

Acuil Malith Banggol

South Sudan

I was awarded Masters of Arts in Transformational Leadership and Change (MATLC) in University of Greenwich on March 11, 2014. The Thesis is on 'Role of Traditional Authority Leaders in Taking Towns to Rural Peoples'.



1. Inclusive Dialogue and Governance

2. Taking towns to rural areas

Inclusive Dialogue and Governance

I suggest that if Traditional Authority Leaders and Local Government are involved at all levels in identification of needs, allocation of resources and implementation, it could make politicians and the intelligentsia to be accountable.

Content of Presentation

There could be many ways in modernizing our society in South Sudan.

But I have some views that could be relevant or near relevant. To me the solution could be enhanced by promoting dialogue, collaborative learning, listening and strategic navigation for future full of hope, just society, inclusive, mutual and passionate for freedom, peace and prosperity for all.

In South Sudan the nation state and nationhood that include other nationalities is a new thing.

Nation state started as tool of colonial masters but the post colonial nation state is not different from the previous.

In South Sudan only 17% of the population is living in towns and they have usurped all powers and privileges to pillage the national resources through miss-allocation and corruption. Educated - to whatever little - migrate to towns where they become vulnerable to unemployment, while denying rural community a youth-hood force for production. Those who come to towns become a problem because they could easily be sucked into anti-social behaviors. The rest you may know.

Taking Towns to Rural Peoples is part of solution to me.

Take education, development, institutions and procedures and services to rural communities. Engage them on deciding on national priorities and wider ownership. This shall ensure the type of society mentioned above.

I am committed to contribute to the peace building process in South Sudan with my engagements in the TWIC Olympics, where young people of all ethnics meet and enjoy sports together and in SUPRAID, a foundation for Education, Rehabilitation and Development of Conflict Affected Children.

Taking towns to rural areas

“...Security demands and keeping Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on track deprived us of financial resources required to expedite the process of translating the goal of Taking Towns to Rural Areas into concrete reality...Rural transformation with a view to taking towns to the rural areas shall be the number one priority in my economic agenda. Every department in my government shall, therefore, be guided in its performance and operations by this priority of priorities: TAKING TOWNS TO RURAL AREAS...” President Kiir on May 21st 2010.

This study investigated legacy, potentials, relevance of Traditional Authority Leaders (TALs) and how TALs’ institutions could be empowered and interactively involved in implementation of the policy: “Taking Towns to Rural Peoples” in South Sudan. The study acknowledges that TALs mandated roles under section 19(3) of Local Government Act (LGA) 2009 to be the principal public administrators in Boma that could provide a solution to the misstep and error.

The study identified suspected cluelessness, likely oversight or deliberate defiance by policy designers to adhere to provisions of articles 166, 167 and 168 of South Sudan Transitional Constitution (SSTC) 2011. The study contends that establishing routinized consultative fora that includes Council of Traditional Authority Leaders (COTAL) is indispensable. Such fora are alluding to enhance dialogue with local government and legislature and executive at states and national levels in one hand and on other the TALs systems at all levels as mandated by the law.

Data collection tools and techniques of observation, interviews, questionnaire, and focus group discussions and policy analysis were used. Participants for the study included TALs, current and former local government administrators, legal advisors at national levels in South Sudan besides field visits, symposia, and briefing from experts, officials and TALs in Botswana, South Africa and Ghana. Collected data were analyzed using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis.

Findings indicated that constitutionally mandated roles and status of TALs are not recognized nor involved in identification of priorities, policy design and implementation. Likewise, there is absence of adherence to mandates by SSTC 2011, on sovereignty, guiding principles, and political and economic goals of authority. At states levels decentralized systems is recentralized, excludes TALs and marginalized the rural majority and their systems. This fault is noted in lack of adherence to

mandated levels of governments, devolution of powers and intergovernmental linkages. None of these provisions and political will has been made into institutional framework, legal provisions and organizational culture. At state and national levels constitutional provisions on establishment, composition and functions of executive and legislature are inconsistent with mandated status, recognition and involvement of TALs in same laws. Exploitation, exclusion and marginalization that caused tussle and sacrifice against foreign oppressors since 1821-2004, are now twisted, thus became national elites' norms to exclude and marginalize. Lack of progress in realization of the goal is logically blamed on irresponsiveness to political will and leadership's directives and popular demands on "Taking Towns to Rural Peoples". Learned lessons from study tour to Ghana, Botswana and South Africa suggest TAL's systems are well connected to central authority with rural Peoples in legislature and in service delivery and administration of justice. In South Sudan, Judiciary of South Sudan implements similar arrangements. This book identifies defies and answers to why legislature and executive in South Sudan are lag behind?