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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

*Party Politics and Service Delivery in the Public
Sector: A Case of the Ministry of Agriculture,
Mechanisation and Irrigation Development*

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Honest Chiremba (R124576A), do hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own investigation and research, except to the extent indicated in the acknowledgements, references and comments included in the body of the dissertation, and that it has not been submitted in part or in full for any other degree or to any other university.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my parents, Mr and Mrs Chiremba. It was because of their unconditional love and sacrifice that led me to the accomplishment of this masterpiece.

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List of Acronyms

DPLM – Developed Party Loyalty Model

FISP – Fertilizer Input Subsidy Programme

FRA – Food Reserve Agency

GNU – Government of National Unity

GMB Grain Marketing Board

GOZ – Government of Zimbabwe

MACO - Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

MAL - Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

MDC-T – Movement for Democratic Change led by Tsvangirayi

MDC-N – Movement for Democratic Change led by Ncube

MOAMID – Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development

MMD - Movement for Multiparty Democracy

NGOs – Non Governmental Organisations

RBZ – Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

ZANU PF – Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front

ZPP – Zimbabwe Peace Project

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Abstract

Most governments in African societies are characterised by failure to address their electoral promises hence the degree of public service delivery is not all inclusive in the sense that it is mainly anchored on political affiliation while marginalising descending voices. It is against this background that this study seeks to assess the effects of party politics on public service delivery in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development. The agricultural sector is the backbone of the Zimbabwean livelihood and the greater part of the population across all ethnic and cultural backdrops are mostly directly or indirectly involved in it. This saw the government through the Ministry designing programmes and policies aimed at boosting the sector against a backdrop of harsh economic conditions and subsequent drought, an endeavour which has been captured by those in the political arena to strengthen their political grip through directing service delivery towards targeted groups loyal to the ruling party or as way of garnering new electoral support. The study made use of a descriptive research design in which various instruments were used to gather data in the form of Interviews, questionnaires and observations. Using descriptive statistics, the outcome of the research highlighted that programmes and policies in the Ministry of Agriculture aimed at revitalising the sector have been hijacked for political gains. In light of the findings the Ministry of Agriculture is advised to detach from actively involved in party politics and craft programmes that inclusively benefits the citizens regardless of political belief. The Government of Zimbabwe is also advised to set up independent commissions that oversees the allocations of service delivery.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The research seeks to assess how party politics affect service delivery in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development (MOAMID). The Zimbabwean Government under the banner of Zanu PF has faced criticism over the partisan allocation of resources, side lining of opposition supporters in many instances as a way of vote buying. Many scholars have had a great interest in the field of party politics and public service delivery and a lot literature exists mainly in the newspapers and unpublished articles hence this study seeks to fill the knowledge gap and give further analysis and examination on the subject matter above by putting much emphasis on the Zimbabwean context in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation. This chapter shall dwell much on the background of the study, the formulation of the statement of the problem. The chapter shall also focus on the stating of the objectives and research questions of the study, and also the justification of the study will be deliberated. It shall as well encompass limitations and delimitations of the research, the research methodology and the breakdown of chapters of the whole study shall be outlined.

1.1 The background of the problem

Zimbabwe as an independent country has been under the curatorship of Robert Mugabe and his Zanu PF party since its attainment of independence in 1980 and it inherited a colonial system in which the allocation of resources to the general populace was marred with irregularities since the minority regime of Ian Smith only favoured the white minority for instance the whites owned vast tracts of land with fertile soils and favourable climates whilst the black majority were subjected to communal areas where agricultural production was only limited to subsistence or family consumption. The Zanu Pf led government has thus been in power for 36 years and to maintain its warring political grip, the revolutionary party had to employ among other tactics, hostile surviving strategies including State sponsored electoral violence, vote buying and electoral fraud among other issues. These strategies had to be employed to counter the emergence of a strong and vibrant opposition political party under the banner of the Movement for Democratic Change and to circumvent the disastrous effects of economic sanctions imposed by the west on allegations of human rights abuses. Hence the focus of the study is based on the assessment of party politics and its effects on service delivery in the Ministry since the government of Zimbabwe has been associated with criticisms in terms of poor service delivery standards both at local and national level due to a plethora of reasons

ranging from the poor economy due to hyper-inflation, corruption at local and state level and party politics interference in the allocation of resources. A lot of Literature has explained how the Zanu PF led government had managed to survive a hostile political environment through state sponsored electoral violence, selective application of the law and vote rigging among other issues but what other scholars failed to illuminate is the fact that the revolutionary party had over the years fostered partisan service delivery targeting areas and constituencies where it had a lot of support or in some instances did so as a way of garnering electoral support and in doing so marginalising the opposition and its supporters.

Since Zimbabwe's Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) as at the dawn of 2000 New Millennium, it had assumed the role of directly maintaining the bread basket status of Zimbabwe through empowering newly black farmers with land and agrarian inputs like fertilizer, tractors, and other farming equipment just to mention but a few. This implementing role rests with the Agricultural Ministry which had been at the epicentre of enhancing food security and the coordination of Agricultural activities meaning it is not an independent body of government but an appendage to Central government hence subject to control by the incumbent.

It is imperative to note that over the years, the country had been hit by massive inflation since the national currency lost its value, this in turn led to the decline of agricultural productivity and not forgetting all the sectors of the economy. To mitigate the occurrence of droughts the government had to embark on a number of programmes to promote agricultural outputs through presidential input schemes. These input schemes had been influenced by party politics, since the Zanu PF government needed votes in return of the so called input schemes and in many instances used the schemes as a way of rewarding its supporters and as a result marginalising everyone deemed to oppose the revolutionary party. This can be explained by the rallies carried out by the First Lady recently in which she had been donating farming and irrigation equipment to Zanu PF supporters which the government got on loan from Brazil prompting opposition legislators to question the integrity of such philanthropic work since First lady is not a government official but rather a mere secretary for women affairs in Zanu PF.

In addition, the Land policy in Zimbabwe had received mixed reactions since the agrarian revolution has or is still marred with partisanship since only Zanu PF members and War Veterans have received first preference in the allocation of land and with most of them having

multiple land ownership. This has seen members of the opposition's plight going unattended yet it is the role of the government to serve all its citizens regardless of their party affiliations.

1.2 Statement of the problem

It is the accepted norm for governments the world over to serve their people, to protect them and to provide for them basic needs regardless of their colour, creed, political beliefs and ideologies. Such has not been the case in the Zimbabwean context since the Zanu PF government inherited a system a colonial system that segregated black people and further the interests of the whites to maintain its clout, hence in modern day Zimbabwe such tendencies are still evident within the central government in this case through the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development. Segregation is no longer based on colour, but rather it is now based on political affiliation hence the research is an investigation into the delivery of services by the Ministry to the general populace and how party politics has influenced this authoritative allocation of resources premised on Harris and Wild (2013) view that, "In all countries, the wider governance environment influences the delivery of basic services."

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To investigate the meaning of party politics in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation.
2. To establish how party politics has affected equitable distribution of services in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and irrigation.
3. To investigate the political determinants of service delivery in the Ministry.
4. To identify groups which had been marginalised in the provision of service delivery in the Ministry under study.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What is party politics and service delivery?
2. How has party Politics affected equitable provision of services in the Ministry?
3. What are the political determinants of service delivery in the Ministry?

4. Which groups have been marginalised in the provision of service delivery in the Ministry?

1.5.0 Justification of the study

The aim of the study is to fulfil the informational shortcomings in the country concerning the role of party politics in the public service delivery domain which dwells much in unpublished articles, reports, working papers and newspapers

1.5.1 Government

The findings of this research is going to help the government and public policy makers to revisit their conduct in the allocation of resources and measure whether party politics does not influence their behaviour. The researcher is also going to give his recommendations in the last chapters that will also benefit the government at large on what should be done to ensure legitimacy is retained in the eyes of its citizens.

1.5.2 Civil Society

The research is also poised to guarantee that the Civil Society is made aware of the challenges facing opposition supporters and other political players which is an impediment in the quest to ensure a democratic environment is ensured.

1.5.3 Academia

The study will also benefit academics when carrying out research in the field of party politics and service delivery since it seeks to fill existing gaps in literature.

1.6 Research Limitations

Goes and Simon (2013) observed that, “research limitations are materials and existences which occurs in a research that are beyond the researcher’s jurisdiction. Limitations reduce the impact of research hence often blurs the anticipated outcome results of the study. In this research, the researcher was likely to be given biased information by the participants due to political affiliation and also due to the sensitivity of the research topic, people might be fearing to participate due to fear of political victimisation. To mitigate the limitations of biased

information due to political affiliation or fear of victimisation the researcher ensured that participants understood the scope of the research in question, which is only of academic purpose rather than political expedience. The researcher also to ensured his participants that their security was guaranteed through use of anonymity which involves the avoidance of identifying participants with their real names or personal information to avoid victimisation.

In addition, the use of one case study might also not reflect the intended outcome of the study. According to Simon and Goes (2013) “one case study contains the compartment of one entity, organisation or group,’ hence the performance of the single unit of analysis could or could not replicate the performance of corresponding individuals. To address this anomaly, the researcher made sure that his sample population reflected the views of the country through the use of effective sampling methods like random sampling.

1.7 Delimitations

Wiersma (2000) defines research demarcations or delimitations as “forms of attributes arising from limits on the range of the research (outlining the confines) as well as pointing out the conscious exclusions and inclusions judgements reached throughout the elaboration of the research plan.” Therefore study focused only on the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation since it is the appendage of Central government responsible for the allocation of agricultural resources. The research also focused on how party politics affect the provision of services at Central government level rather than at local level since decisions affecting the delivery of services emanate from the political elite at the top.

1.8.0 Ethical Considerations

In conducting, planning and reporting/presenting research findings the researcher had to fulfil several obligations as a way of meeting ethical standards. The researcher firstly had to plan the work such that a chance for misleading outcomes is mitigated.

1.8.1 Informed Consent

The researcher guaranteed that partakers in the study were well knowledgeable of the overall form of the research and also the possible injury and risk the participants were subjecting themselves to by agreeing to take part in the research. This was meant to ensure that all those who took part were well aware of the circumstances and were participating according to their own freewill.

1.8.2 Confidentiality

Research subjects were also insured of strict confidentiality for all the information they were to give and to achieve this, the researcher ensured that participants responding through questionnaires were not to write their personal information like names and physical home addresses and as for those the researcher interviewed, their personal information was withheld by researcher and not written in the research findings to enhance anonymity to avoid harm of injury through political victimisation.

1.9.0 Research Methodology

The dissertation intends to make an analysis of Party Politics in relation to service delivery in the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanisation and Irrigation. It also seeks to explain the meaning of party politics and to establish groups that have been marginalised in the authoritative allocation of resources. Research methodology is a set of system of procedures, principles and guidelines for regulating a given discipline. The section shall dwell much on the research design, data gathering and analysis. It shall also encompass the population of research, chosen selection procedures, study methods and hence due the sensitiveness of the topic understudy, the research will concentrate much on secondary data and make use of limited primary data were necessary to unbridle anticipated objectives. The section shall also outline a comprehensive narrative highlighting the way the study was carried out.

1.9.1 Research design

According to Green et al; 1998, this is the description of processes and measures for obtaining data needed for the structuring or elucidating problems. This as well is an outline that specifies the kind of information to be obtained and the techniques to be made use of. Kerlinger (1983) defines the design as a “proposal, arrangement and a way of exploration envisaged as a way of getting answers to questions of the study and to regulate discrepancy”. It is in this respect that from previous definitions, it becomes apparent that the designing of research also becomes the inclusive working structure the project heavily relies on, which specifies the kind of information to be collected, the kind of respondents and the kind of procedures to be employed. It is also in this respect that the researcher hence engaged the explanatory research design in which various methods were made use of to obtain information necessary for the study, and

they include interviews, questionnaires as well as the researcher's own opinions. According to Robson (2002) "the major rationale for descriptive scheme is to describe an actual profile of situations or events." Such types of research offered a vibrant and painted a perfect view pertaining the problem under study which in turn permitted the researcher to narrow huge numbers of data attained from the nominated participants into small conclusions.

1.9.2 Research population

According to Hungler and Polit (1999:37) the research population encompasses the total number of all the people or subjects that follow to a set of requirements for a particular research hence in the context of this research, the study population is made up of subjects drawn out from small to medium farms in and around Harare Province since this is the metropolis therefore It is most likely that the outcome of the study resembles the views of the whole country and it should be noted that due to geographical location constraints, the large part of the population could not be reached to participate in the study.

The aforementioned populace helped the researcher and the study with wayward knowledge of how party politics had an impact on the provision of services in Ministry since small to medium farmers fall under the Agriculture Ministry. The other targeted population were drawn from managerial staff in the Ministry for example the department of Agritex, this was meant to draw a deeper understanding of the ongoing in the Ministry. Some representatives from various political setups namely the MDC-T, ZANU Pf and Mavambo and ZAPU were also interviewed to have fair representation of views and erase political bias.

1.9.3 Sampling Procedures

In Social Science research, a sample can be drawn from the selected population under study, (Beri, 2000). Hence sampling in this respect encompasses the use of a particular proportion of a greater cosmos for tenacities of conducting the research. Lapin (1987), is of the view that "sampling denotes the course or manner of choosing an applicable sample or an affectionate fragment of the targeted subjects with the intention of expressing considerations or physiognomies of the whole sample of the population."

In addition, because of inadequate resources and availability of ample time, the investigator used the sampling procedures as they were very cost effective. Assumptions were sketched

contrary to the rest of the research population. Following the identification of the population of interest the researcher then determined the sampling and sampling techniques to be employed.

1.9.4 Sampling technique

According to Saunders et al (2009) a technique involving sampling is the one which is composed with ways of targeting or selecting respondents in a scientific research project. In this study, the researcher managed to make use non-probability and probability techniques. Probability as a sampling technique was mostly used by the researcher mainly because it awards the research subjects an equivalent possibility of being chosen (Saunders et al, 2009). The researcher also employed the systematic random sampling technic in which out of a 300 people nominated the researcher made use of systematic attempt to choose each fifth figure following the conduct of simple random sampling technic. It is also of great importance to acknowledge that non probability sampling as a technic was employed particularly in the selection of managerial staff in the ministry and representatives of political parties to interview.

1.9.5 Sources for collection of data

The methods employed by the researcher as a means of data collection are detailed below and it is of par-importance to note that in the interest of this research, both secondary and primary sources of data were exhausted.

1.9.5.1 Primary data

According Shao (1999) primary information or primary data is the kind of information obtained fresh from the source at first hand and lacks any distortions” hence for the purpose of achieving and acquiring authentic research findings the researcher made use of this Primary data through soliciting first-hand information through the use of research questionnaires, and structured interviews. Such an endeavour aided the researcher to obtain answers for all the research questions and was also in a position to meet the research objectives through the use of first-hand unbiased primary data.

1.9.5.2 Secondary data

Shao (1999) observed that secondary data is the information that other scholars or researchers have had already had interest in and written about but is of vital importance to anyone carrying

out the research in any related field. Therefore in this study, the researcher found this type of data very useful especially on the literature review aspect. The researcher managed to make use of text books, journals, newspapers and online articles in a bid to review the related literature in the field of party politics and service delivery in the public sector. The researcher also managed to make use of secondary data in a bid to come up with theories that tries to explain the phenomena under study. The researcher also acknowledged that secondary data is much easier to access, economical and time saving. Secondary information was preferred since the researcher spent less time on acquiring it due to availability of textbooks in the library and less endeavour was bestowed in evaluating and decoding the information that had been assembled already. The use of secondary data made the collection of primary data easier for the researcher since he could identify literature gaps and deficiencies that the study sought to fill in.

1.9.6.0 Research Instruments

According to Annum (2016) research instruments are strategies embroiled towards fact finding. In other words research instruments are instrumental for obtaining rightful data for the research. In this respect the researcher made use of research interviews and closed and open ended questionnaires. To aid accuracy and authenticity the researcher also made use of his personal experiences, observation and document analysis.

1.9.6.1 Interviews

According to Cohen and Manion (1981) Interviews plays a pivotal role in soliciting oral first-hand information between an interviewer and an interviewee. Interviews are important for collecting primary data because the researcher was in a position to ask very accurate and straight forward questions and in return obtained first-hand information and most importantly there was room for the researcher to probe for more questions by making follow ups on some of the answers that seemed to be incompletely answered and in doing so unearthing credible information favourable for reaching informed conclusions. The Ministerial representatives together with officials from political parties were interviewed so as to collect first hand data.

1.9.6.2 Questionnaires

Questionnaires are used in social science research to solicit relevant data from a systematically prepared document containing a set of well-prepared questions for respondents to put their relevant responses pertaining the research under study, Sekaran (2003). In this study, the researcher employed the use of such documents to obtain information pertaining to the study. This was of much importance because the researcher managed to reach a very wider audience through distributing such questionnaires to small and medium farmers in Harare Province something which would not have been possible through the use of interviews meaning the outcome of the responses are more prone to present a fair view of the general populace and at the same time leading to very well informed and unbiased conclusions. It is also important to note that through the use of research questionnaires, the researcher made use of closed and open ended questions in soliciting relevant information for the research as shall be explained in detail below.

1.10 Closed ended questions

According to Leeds (1999) closed ended questions are used in research questionnaires and they limit research subjects through the provision of a list of set answers provided by the researcher. The researcher made use of closed ended questions in some cases since their standardisation made it very easy to compare the various responses from respondents which served a lot of time hence closed ended questions could be easily coded and analysed. This also meant respondents could easily select their preferred responses without wasting much of their time, however it is imperative to note that closed ended questions limited the innovativeness of the research subjects when answering the questions.

1.11 Open ended questions

The research subjects were free to respond in their own words on this particular item. They allowed the participants to respond sufficiently with the amount of rightful information the participants deemed ample to express their points. Furthermore open ended questions are more useful for the research participants to freely express themselves when attending to questions, and most importantly there is room for more creativity since there do not exist boundaries. This

was of great importance for the research because the researcher was in a position to solicit diversified opinions concerning the subject matter under study and thereby was able to reach conclusions through his data analysis skills and in doing so achieving credible outcomes.

1.12 Importance of using in Social Science research questionnaires

They are of great use especially when the sample of the researcher is widely dispersed geographically (Cohen and Manion; 1981). When such is the case a questionnaire makes it easier because it is a mammoth task to sit down and interview every subject in the sample and in most cases respondents might not have time and patience to be asked questions by a stranger (Sekaran 2003). The Questionnaires were distributed through postage, a process that was done in huge numbers in the same period to reach a bigger population. The researcher also saw the importance of using questionnaires in the sense that they create confidence through confidentiality on the respondent's part since they were not supposed to give their personal and private details hence the research subjects were in a position to express themselves freely without fear of any retribution or victimisation which led to a thorough response rate with almost all the research questions satisfactorily answered.

1.13 Conclusion

The major aim of the chapter was to provide a detailed introduction of the research. It also focused on the research background, formulation of the statement of need, the questions and guiding the research, justification of the research, limitations and delimitations and research methodology.

1.14 Chapter breakdown

The research is made up of four chapters. The first chapter introduces the research topic and consists of the background to the research problem, declaration of the research problem, objectives and questions guiding the study. It is also composed of the justification of the study, research limitations and delimitations and research methodology. Chapter two shall dwell much on reviewing the literature on party politics, focusing on what other scholars in this field have to say concerning the subject matter, the chapter shall also deal with the theoretical framework that is detailing theories which influenced the research to be conducted and then

chapter two shall be concluded by establishing the gap which the research seeks to fill. In Chapter three the researcher shall deal with the presentation and analysis of data obtained from the field of research and then chapter four shall summarize the whole study, giving conclusions and proffering suggestions.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Governance in the third world set up is largely characterised by political party affiliations, this is a situation whereby the regime in power controls almost all the apparatus of the state and make use of this to strengthen its political clout to remain in power at all costs, to gain loyalty and control the behaviour and thinking of its citizens. The following chapter focuses on the related literature in the field of party politics. The chapter looks at how party politics affect service delivery in the public sector in particular the Agricultural Ministry. The review of the literature gives the foundation and context to the research problem. The Chapter incorporated case studies from countries in various geo-political set ups as a means to come up with or draw various literature available on the subject matter and thereby establish gaps which this research seeks to fill. The chapter also encompassed the theoretical framework which is composed of the Developed Party Loyalty Model and the Political Patronage theory in a bid to explicitly explain the effects of party politics on service delivery in the Agricultural Ministry.

2.2 The meaning behind party politics

According to the Webster New Collage Dictionary (2010), party politics denotes the acts and principles directed towards the interests of one political party or its members without reference to the common good. According to Shefter, A political party may employ one or two basic strategies in its efforts to attract voters, contributors, and activists to support its candidates. It may distribute divisible benefits—patronage of various sorts—to the individuals who support the party. Alternatively, it may distribute collective benefits or appeal to a collective interest in an effort to elicit contributions of money, labour, or votes from its supporters *ibid*.

Since the beginning of third wave of democratisation in 1974 various forms of multi-party political systems have been introduced around the world, Huntington (1991). According to Mohamed and Nordland (2007), “multi-party politics does not always guarantee development, it may however empower vulnerable groups, increase transparency, mediate conflict and achieve redistribution of incomes to the poor, but it may also give more influence to already

powerful elites, marginalising the poor and minorities and be used to mobilize ethnic and religious groups against each other.” The fact that political parties form part of the informal constitution of the society, once they have competed in legally sanctioned elections, they obtain power and legitimacy and earn the control of the personnel and resources of the state, *ibid.* It is also Leiserson (1955)’s view that “political parties are products of and operates within economic structures, and are therefore in a contest of interests that are largely affected by and respond to the accumulation and distribution of goodwill and resources encompassing the wealth of the society.”

Political parties also mould public policies and programmes that cut across party politics and government functions. According to Mohamed and Nordland (2007), “majority of African governing political parties are still and heavily dependent on the direct or indirect use and abuse of government resources”, this entails the fact that the party in the reins of power or in control of government remains hardly autonomous from government influence which makes it difficult to draw the line where the influence of government begins and where that of the party ends, hence Mohamed and Nordland (2007) envisages that, ‘the relationship between the government and the political party in the African context is so blurred that the ruling party tends to rely on the state resources to exact patronage as a way of maintaining party organisation and management.’ This therefore ameliorates a situation whereby politics itself becomes a means to an end, devoid of any other idea of protecting public interests in relation to private gains. From the various definitions of party politics drawn above one can note that such kind of politics impacts on the effective delivery of services to the general populace a scenario evident in the Zimbabwean political landscape in particular the Agricultural Ministry as shall be explained below.

2.3 Zimbabwe’s Agricultural Inputs subsidy programme

The government of Zimbabwe has since its attainment of political independence in 1980 been engaged in subsidy schemes for smallholder famers since agriculture has and still remains the backbone of the country. These subsidy schemes later ceased to function just after the Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) due to International Isolation and the disastrous effects of hyperinflation which bedevilled the country from the early 2000s. This then led to the use of the Central Bank (RBZ) by the Zanu PF led government to fund and implement Agricultural projects since it relied on printing money to fund the aforementioned projects

hence the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) subsidised inputs, mechanization equipment and free fuel to farmers from 2004 to 2009. Such endeavours came to an end in 2009 with the coming of the Government of National Unity (GNU) through the alteration of the Reserve Bank Zimbabwe legislations which outlawed pseudo-fiscal activities.

In the 2010 to 2011 agrarian season, the Government of Zimbabwe ran a sponsored subsidy program in which privately owned businesses were contracted to offer inputs and maize seed a project that was started by the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) which is an arm of the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation at an expense of USD \$30 million. As per Anseeuw et al (2012) "government programs appear to take after and impromptu approach" that is they react to exceptionally various goals, some being political as opposed to concentrating on the requirements of the general population. Kapuya et al (2012) also speculated that, "the short term nature of these interventions lack transparency in their functioning and the inability to identify beneficiaries and the scarcity of records and evaluations leads to questions about efficiency."

The Zimbabwe government has been attempting to create agricultural policies since 1995 to date but shifts in International Relations, objectives of the attempted policies, the economic environment and political priorities have made the adoption difficult, Anseeuw et al (2012). There has been widespread political interference which remains a big issue as policy makers-cum politicians drew benefits from the policy implementation process, *ibid*. Food aid and agricultural inputs programmes were implemented on political basis, Makumbe (2009). The Zanu PF government's top down approach which marginalises stakeholders in the development of policies hinders the delivery of services to the people. According to Mano (2011) "Ministers seem to have heavily influenced the policy process with the Agriculture Minister remaining the *de facto* policy maker and in doing so disregarding the whole consultative process."

2.4.0 Political determinants of service delivery in Zimbabwe

2.4.1 Institutional conditions

This involves the history of the state formation, the ideology of the regime in power and the nexus between service delivery and state legitimacy. Besley and Ghatak (2010) states that "appropriate levels of financing and effective delivery depend effectively on functioning political institutions," whereas Mcloughling (2009) believes that the nature of political regime

has long been regarded as a key determinant of policy choices which the state makes with regard to services. Because policy reforms are approved, monitored and directed by politicians according to their own interest (as opposed to the public interest), the weakness and, therefore, failure of the policy framework is mainly attributed to the intrusion of political interests (Mapuva, 2010).

2.4.2 Political conjecture

Mcloughling states that, there is consensus that major sectoral reforms are often instigated and moulded in the wake of times of huge economic lethargy or political upheaval. Van De Walle and Scotts (2009) echoed that, “the state may use service provision to initiate control and hegemony over territory to form common culture and to resolve disputes, to create political loyalty and bind critical populations to the state.” As a real and symbolic aspect of people’s daily survival strategies, services can act as an effective means for those in power to achieve social control and compliance (Ibid).

2.4.3 Sector level Influences- Targeting certain groups

The political imperative to offer services are mostly catalysed by elections in the Zimbabwean context as supported by Mcloughling (2009) who observed that “at times political actors make policy choices that benefit the poor people on the basis of calculations of high political returns”, hence broad based provision may derive from political actors pursuing political entrepreneurship. There is now consensus that political institutions determine incentives for the allocation of public goods (Harding and Wantchekon, 2010). Experience persist to support this view by logically proving that that political actors, under certain scenarios, may prefer to focus on a targeted population rather than pursue inclusive, broad-based provision, based on calculations of political returns (or attracting votes hence the focal point of this research to further probe the assertions of the above literature by focusing on Zimbabwe as a country in the developing world and in particular to assert intensive focus on the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and irrigation as a way of covering a gap in literature

2.4.4 Reliance on NGOs

Moral hazard constraints seem to particularly shape forms of organisational accountability since in terms of resource allocation, they can allow the state or delivery organisations to

underinvest in key areas for example where aid resources are assumed to act as a substitute. This is identified as a key problem since the availability of aid resources for basic services means that International NGOs have had much more visibility as service providers than the state reducing incentives for state actors to play more prominent roles in either oversight or delivery, Ali (2011). This view leaves a gap for further explanations since the government of Zimbabwe has over the years been aggressive towards international donors and Non-Governmental Organisations accusing them of trying to pursue regime change agendas, hence the role of public sector delivery rests mainly with the central government, something this research seeks to explicitly explain.

2.5 Marginalised groups

According to the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) the distribution of farming inputs and food hand-outs still remains highly politicised, and it is mostly done by those who compile the lists, who in most cases are Zanu PF activists.” ZPP national director Jestina Mukoko said her organisation documented 343 cases of food violations across the country from September to October alone, where different people were denied food hand-outs and farming inputs due to their political affiliation, Langa (2015). This can be explained by the rallies carried out by the First Lady recently in which she had been donating farming and irrigation equipment to Zanu PF supporters which the government got on loan from Brazil prompting opposition legislators to question the integrity of such philanthropic work since First lady is not a government official but rather a mere secretary for women affairs in Zanu PF.

2.6.0 Other countries where party politics affects service delivery

The effects of party politics are not only a phenomenon affecting Zimbabwe as a nation hence it is imperative to acknowledge that this is a global issue but the effects are mostly felt in many African countries due to weak capacity of state institutions and the level of political competition since most government which came to power after dethroning colonisation are not willing to embrace democracy in its whole capacity but rather seeks to remain in power at all costs.

2.6.1 Malawi

In Malawi the government introduced the Fertilizer Input Subsidy Programme (FISP) which was meant to increase poor smallholder farmers' access to agricultural inputs. Derereux (2009) stipulates that the FISP were politicised under the patronage based rule of president Muluzi (1994-2004), whose political power base was concentrated in the densely and food insecure south of the country whereas Chinsinga (2007) concludes that "food security had become intimately bound up with the very legitimacy of regimes in Malawi" and as debate exist regarding the political prominence of the FISP in Malawi, that is whether it emerged from popular pressure or patronage politics or both, there exist an agreed consensus that elections played a major role in the introduction of the programme in 2005. Chinsinga (2008) explains, "these elections were preceded by two periods of severe hunger in the early 2000s that prompted political parties to pledge to introduce universal subsidies if elected in 2005" and after the elections were conducted, opposition parties in parliament were in a position to put pressure on the incumbent regime to deliver its electoral promises which was to adopt a universal input subsidy. Biner and Resnick (2010) notes that, "the characteristic of the input distribution (specifically that it is visible, short term and targeted) make it particularly appealing to politicians since it allows greater political returns relative to other long term Agricultural investments" and to confirm this claim, Dorward and Chirwa (2011) have noted that the FISP was a high profile aspect of the then president's successful re-election.

The Malawian case helps in drawing out the influence of party politics on public service delivery in the sense that, although the agrarian endeavours in input schemes mentioned above had very justifiable aims on the government part, the incumbent regime or political party in power saw this as an opportunity to maintain political hegemony through targeting certain groups deemed to be its supporters hence in a nutshell service provision is used as a tool for political expedience at the expense of the common good, a scenario evident in the Zimbabwean context, where the ruling party manipulates service provision to stay in power.

2.6.2 Nigeria

In Nigeria the Federal government introduced the Fertilizer Subsidy Input Programme (FSIP) as a way of enhancing agricultural productivity on small scale farmers and the rural poor, however studies have shown that the fertilizer inputs has been regularly stolen from the state and government depots and investigations into the matter led to the discovery of thousands of

bags of subsidised fertilizers in unauthorised depots in the country. Cases of abuses in Nigeria's FSIP is hence largely blamed on politicians and state officials diverting the fertilizer from legitimate beneficiaries. There also existed widespread evidence that subsidised inputs are mostly captured by local elites and politicians, hence it is an open secret that subsidised fertilizer is used as a reward for officials for giving political support, or as a way of garnering new support. Banful and Olayide (2010) are of the view that, "in all states (Nigeria) political manipulation is cited as the reason why fertilizer does not reach the rural poor." The Nigerian experience in a nutshell points out to the fact that party politics in most cases alters eloquence on the service delivery aspect due the interference of those in power who diverts the intended aims and objectives of services for their intended purposes.

2.6.3 Zambia

In Zambia, the government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO)'s subsidised fertilizer input schemes, are allocated or influenced inter alia by mainly post electoral outcomes since the government usually systematically focus the so called schemes on areas where it has garnered strong electoral support in the previous election, Mason (2013). The Zambian Ministry of Agriculture however its own targeting criteria when it comes to the issues of input distribution which according to Mason (2013), regularly requires beneficiaries to belong to a cooperative or farmer groups. Mason (2013) points out that in Zambia, the regime in power and its government together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) technocrats, have the audacity to determine the spatial distribution of subsidised inputs. Voters in areas that receive more government funded inputs or where more households participate in the subsidy programme tends to reward the incumbent at the ballot box, *ibid*.

Furthermore, the Zambian case study in addition to targeted subsidy schemes, produce purchases by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) are in many cases typically above normal market prices and this pose as one of the major tools that the Zambian ruling party make use of to garner and maintain rural support among other objectives, hence the major rationale of this case study being that, under the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) of Zambia, the leadership sought to use subsidised inputs to reward loyalty among its supporters through its Ministry of Agriculture, Mason (2013). Most analysts have then expressed concern over the politicisation of government funded Agricultural inputs citing that this was likely to impact negatively on the programme's intended goals which are mainly to increase access to inputs by

smallholder farmers, raising production of maize and improving food security in the Sub-Saharan African State.

In addition, looking at the Zambian experience, it is evident that the delivery of services by most African governments is used as a way of seeking political rewards during the periods of elections, agricultural programmes have also been noted in the Zambian case study as mainly focused in the rural or communal areas as a way of maintaining rural strongholds during plebiscites as is also the case in the Zimbabwean context where the ruling Zanu PF party enjoys unquestionable following in most rural areas.

2.6.4 Kenya

In Kenya, government sponsored agricultural institutions became a characteristic of Kenyan agricultural scene during the colonial period since institutions were forged to engender the economic and political values of white supremacists, Bates (1989). The pattern was to continue in the post-colonial years with Agricultural created institutions becoming sources of political patronage which political leaders could exploit hence the continued grasp of rural electoral strongholds. Bates (1989) also acknowledges that, inequality through agricultural institutions in Kenya is still evident in Kenyan livelihood despite two decades of democratisation. The performance of such agricultural institutions have always been uneven across the country and continue to act as channels by which politics of patronage can be disbursed to favoured groups largely depending on who is in political power or political control and whose support is being sought or maintained. In Kenya, most of credit for the resource flow is awarded to a small group of influential technocrats, Van de Walle (2001) states that, African politics is largely neo-patrimonial with legal rationale elements.

The lessons that can be drawn from the Kenyan experience is that governance in Africa as a continent is mostly premised on maintaining political power at all costs regardless of the common good. The use of agricultural services along patronage lines as evidenced in the Kenyan case study evidently reviews that politics precedes service delivery to the general populace, such experiences also correlate with the Zimbabwean experiences where delivery of services in the Agricultural Ministry is largely along political lines as a way of maintain political power as evidenced by programmes like the Presidential Input Schemes which are mainly targeted at Zanu PF supporters.

2.6.5 Ghana

Agriculture is the main anchor of the Ghanaians economy and the government through its agricultural Ministries and departments gave the sector a special attention so that it plays a major role in the economic development of the country. This is so because in the year 2008, the Ghanaian government just like most African countries introduced the FISP as a way of helping farmers increase crop productivity. However experience has indicated that such programmes in some parts of Ghana was characterised by negativity as the programme resulted in failure to make use resources as intended due to the adverse targeting of programme beneficiaries. According to Abubakari (2015) “capture of the subsidies in Ghana was in many instances is influenced by influential farmers particularly connected to the governing party.” As the case may be, it is important to note that the Ghanaian Fertilizer Subsidy programme may not be largely labelled as a failure due to statistical evidence showing high numbers of programme beneficiaries at 68%.

In Ghana it is however the irony since most agricultural endeavours have seen most people benefiting and increasing crop yields and in return agriculture remains the anchor of the Ghanaian economy, though in some instances such programmes are still influenced by those in the political arena, however the lesson here is that party politics does not always directs the delivery of services to the public but however at times service delivery is poised to just improve the livelihoods of the people for instance in Zimbabwe not all policies and programmes in the Agricultural Ministry are meant to target the supporters of the ruling party but some are meant to serve each and every stakeholder.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

Authoritative allocation of resources has been seen as the major definition of any political stroke and a number of theories have been put in place to try and understand the phenomena across the globe. This research will incorporate theories that seeks to explain the dynamics of party politics in Zimbabwe and how it influences the provision of services to the public in general as Harris and Wild (2013) stipulated that, “In all countries, the wider governance environment influences the delivery of basic services.” This research shall encompass theories such as the Developed Loyalty Model and the Political patronage model.

2.7.1 The developed party loyalty model

The Developed Party Loyalty Model (DPLM) tries to explain Politics of Service delivery in this way, where a Political Party in power demands a great deal of loyalty from its citizens and where there is a structured system for promotion of material and political rewards. (Barrie Axford et al; 1997). This theory can help explain the dominance of one political party in the name of Zanu PF in Zimbabwe which is greatly attributed to the fact that it has been in power since 1980 after dethroning colonial rule hence it controls all the apparatus of the state and government and this has in turn anchored the incumbent's stay in power for so long due to its ability to influence a great deal of loyalty from the electorate. The DPLM also helps to alleviate doubt that the incumbent regime's political success is primarily dependent on its ability to influence the authoritative allocation of resources for instance, the government has over the years introduced programmes like the Agricultural Input Subsidy schemes and the presidential input schemes in the name of promoting agricultural growth, but reality on the ground has pointed out the fact that these schemes are marred with irregularities and partisanship tendencies mainly benefitting the supporters and sympathisers of the ruling party.

2.7.2 The Political Patronage Model

It is evident that political party politics (especially the regime/administration in power) is primarily concerned with strengthening its hold on power. The political patronage model is of great importance to ameliorate the role of political party politics in Zimbabwe in relation to the delivery of services to the general populace.

The Patronage model is used to describe in most countries, political patronage which involves the use of state resources/apparatus to reward individuals for their electoral support, (Shefter 1984). It denotes the support, privilege and support of financial aid that a political entity or organisation bestows to another, (Kent et al 1987). According to Shefter (1984) patronage politics emanates from the capture of the state for the purposes of party building by political players. This theory helps explain the events occurring the Zimbabwean political landscape whereby the incumbent regime is seen relying mostly on partisan allocation of resources to its targeted supporters and in some cases is doing so as a way of garnering new electoral support. According to patronage model as explained by Shefter (1984) in patronage systems, politics occurs at the stage of policy implementation, political interference in the bureaucracy is made use of as a means to erect and preserve support among the electorate. A political entity may

engage one or two fundamental schemes in its bid to lure the electorate, donors, and campaigners to back its candidates. This could be in the form of distribution of isolatable aids — benefaction of numerous kinds —to the persons who backs the party. Alternatively, it could dispense combined welfares or petition for a common good with the bid to draw monetary offerings, labour, and support emanating from its members, *ibid*.

2.8 Conclusion

The text is flooded on the field of party politics though in reviewing the literature, the researcher noted the gaps and shortcomings of other scholars since there is a huge informational gap pertaining to the relationship between party politics and service delivery. The researcher noted that most Western writers documented the role of political party politics in relation to public service delivery, however in Zimbabwe there is little data published concerning the subject matter since it mainly exists in newspapers and unpublished material. It is also a common understanding that the western views on party politics are mainly Eurocentric and Americanised hence they do not reflect the Zimbabwean perspective hence the aim of the study is to reflect an Africanised view concerning party politics and service delivery and also eliminate bias but present facts as they are. The research also seeks to ameliorate the nexus between politics of service delivery particularly in the Ministry of Agriculture since as reviewed in the literature little information pertaining the Ministry has been published in Zimbabwe.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Party Politics and Service Delivery in the Public Sector: A Case of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development

The government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Agriculture has ran many programmes that enhances agricultural growth since the attainment of political independence in 1980. These programmes maintained Zimbabwe's bread basket of Africa status until the period leading to the turn of the new millennium due to a plethora of reasons many of which shall not be dwelt upon in this chapter as they have been already dealt with in the previous chapters. It is however during the early years of the 21st century that the Zanu PF regime began to fall out with West due to allegations of gross human rights abuses, electoral fraud and the highly contentious issue of the Fast Track Land Reform Programme (FTLRP) just to mention but a few. These events hence led to the imposition Sanctions on the Zanu PF led government, crippling the Zimbabwean economy and also leading to the extinction of the Zimbabwean currency among other disastrous issues. It is also important to note that it was also during this period that the Zanu Pf regime experienced one of their strongest opposition opponents under the banner of the Movement for Democratic Change which almost successfully but narrowly failed to curb the Zanu PF political hegemony.

This being the case, saw the Zimbabwean economy nose diving and the agricultural sector as the one country's back bone became lethargic and it was the role of the government to resuscitate the ailing agricultural sector through various programmes chief among, the subsidy input initiative. It is also imperative to acknowledge that such schemes were very commendable endeavours by the government since they stood for a good cause, that of revitalising the agricultural sector which had been grossly affected by the FTLRP but however due to the warring political support on Zanu PF regime and the emergence of a strong opposition such schemes were used for political gains, as a way of power retention strategies through winning the favour of the electorate since Zimbabwe is mainly an agriculturally based economy and with most of the masses embarking on it.

The following chapter shall focus on the presentation of primary data obtained by the researcher through questionnaires and interviews on the field. The major rationale behind being to organize the research findings from various sources and is also to be carried out in accordance with the research questions to be answered. Data presentation and analysis provides logic out of unprocessed information, (Blaxter, 2006). The data to be presented in this case was collected from main political parties in Zimbabwe, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development officials and various small to medium farmers in and around Harare Province.

3.2 Presentation of Responses to Questionnaires

Table 1: Responds rate

Targeted Sample	Responds	Responds rate
60	52	86.7%

As seen in table 1, 60 surveys questions were disseminated whereas a totality of 52 were adequately answered and returned to the researcher giving a responds rate of 86.7%.

3.2.1 Response rate information on gender.

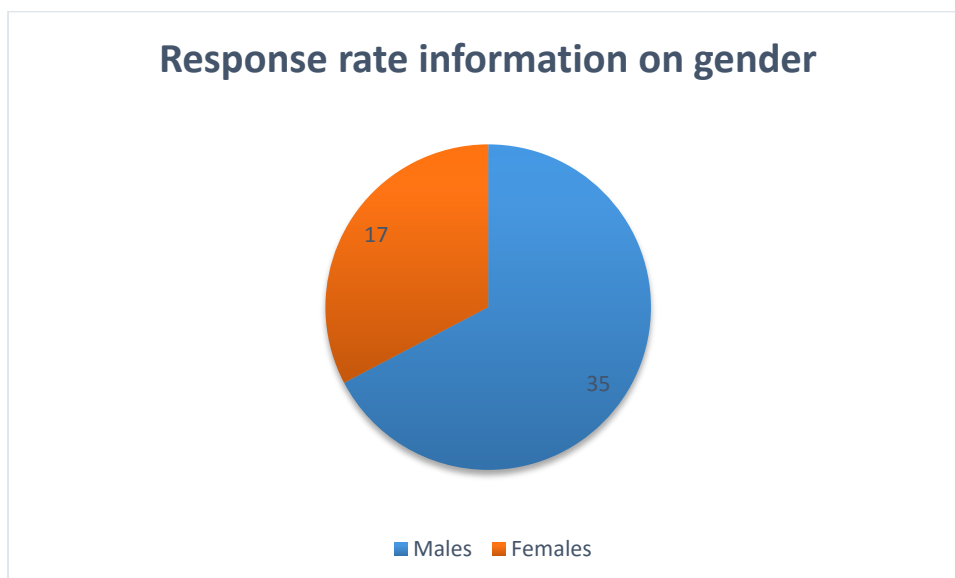


Fig.1 showing gender responses on questionnaires.

As seen in figure 1, more responses came from male farmers than females. Male responses amounted to 35 whilst only 17 females managed respond to the questionnaires. This can only prove that though the population ratio of female to males in Zimbabwe is 52:48 as according to Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (ZimStats) Report of 2010, Zimbabwe remains a patriarchal society since males continue to dominate in the means of production in this case in the Agricultural sector.

3.2.2 Demographic information on the age of the respondents

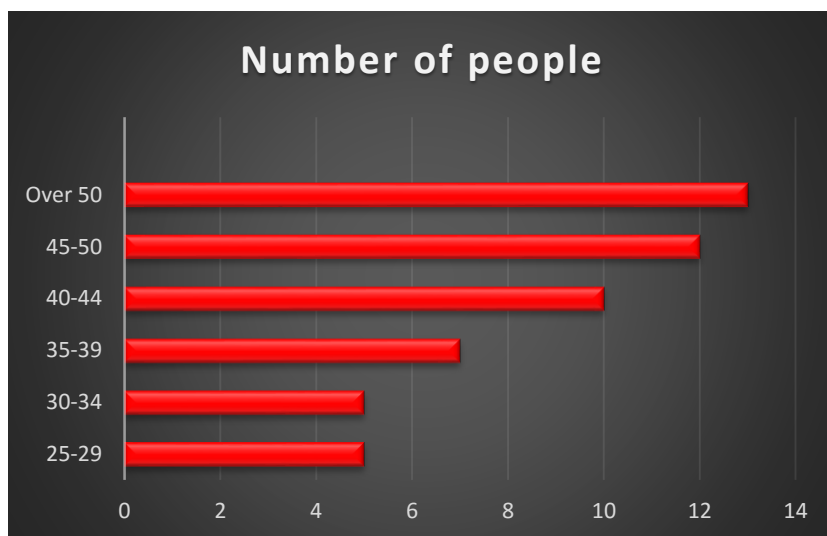


Fig 2. Showing the responses according to age group

As showing in figure 2. It is imperative to note that most people embarking on farming as a business in Zimbabwe are mainly over 50 years of age this is mainly because many youths in Zimbabwe do not take farming seriously and they only view it as mainly meant for adults. It is also evident in the graph above that as people began to age, they begin to be more and more interested in farming and begin to embark on it.

3.2.3 Employment status of the respondents

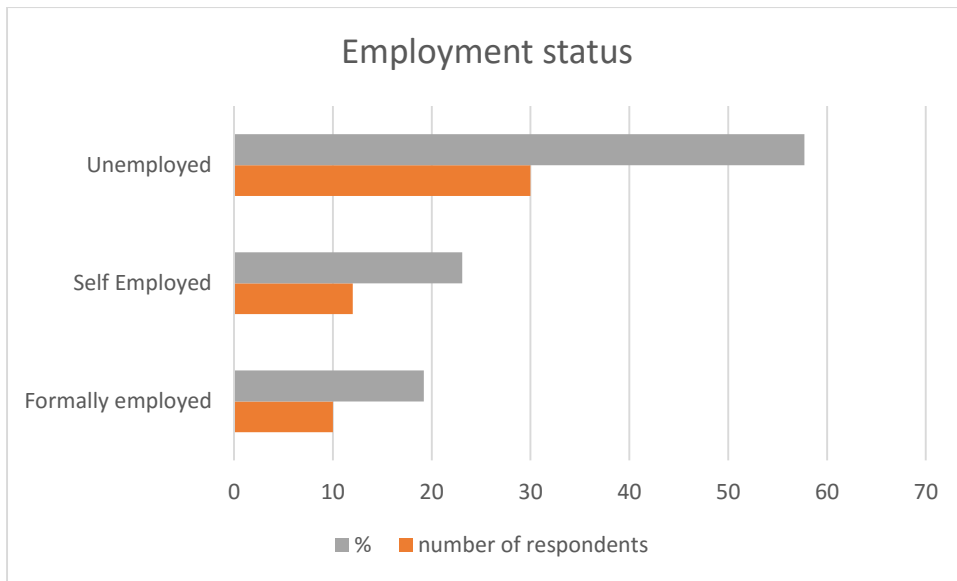


Fig 3. Showing employment statistics of the research subjects

As shown in fig 3, it is clear to see the employment details obtained tally with that of country's employment rates which are very low which can be attributed to the harsh economic conditions bedeviling the country due to closure of industries, companies and very low Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) due to policy inconsistencies.

3.2.4 Respondents' Various Levels of Education

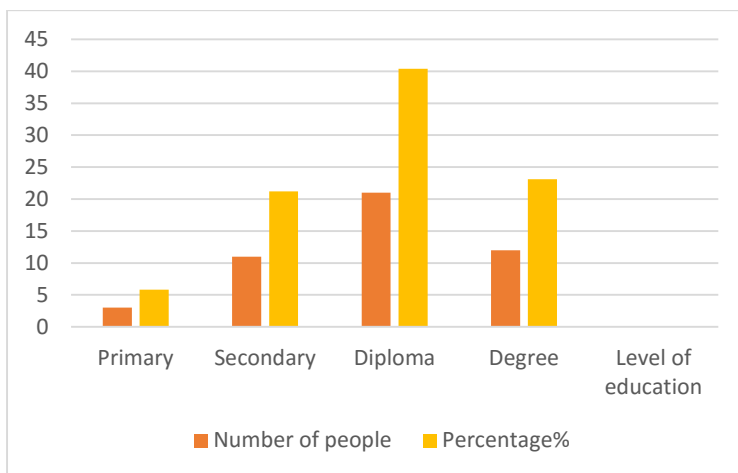


Fig 4. Showing respondents' various levels of education

As outlined in fig. 4, it clear to see that most of the subjects have received basic education. 5.1 % of the sample received education up to primary level whilst 22% received up to secondary education with most of the research population at 40% having diplomas and 25% are holders of university degrees. This is an example that Zimbabwe is one of the countries with very educated people, this was also beneficial to the research since most of the respondents were able to read and understand research questions on the questionnaires thereby giving accurate data.

3.3.0 The role of party politics

All of the respondents were aware of party politics and its role on public service delivery in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development and they were also in a position to give their own perceived understanding of the role of any governing party concerning the issue of service delivery with most agreeing to the fact that there should be equitable distribution of resources regardless of political affiliation. Respondents were also able to rate the performance of the Ministry on its role of service delivery as an affiliate to Zanu Pf government.

3.3.1 Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development Service delivery rating.

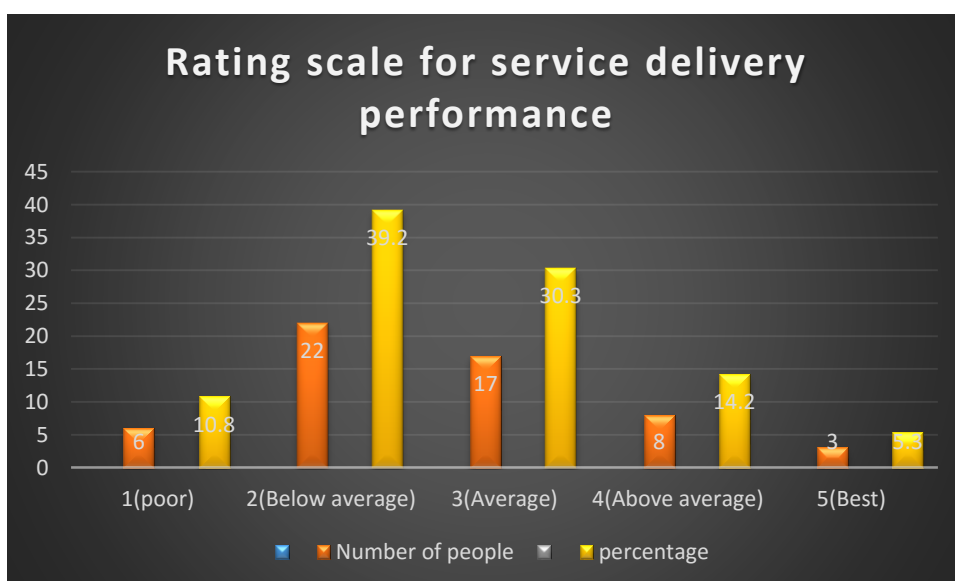


Fig. 5. Showing respondents' ratings of the Ministry's performances

From figure 5, above it can be noted that small to medium farmers in Harare Province view the role of the Ministry on the delivery of services as below average as supported by 39.2% of the respondents which can be attributed to the fact governance in the 3rd world is marred with irregularities due to policy inconsistencies a view which is supported by Anseeuw et al (2012) view that “government programmes seem to follow an ad hoc approach , that is diverse objectives some being political rather than focusing on the needs of the people. It is also important to note that 30.3 % of the respondents believed the Ministry’s performance is average whilst 14% believing it to be above average. Such a development can be attributed to the fact that some of the farmers have been benefiting from the Ministry’s programmes particularly those aligned to the ruling party as explained by the Developed Party Loyalty Theory (DPLM) that politics of service delivery can be explained by a scenario whereby a political party demands political loyalty and where there is a structured system for promotion, material and political rewards.

3.3.2 Beneficiaries from the Ministry’s Programmes per province

Province	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Harare	34	40	36	83	54	247
Bulawayo	0	14	17	56	23	110
Mash East	23	26	36	57	36	178
Mash West	78	89	122	167	115	571
Mat North	0	0	15	7	32	54
Mat South	0	0	23	36	20	79
Mash Central	88	97	133	189	152	659
Masvingo	54	45	87	100	120	406
Midlands	76	79	89	199	102	545
Manicaland	102	116	198	200	176	792

Source: www.moamid.gov.zw

Table 2. Showing beneficiaries of Ministry of Agriculture per Province from 2010 to 2014

From the table 2 above obtained from the Ministry’s website shows the beneficiaries of the subsidy input schemes per province during the Government of National Unity (GNU) era leading to the period of the 2013 harmonised elections and the year 2014 soon after the elections and from the numbers of beneficiaries tabled above, it is crystal clear most of the beneficiaries of the subsidy inputs schemes came from provinces with favourable agricultural climates, but however when using political eyes it does not need a rocket scientist to note that most of the beneficiaries are found in the ruling party’s stronghold as seen by the highest numbers in Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Manicaland prompting one to believe that most of the Ministry’s programmes are targeted at certain individuals loyal to the party. This can better be explained by the Political Patronage theory, which according to Shefter (1984) involves the use of state resources to reward individuals for their electoral support. According to the theory, political entities could make use various schemes as a tool attract the electorate. It goes on to say the party may distribute divisible benefits to its contributors and activists (ibid).

In addition it can also be noted from the above table that as we move towards elections, the number of the beneficiaries increases and this points to the fact that party politics plays a role in the delivery of service to the general populace as there is great need for power retention during the times of elections.

3.4 Political determinants of Service Delivery in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation

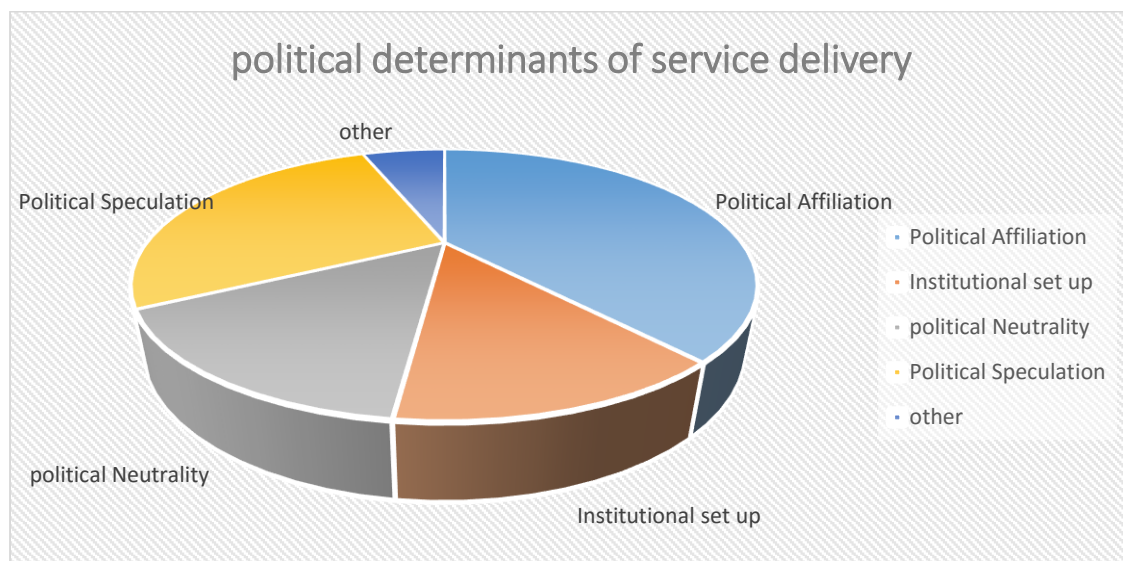


Fig 6. Showing various political determinants of service delivery in the Ministry

From the above diagram five components were designed by the researcher so that the respondents can choose the appropriate determinant of service delivery in the Ministry of their choice. 38% of the respondents agrees to the fact that service delivery is based on political affiliation meaning they feel one has to belong to or affiliated to the ruling party to enjoy the full benefits of the Ministry's programmes probably due to the fact that the ruling party is seeking to cement its clout on power by rewarding its perceived support base a claim which correlate that of Makumbe (2009) that, "Food aid and Agricultural inputs programmes are implemented on political basis.

In addition, 27% of the respondents were of the notion that service delivery in the Ministry is based on political speculation which means investing in ventures in the hope of gain, though there exist risk of loss. According to Mason (2013) Voters in areas that receive more government funded inputs or where more households participate in the subsidy programme tends to reward the incumbent at the ballot box. Mohamed and Nordland (2007) envisages that, 'the relationship between the government and the political party in the African context is not easy to note as incumbent regimes generally abuses state resources and apparatus and employ patronage ploys as a way of maintaining party organisation and management.'

Furthermore, 15% supports the idea that there is political neutrality in the allocation of services by the Ministry. They are against the idea that there is evidence of patronage based delivery of service and usually these are the people who have been benefiting for so long in the Ministry's programmes and therefore they don't see anything wrong in the modus operandi. The other views expressed were based on the belief that services are allocated based on the institutional set up meaning they believe the Ministry serves the people based on its constitutional set up based on section 56 (3) of the Zimbabwean constitution which outlaws discrimination on the basis of political affiliation. However it is important to note the respondents who gave the opinion that service delivery is based on the Institutional set up of the Ministry had the belief that issues to do with bureaucracy, corruption and policy inconsistencies derailed the effective delivery of services in the Ministry.

3.5 Respondents various political beliefs

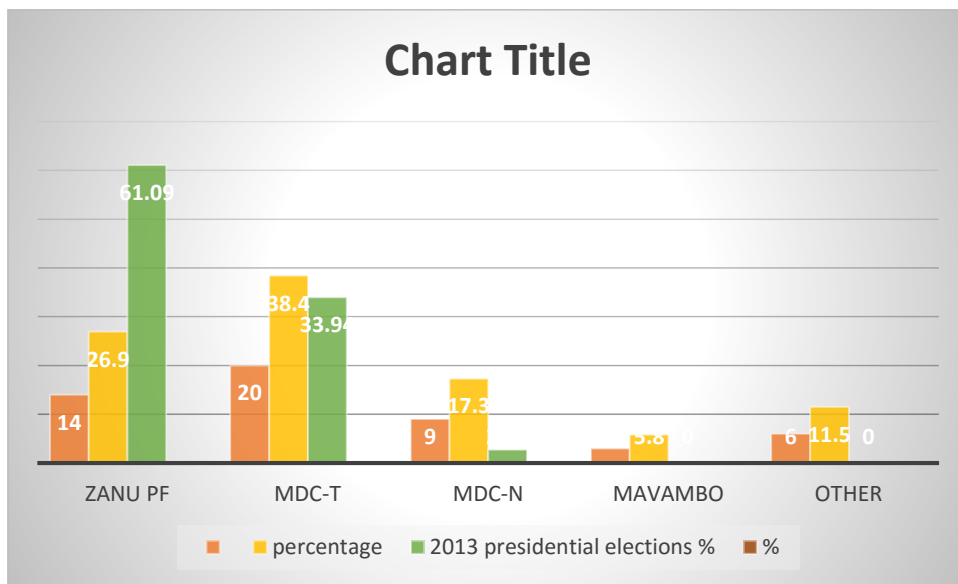


Fig 7. Showing respondents various political beliefs in relation to the 2013 presidential election results

In the above figure, the various political beliefs of the respondents are shown and an additional bar showing the 2013 presidential elections. Most of the respondents are affiliated to opposition political parties as shown in the graph, with the MDC-T having topped the list followed by MDC-N and then Mavambo this is primarily because the ruling party's support base is largely based in the rural areas and this research was conducted in the urban areas where the opposition support base is vibrant.

A look at the recently held 2013 presidential results paints a different picture since the ruling party won a resounding victory with most success stories emanating from rural strongholds. This can be attributed to the fact that the Zanu PF incumbency has since its attainment of independence in 1980 been able to instrumentally make use of its authoritative allocation of resources to its targeted support base or where it seeks support as a way of garnering electoral supporting hence its successive electoral victories though they were marred with other irregularities. This can be explained by Malawi case study where Chirwa (2011) had acknowledged presidential input scheme played a pivotal role in the president's re-election in the recent elections. In the Nigerian case, there also existed widespread evidence that subsidised inputs are mostly captured by local elites and politicians, hence it is an open secret that subsidised fertilizer is used as a reward for officials for giving political support, or as a

way of garnering new support a whereas McLoughling (2009) insinuated that “at times the ruling elite moulds programmes or policies that targets the economically less privileged on the pretext of aiming political hegemony.

3.6 Research Interview Responses from Political Party Representatives and Ministry of Agriculture Officials from the Agritex Department.

The researcher managed to interview some of the representatives of political parties in Zimbabwe to as to attain diversity of information so as to reach an informed conclusion and proffer valuable recommendations. Representatives from Ministry under study were also included in the interviews as a way of soliciting vital information for the study and also to eradicate bias but present fair views from all the parties involved in the Research as showing in figure 7 below.

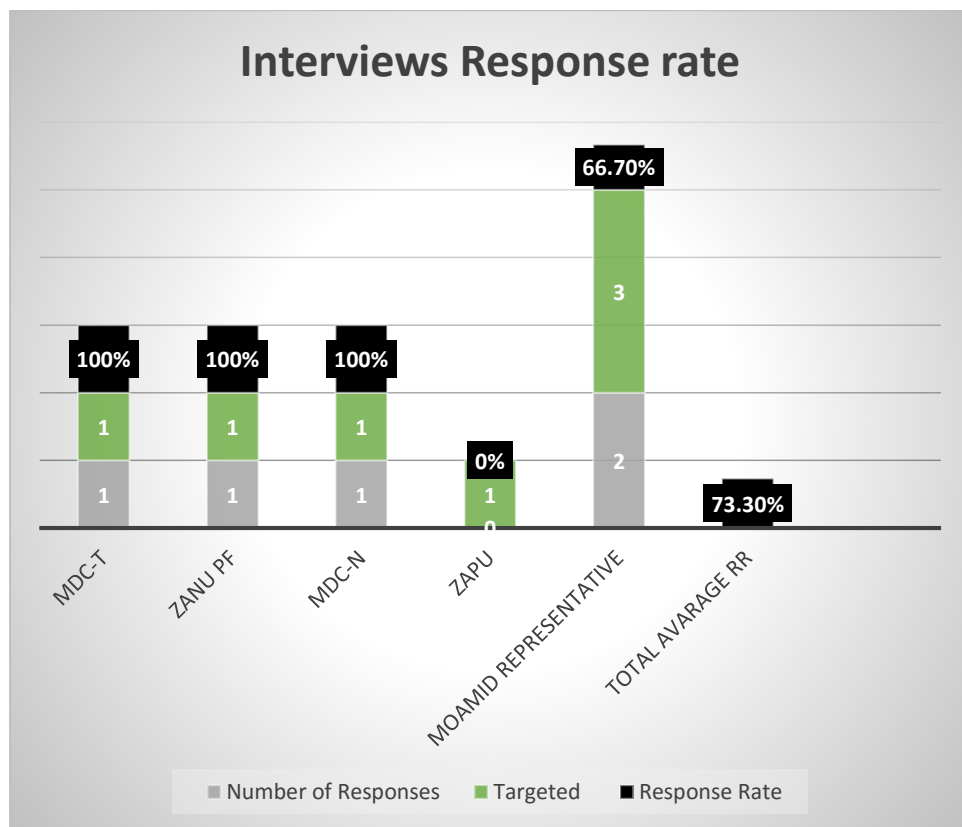


Fig. 3 showing interviews response rate

As shown in table 2, the researcher targeted to interview four interviewees from four major political parties in the country but only managed to interview three respondents, this became one of the limitations to the research but however the researcher was convinced that 73.3% of his targeted sample would still produce credible outcomes for the research. The Researcher also managed to interview two officials from the Ministry under study out of the targeted three. It is also important to acknowledge that the researcher will not reveal the names of those interviewed to protect the identity of the interviewees as per their request.

During the interviews with opposition party representatives, most of the outcome pointed to the fact that programmes and policies in the Ministry of Agriculture were mainly meant to benefit those aligned to the ruling party. They also pointed out the fact that the government in power's major thrust was mainly based on thwarting opposition ascendancy to the realms of state power hence the continued use and abuse of state apparatus by the ZANU PF led government to maintain its hold on power at all costs even if it meant side lining those it deemed opponents.

Opposition representatives seemed to agree to the fact that the role of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development and any other Ministry or government department was to do away with politics of patronage but should ensure that the major rationale was to build a country based on transparency and accountability to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the people of Zimbabwe.

However the comments obtained from the representatives of the ruling party painted a differing picture since they suggested that people that do not benefit from government programmes are ignorant since they do not make follow up or are not interested in the government in power's activities of serving the people who put them in power. The representative also pointed out that opposition supporters lack political will to benefit from government service delivery because they are of the belief that they do not belong to the Zanu PF inner circle as they do not share the same ideologies. However one of the representatives in the Ministry reiterated but pleading for anonymity that programmes in the ministry are run to engender the political interest of the government in power as they at times receive instructions from the top to do so.

3.7 Conclusion

The chapter focused on the presentation of data obtained in the field by the researcher from questionnaires and interviews with most responses coming from questionnaires. The data was then analysed using various tools like bar graphs and pie charts also making use of the reviewed literature in the previous chapters as well as theories from the theoretical framework.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Introduction

The chapter gives recommendations on party politics and Service delivery in the public sector: a case of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation. In addition the chapter also presents research conclusions of the topic under study and recommendations for future studies on party politics and service delivery are proffered.

4.2 Discussion of Results

The research was guided by four research questions and objectives and the results shall be discussed briefly below.

4.3.1 Party Politics

The first objective focused on the investigation of the meaning of party politics and the study unearthed the meaning as the acts and principles directed towards the interests of one political party or its members without reference to the common good (Webster New College Dictionary, 2010). This has been linked to the fact that the incumbent ZANU PF regime has managed to stay for so long in power through its ability to use public service provision as way of furthering its interests at the expense of the common good as revealed in the Agricultural Ministry case.

4.3.2 Party Politics on Service Delivery

The second objective sought to address how party politics influences the distribution of service delivery in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development and the research managed to address this by noting that politics was at play in most instances on the provision of services and this was facilitated by the incumbent regime as a tool of maintaining its political hegemony through targeting certain groups which are affiliated to the Zanu PF led government. It has also been noted that Agricultural policies are crafted at political party level in the Politburo and are meant to strengthen the political clout of the incumbency.

4.3.3 Political determinants of Service Delivery

The third research objective focused on the investigation of the political determinants of service delivery in the Ministry, the study reviewed various elements from the institutional conditions, political conjecture, Sector level influences, political affiliation and speculations for political returns at the ballot box among other issues.

4.1.4 Marginalised Groups

The last but not least objective's main thrust was to identify the groups being marginalised in the provision of services in the Ministry under study and the research unearthed the fact that sympathisers from opposition political set ups are the most vulnerable groups since service provision in the Ministry is primarily based on political basis and the research also noted that such a strategy was employed to weaken the support base of opposition politics and this has been attributed as one of the reasons why the Zanu PF led government has managed to stay in power for so long even in the face of strong international isolation and a dying economy.

4.2 Conclusions

Party politics has been a contributory tool in the allocation of service delivery in the Ministry of Agriculture because technocrats have been seen at the epicentre being influenced by the ruling elite and since Zimbabwe has since independence been ruled by one political party in the name of Zanu PF and has only known one leader, state institutions became designed in such a way that the incumbency maintain its grip on political power through partisan authoritative allocation of resources to targeted individuals.

The research has mainly focused on the Ministry of Agriculture as its case study and findings have noted that the Ministry as an appendage of the government, is subject to control and manipulation by the politicians mainly aligned to Zanu PF since it has been in power for so long and controls almost every aspect of the state mainly to its advantage and this has seen the party remaining strong and vibrant even in the face of strong opposition political party like the Movement for Democratic Change. The influence of Zanu PF politics on service delivery has

also seen the government surviving one of the harshest economic condition precipitated by western sanctions and the hyperinflation. It has also been acknowledged that the Ministry in its programmes mainly targeted ruling party supporters as a reward for their loyalty and in some cases bankrolled programmes like subsidy input schemes in opposition strongholds as a way of diluting opposition support base and in the process garnering new support.

In addition, the researcher has also noted that though politics affects the allocation of resources, in some cases issues like harsh economic conditions may have a negative impact on the delivery of services to the general populace for instance the current economic situation bedevilling the country has seen most sectors of the Zimbabwean economy nose diving or in comatose.

4.3.0 Recommendations

After undertaking the assessment of party politics and its impacts on service provision in the public sector, the researcher came up with recommendations to the government and the Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation development on what conducts should be practiced to ensure or to maintain legitimacy on service provision to the public such political bias, affiliation or partisan allocation of services are erased and restore transparency and accountability in the day to day running of government business.

4.3.1 The government

- i. As has been noted in the research, it is difficult to separate the government and the ruling party (ZANU PF) hence most of the government business has been mainly carried out to engender the interests of the incumbency at the expense of the general will hence it is in the researcher's opinion that the government should address this anomaly by separating itself from political party interests and focus on the mandate of working for the people of Zimbabwe regardless of their political ideologies and views.
- ii. The government should also set up independent commissions to oversee that the allocation or distribution of services is being done in a professional manner and the targeting of certain groups on political grounds to benefit from government programmes should be criminalised such that transparency and accountability is

restored as this has a positive impact in the eyes of the general populace and the international community which greatly leads to the flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) hence resuscitating the ailing economy.

4.3.2 Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development

- i. The Ministry should refrain from being used for political gain by the governing party but rather should ensure that programmes and policies are crafted on the basis of serving national interests.
- ii. Service delivery in the Ministry should be based on nationality rather than political affiliation since this is explicitly enshrined in the bill of rights in the Zimbabwean Constitution.

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Appendix I: Research Questionnaire for small and medium farmers in Harare Province

My name is Honest Chiremba. I am a fourth year student at Midlands State University undertaking the Bachelor of Science in Politics and Public Management Honours degree.

I am hereby carrying out a research on “**Party Politics and Service Delivery in the Public Sector: A case of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Mechanisation.**” As part of my curriculum I am obliged to undertake research that is in harmony with my area of study. The information that shall be given will be strictly used for academic purposes and the research shall by no means be used for political expedience. Please it is advisable not to write your name or personal details for privacy and security reasons.

NB: Only write your answer and respond with a tick where possible.

(1) Individual details

District

.....

(2) Demographic Structure

Age(years)	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-50	Over 50

SEX

Male	Female

(3) Employment Status

Employed	Self-employed	Unemployed

(4) Level of education

Primary	Secondary	Diploma	Degree	Other

(5) Are you aware of the role of party politics in general?

YES	NO

(6) If yes, in your own opinion, what do you think is the role of any governing political party concerning the issue of service delivery.

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(7) Are you aware of the role of the Ministry's role in the delivery of services to the general populace?

YES	NO

(8) If yes, how can you rate it in a scale of 1 – 5?

1 (poor)	2 (below average)	3 (Average)	4 (Above Average)	5 (Best)

(9) Have you ever benefited from any of the Ministry’s programmes?

YES	NO

(10) If yes may you please state in what way?

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(11) If no, what may be the reasons?

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(12) What do you think determines the issuing of services in the Ministry?

Political Affiliation	Institutional set up	Political neutrality	Political Speculation	Other	None of the above

(13) Support your answer

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(14) Which political party do you relate yourself to?

ZANU PF	MDC-T	MDC-N	MAVAMBO	Other

Appendix II: Interview Guide: Political Party representatives and Ministry of Agriculture officials

Good Morning/Afternoon. My name is Honest Chiremba. I am a fourth year student at Midlands State University studying for the Bsc Honours degree in Politics and Public Management. I am carrying out a research on **“Party Politics and Service Delivery in the Public Sector: A case of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation.”** As my academic requirements and you have been selected for an interview. You are hereby being assured that the information you shall disseminate shall be strictly confidential with the intention of serving academic purpose.

1. What is your understanding of political party politics in the Zimbabwean context?
2. According to your above view, what effect or influence do you think party politics has on the delivery of services to the people?
3. What is the role of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation in general?
4. What is the reality on the ground concerning its issuing of services to the general public through its various programmes?
5. What determines or influence the delivery of services in the Ministry?
6. May you explicitly explain why?
7. Besides the said Ministry, what other public institutions are central in the allocation/distribution of services?
8. How may you rate them on a scale of 1-5 putting into consideration the issue of party politics
9. Are there any disadvantaged groups in the delivery of services by the Ministry, if so may you state the reason why?
10. Are there any targeted beneficiaries of the programmes bankrolled in the Ministry, why is that so?