



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH IN BUSINESS & SOCIAL SCIENCES



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To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARBSS/v9-i5/5846>

DOI: 10.6007/IJARBSS/v9-i5/5846

Received: 27 March 2019, Revised: 12 April 2019, Accepted: 30 April 2019

Published Online: 13 May 2019

In-Text Citation: (Bujiku, Saidi, Mersat, & Puyok, 2019)

To Cite this Article: Bujiku, R. R., Saidi, M. A., Mersat, N. I., & Puyok, A. (2019). Exploring Situation of Accountability Relationship of Councilors in Multiparty Politics. *International Journal of Academic Research Business and Social Sciences*, 9(5), 138–153.

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Vol. 9, No. 5, 2019, Pg. 138 - 153

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Exploring Situation of Accountability Relationship of Councilors in Multiparty Politics

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Abstract

This research paper explored the situation and challenges facing politically elected Councilors from different political parties on how to implementing accountability in multiparty politics. Accountability relationship plays an important role in understanding behavior and attitude of the local actors from different political institutional background, and experience towards implementation of accountability practices. Qualitative methods and approaches were utilized in data collection and analysis. The study adopted a case study approach where four (3) municipalities of Kinondoni, Temeke, and Ilala of the Dar es Salaam city council in Tanzania were involved in the study. The overall sample of 44 respondents involved in the study through in-depth interviews. Documentary review was considered necessary, where different documents complementarily to the study were rationally reviewed. The results of this research paper revealed that there was a poor relationship that resulted into accountability disagreement practice in most of political governance matters due to patronage politics and policy preferences. This research paper recommends reforms on accountability framework in Dar es Salaam municipalities.

Keywords: *Councilors, Accountability, Multiparty politics, Relationship, Patronage Politics*

Introduction

The introduction of multiparty politics in the late 1990s in Africa and some other parts of the world has activated a question that puzzled accountability relationship amongst politically elected leaders from different political ideologies and philosophies on how to implement accountability practices in a shared governance setting (Bratton & Walle, 1992; Decalo, 1992; Carothers, 2002; Walle, 2002). Majority of African states, for a long time, they have been under governance sphere of a single party system, of which to some extent, its accountability attitude and characteristics appears to have prevailing legacy in the new multiparty politics.

Studies show that accountability is among of the cornerstones of good governance and therefore, understanding accountability relationship and practice is of paramount importance to an