

Editorial Comment

In his famous novel *Things Fall Apart*, the legend of African literature, Chinua Achebe writes that 'A man who calls his kinsmen to a feast does not do so to save them from starving. They all have food in their own homes. When we gather together in the moonlit village grounds, it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so'. This is especially true for ZANGO, where we invite all scholars who love to share their contemporary issues from Zambia and around the world to come together and share the experiences of different issues that provoke debate and academic discussions. The University of Zambia is proud to have been providing ZANGO, *the Journal of Contemporary Issues*, as one of the mediums through which scholarly discourses are shared.

In this issue of the Journal, Chikadza in the first article, delved into how power disparities between men and women shape the institutionalisation of engendered exclusionary mechanisms in Malawian political parties. In this detailed analysis, Chikadza maintains that Malawian political parties behave like a political market where there is a strong positive correlation between one's possession of power and their level of political participation. To authenticate this observation, the author identifies a number of issues that perpetuate women's exclusion from meaningful participation.

In the second article, Ng'oma uses secondary data to report on the findings in which he investigated the genuineness of three Zambian NGOs in Civic Education programmes and campaigns that the NGOs in question had undertaken in supporting democratisation in Zambia. In this concise chronicle, Ng'oma concludes that the NGOs that were investigated were not pretenders but real midwives of democracy who promote the change from authoritarian rule to visible forms of democratic governance.

In the third article, Hussein examines the challenges that are facing development projects implementation in Malawi's local government authorities. In the analysis of this issue, Hussein laments that apart from Malawi being one of the least developed countries in the world, the local government systems in the country are also plagued with numerous impediments ranging from politicised bureaucracy, scarce skilled labour, inadequate finances and corruption. The author, finally, provides pragmatic strategies which would be crucial for local development to effectively take root.

As if they were trying to confirm Camara Laye's saying that 'All dancers have a cumulative tendency, because each beat of the tom-tom has an almost irresistible appeal. Soon those who were just spectators would dance too', Akporherhe and Udi examined the therapeutic strategies utilised in the management of mood in Camara Laye's *The African Child*. The authors tactfully examine the phenomena of circumcision among adolescents who fall prey to mood disorders due to the practice of circumcision and, present how these health disorders are managed through various adjustments and coping strategies of the circumcised.

Political campaigns can, sometimes, be very dramatic and fascinating. In the final article of this issue, Banja and Walubita explore and analyse political election campaign messages that are carried through songs of two main Zambia's political parties in the 2016 General Elections namely, the Patriotic Front (PF) and the United Party for National Development (UPND). The two authors clearly noted that both parties' songs contained messages which focused on development issues, mere political propaganda and exclusive hero-worshipping. They also included serious issues such as agriculture, health, and education while some songs had religious intonations. By and large, most of the messages were deliberately produced to manipulate the electorate's beliefs.

The educational scope of these articles and the clarity with which they have been written provides rich and timely data for our readers. The *Zango* Editorial Board is, therefore, inviting you to join this scholarly banquet of academic kinsmen prepared by the ZANGO researchers and contributors.

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CHIEF EDITOR