

ANGEE BEATRICE (2012-M-I6I-10001)

Politics and the Shaping of Ethnic Conflict among Bamba and Bakonjo Community in Bundibugyo District

The study explores politics and the shaping of ethnic conflict among Bakonjo and Bamba communities in Bundibugyo. It was prompted by the protracted tribal conflict between the Bamba and Bakonjo over contested space in cultural institution. The study was guided by examining the way political growth has impacted on ethnic conflict; the political attempts are used in resolving ethnic conflicts and to suggest ways on how politics can be an instrument of peace in resolving ethnic conflict. A descriptive cross-sectional design was employed to enhance data collection at a single point in time. The study tested the inter-item consistency reliability using Cronbach alpha. The data were collected from a target population of 80 out of which 66 questionnaires were returned fully answered. Purposive and systematic random sampling were used. Frequency tables and charts were used to present data. The study findings on political growth were; ethnic conflict is still underway, independence of the nation insignificantly reduced on ethnic conflict and democratic rule in the country increased tribal conflict; On political attempts, it was found out that peace and conflict resolution programmes in place are not equipped enough to curb the ethnic conflict. Education has not done much to make known the effects of the tribal conflict. On suggested ways to avert the ethnic conflict; cultural institution be granted. The government should play a vital role in reducing the ethnic conflict through direct involvement in peace talks. The notable recommendation on political growth was that government of Uganda should get involved and possibly get a mediator from outside the region of Rwenzori. People should be sensitised on the disasters of an ethnic conflict. On Political attempts; Bamba should be granted their own kingdom and demarcation of their land. Curriculum should be improved so as to cater for peaceful co-existence. On suggested ways; Bamba should be allowed to elect their leader. Peace building institutions should be aided and the government should make effort to put boundaries on land allocated to ethnic groups.

Key words: Politics, Ethnic, Conflict, Bakonzo, Bamba, Community