the Council together with government and stakeholders educate the local citizen on their rights to participate in decision making processes. Educating the local citizens would enable the Council to have a vibrant active community who would partake in development plans and make informed decisions and thereby create a good environment for the Council to work in. It will also increase participation as the people feel a sense of belonging and pride by being involved in the affairs of their communities.

The creation of lobby groups to increase accountability in local authorities is another recommendation being put forward by the researcher. Lobby groups act as a tool to guide the activities of the Council and the central government. They put pressure on both the central government and the Council to craft policies or programmes that are locally oriented and resultantly suite the needs of the locals. They act as checks and balances against misuse of resources and issues of corruption and abuse of offices and this will improve the operation of the Council activities.

The researcher also recommends that there should be a clearly stated documentation of the the roles of the Minister, local authority, citizens and stakeholders in the development process. It will help in ensuring that none of these will overlap their roles and thus everyone is accountable due to the clear chain of command. Each will play their role in the development process and if anyone is lacking in that area it will be clear because a gap will be created. It will also be easy to identify and solve problems because the roles are clearly stated

The researcher also recommends that the local government system be crafted from a sound constitutional backing in order to be clear on its role as an institution than that of being an extension of the central government. A constitutional provision will enable the local authorities to function as independent entities rather than being an extension of the central government. It will enable the local authorities to run their affairs effectively with little influence from the central government. It will give the local authority the power over its financial issues as a result promote development because it will have power over its resources and financial muscle.

The researcher also recommends that Parliament amends Electoral laws and should set minimum qualifications in for those aspiring to contest for public offices to improve on capacity to make decisions and steer development. A minimum of an ordinary level qualification would help in enabling the electorate to understand the basics of governance and as a result they become immune to being used because of being illiterate. It will also enable them to make informed decisions having understood the draft policies.

Lastly the researcher recommends for the practise of the decentralisation and devolution policies in order to effectively help in development of local authority. After all has been said and done, there is need to practise the decentralisation and devolution policy. This will enable the local authorities to develop their own communities because they have the knowledge about their areas.

5.4 CHAPTER SUMMARY

The chapter covered the research conclusion, it summed up the research by providing the rundown of the whole research. Conclusions from research finding were also dealt with and lastly recommendations were also covered in this chapter. It was a final rundown of the whole research.

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APPENDIX

Focus discussion and interview guide



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

RESEARCH TOPIC

‘The Impacts of the Centralised system of Governance on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho Rural District Council’

.....

My name is Nkosilondile Moyo. I am currently in my last year of study for a BSc Honours degree in Politics and Public Management with the Midlands State University. As part of the requirements of my final year, I am conducting a field research titled **The Impacts of the Centralised system of Governance on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho Rural District Council** All the responses that you will submit will be strictly confidentiality and anonymous. The information that you will give will be only used for academic purposes only. I kindly request that you take some of your time to genuinely complete this questionnaire.

.....

Student Details

Name and Surname : **Nkosilondile Moyo**

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.....

Academic Supervisor Details

Name of Supervisor: Mr. W Mudyadzo

Contact Details

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.....

SECTION A

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Gender.....

SECTION B

1. How long have you been a resident in Tsholotsho?
2. What do you understand about decision making in local authorities
3. Do you understand the decision making process used by the Tsholotsho Rural District Council?
4. Have you ever taken part in the decision making process
5. What are the challenges faced by the Council in decision making process?
6. Does the central government have a say decision making in matters affecting the council?
7. In your own point of view do you think decentralisation and devolution of power enhance development? Give reasons for your answer.
8. Do you think the policies of central government are relevant to the needs of the local authority? Give reasons for your answer.



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

RESEARCH TOPIC

‘The Impacts of the Centralised system of Governance on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho Rural District Council’

QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Nkosilondile Moyo and I am a Politics and Public Management student at Midlands State University. My research topic is ‘**The Impacts of the Centralised system of Governance on the development trajectory of Tsholotsho Rural District Council.** This research information to be collected will be used in my thesis. This study would help understand how the centralized system of government impacts on the development of local level governance. This will also assist students in understanding the relative importance of a good local governance system in developing their areas. The respondents to this questionnaire shall remain confidential as this research is conducted, purely for academic purposes. The list of questions prepared may require a simple yes or no, while others may even extend and require the respondent to justify or give reasons for their response.

Section A

Gender Male / Female

Section B

1) How long have you been a resident in Tsholotsho?

.....

2) What do you understand about decision making in local authorities

.....
.....

3) Do you understand the decision making process used by the Local Council?

Yes / No

4) Have you ever partook in decision making process

Yes / No

5) If yes, in what way were you part of the decision making process

.....

6) In your own view, what are the challenges faced by the Council in decision making process

.....

7) In relation to the above question, who do you think is to blame for these challenges

.....

.....

8) In your point of view does the central government have a say decision making in matters affecting the council?

YES / NO

9) If the answer to the above question is yes, to what extent does it influence development in the area

.....

10) In your own view do you think decentralisation and devolution of power enhance development? Give reasons for your answer

.....

11) Bearing in mind that council is part of the national governance system, do you think the policies of central government are relevant to the needs of the local authority. Give reasons for your answer

.....