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主 論 文 の 要 旨

論文題目

Big Man Infiltration: The Cause of Failed
Decentralization for Rural Development in Papua
New Guinea

氏 名

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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

As a systematic process of public service implementation, Decentralization has been advocated as a much sought after reform to enhance public service delivery. As a result of this many commentators have raised their views as to how it is to be best implemented and how it has also failed. In the light of this most commentators have taken the view that institutional mechanisms are the main reasons behind the failure of decentralization reforms.

Midgal however draws light to the fact that states are made up of many smaller enclaves in society, each with their own ordered societies which local strong men preside over. Hence, Midgal argues that a trade has to be made by those in the formal with these leaders from the smaller enclaves in society. Midgals point of view is based on the politics of survival, which eventually weaken the state. However, Midgal fails to consider that not all societies have an established social order; hence some may operate in an absence of order structure where the power structure is fluid and not bound to any particular person. The Bigman system in PNG offers a good example of this.

Against this viewpoint the sequential theory of decentralization is also reviewed and proven to be unworkable as the decentralization does not lead to more power for locals as argued by Falletti. Instead the weakening of the decentralization process has come about as a result of competition between national and provincial government politicians based on the manner in which

political support is raised in election times in PNG based on Bigman values. Hence, since it is fluid the need to maintain constant support which has caused the weakening of the decentralization process which has also eventually weakened the structure and eventually led to poor rural development outcomes at the district tier in PNG.

The dissertation therefore begins by raising these points; it then goes on to look at the general literature on the process of decentralization and manner under taken.

In chapter three, a review of the decentralization process in PNG is made and shows how the Bigman system weakened the process due to the political competition that emerged. Such competition was based on the Bigman values which were essential in maintaining political support. Which the decentralization process created, which eventually led to termination of the provincial government system and the emergence of a system which was dominated by the national government MPs as a result of the 1995 reforms.

In chapter four the study site findings are presented and show how the reforms have failed to deliver effective results. The findings are based on the study made in the sub district of Dreikikir in Ambunti Dreikikir Electorate in East Sepik Province, PNG. As the findings show there is very little to show of the effectiveness of the reforms as much essential services are lacking in the study site district which is further supported with examples from other areas of the country.

Chapter five goes on to highlight why this issue has plagued the district tier as Bigman politics has infiltrated the system. As a result the national government MPs with their new given powers and resources have become very influential in the district. However, instead of proper planning and allocation of these resources for sound development agendas at the district tier, Bigman politics is pursued leading to decisions being made for political agendas rather than development purposes. Such is so as the Bigman system is fluid and requires constant support for political reelection. This has affected rural development agendas at the district tier in PNG.

Finally, chapter six ends by noting these findings made, room for further research, and

policy implications for addressing this issue. Hence, it generally concludes that the Bigman system in PNG has been able to weaken the system in an absence of proper order in society. This fluidity in itself has caused the weakening of the process hence a new structure of government should be considered to include the clans into the government process hence a ward government should be established. Finally, there is need to identify a way to create a system whereby the MPs will agree to relinquish some of their power to this tier of government.