The Role of Political Leaders in Enhancing Peace and Tranquility: Thinking Big

Norman A.S. King

Teofilo Kisanji University and Genesis
University College, Tanzania
adamsonnorman@gmail.com

Montanus C. Milanzi

Mzumbe University, Tanzania

Lucy Massoi

Mzumbe University, Tanzania

Newton Kyando

Open University, Tanzania

Abstract: *Political leaders play an important role in facilitating peace and tranquility. Their vitality is appreciated due to the fact that they have followers- people who believe in what they say and act accordingly. This paper is cemented on the speech of the considered one of the guru of development management in the world, when he made his presentation before the political party leaders in Ruvuma region in Tanzania. While the amplification of the speech is based on Tanzania, we consider that the speech is relevant to the nationals of the world. The paper is a review in nature and has articulated experiential and factualism of the current world in setting the literature review, methodology, discussion and conclusion. The speech called upon leaders to realize that the emergent of political parties does not mean to jeopardize humanity. Political parties are planes, buses, trains, motorcycle, bicycle and footers for the sake of moving the direction one would want to go, yet those who move are more important than the vessels they use. Development is what one ought to vision in whatever is done. Hence, synergizing thinking is a must for attaining development under the surface of peace and tranquility. The paper concludes that peace is inevitable without political leaders playing a vital role of harnessing what they believe with others' beliefs. In addition, political leaders must appreciate that losing and wining an election is the major outcomes of democratic elections.*

Keywords: *Peace; Tranquility; Political Leaders; Development.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Leaders are the key in the proper management and development of material and human resources. Political leaders are basically those who assume offices through the votes of majoritarian that conform to the rules and regulations of a particular setting. Although definitions of political leaders may be of varied, yet we appreciate that political leaders emerge from politic which simply refer to the community on which the leader is enshrined. Several authors have come up with literatures on the interplay of leadership and the challenges posed (Eden, 1983; Edersheim, 2007; Grint, 2005; Havel, 1990; Aristotle, 1958; Takala, 1997; Tucker, 1985; Blonde, 1987; Bose; 2006; Brysk; 2002; Ciulla, 2004; Edersheim, 2007; Ferguson, 1999; Hunt, 1984).

Political leaders can be of varied categories. However, for the purpose of this work we define political leaders through tracing how they come into being. Political leaders are basically from three categories: 1) those who exist through votes of the people and go by the names such as councilors, parliamentarians, governors, prime ministers and presidents. 2) Those who exist through direct appointments made by national leaders in the name of Presidents and prime ministers and they go by names such as ministers, ambassadors, regional commissioners and district commissioners pending the nature of the named country. 3) Those who emanate from political parties of any level. They can be of national and or lower echelons of any political party be it ruling or archrival/opposition. In some instances, we do have mixed qualifications. Some political leaders are elected by the people, and in secondary stages the appointing authority would appoint them to discharge as government leaders in varied positions.

We learn that the most important contribution social psychology has made to understanding political leadership and indicating ways of improving the quality of leaders' decisions, or at least reducing their propensity to make mistakes or increasing their possibility to get things right. Therefore

leadership is a reciprocal, transactional and transformational process in which individuals are permitted to influence and motivate others to promote the attaining of group and individual goals (Forsyth, 1990; Baki and David, 2007).

In recent years, the popular political leaders seem those who emanate from political parties. The strength of their popularity is articulated on their being the mother of other ventures of political leaders. Both direct elected political leaders and those appointed are basically members of the political parties. Hence, leaders of political parties though may not form the government in power yet they have followers. In this view, this paper is examining the role of political parties who stem from political parties and may not necessarily be government leaders. We expound the role of political leaders from the speech tenured before them on 15 May, 2015 when the District Commissioner addressed them, with the view to enabling them; realize their role to foster peace and development.

Before we deviate into the literature review it is important to define peace, since it is at the cornerstone of this master piece of literature. Best (2006) define peace as absence of war. Equally, if peace is absence of war it logically means that absence of war is peace (Itekpe, 2012:96). We know however, that peace is not justified by merely not fighting through the use of weapons. There may prevail political tortures, oppression, suppression, favoritism, biasness, tribalism and racism to mention some, yet no weapon is used for the purpose of capturing lives of the people. This is absence of war, yet there is no peace. Philosophers, realize peace through what the scriptures say. Some books indicate clearly the pertinence of peace (John 20:21; Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36; 1Corithians 15:5), Jesus indicates that peace be with you, which literally means remain with positive hope, relax while awaiting for his salvation; work without fighting, and forgive each other. Sociologist will simply define peace as conducive environment for the pursuance of the community development activities (Norman, 2005; Holland, 1998; Shriberg et al. 2005). The sociologist school seem to adhere to what development schools profess. Development gurus, have a view that peace it a totality of absence of torture mentally and physically, which in due course fosters human activities that lead to development (Norman, 2013; 1998).

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Political leaders play an important role in promoting and or hindering the enhancement of peace and tranquility the world over (Norman, 2005). These leaders are the key in promoting development when they act in conformity to law of the land and with the view to ensuring development of the people (Tucker, 1981; 1995; Norman, 2012). The pertinence of leaders is on development hence what they echo will also the followers echo (Greenstein 2004; Hollander 1998; Kellerman 2008).

In this regard, what leaders do is important for the assimilation of the people they lead, since followers tend to copy the doings of the leaders be it voluntarily or involuntarily (Kellerman 2004; Kellerman 2008; Burns 1978; Burns 2003). We appreciate from both theoretical and praxis perspectives, that leaders are the key in both development and peace orientations. In this view political leaders assume day to day processes of creating value of their people for the attainment of the path they want. Noting this fact, Elcock (2001) asserts that political leadership is a concept central to understanding political processes and outcomes. Leaders can change the dimension of the world if they want to. Hegel (1822) and Carlyle (1841) have indicated that great leaders emerge to change the world; it could be positively or negatively.

We know that literatures the world over have indulged into expounding theories of leadership and/ or types of leadership and the management thereof (Armstrong, 2004; Kellerman, 1986; Nye, 2008; Bennis, 2003; Greenstein, 2004). But they seem to capture little on the leadership role in fostering peace and tranquility on the current verge of the global trends of events and especially on African continent. Perhaps it is because those who author the various literature are basically not politicians and hence they culminate the perceptual angle which may at times be deceitful.

Bullock (1990) reveals various actions that leaders performed, which hampered the societies positively or negatively. These include Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin. It is from actions of various leaders history is set to memorize them (Hay, 2002). African people applaud the brilliance of leaders such as Julius Nyerere of Tanzania for the move he had gone with to transform the country's thinking on capitalism, which was the case with the Britain and Germany, to African socialism, which meant working together for the enhancement of development and peace (Nyerere, 1974; Norman, 1998). Nyerere adds that we must work according to our abilities and enjoy benefits according to our needs.

Although some do challenge the impact of Nyerere ideology, yet the truth remain that he set a strong foundation of behavioral trait that could be assimilated generation after generation.

The literatures seem to focus generally on the prudence of leadership, and they do little on the role of political leaders in promoting and hindering peace and tranquility. Hence, this paper.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This paper is a review, and has utilized the message presented before political party leaders in Ruvuma, Tanzania. Hence, it is a case study where members were drawn from 18 political parties in Ruvuma region. The representation was 98% of the total political parties found in Tanzania. Tanzania has, as on the date of this paper, 21 political parties. The paper has utilized experiential and factualism as source of information. The leader, has served in many facets which include international organizations such as the United Nations, regional organizations such as the Commonwealth, SADC, and East Africa Community (EAC). He also saved as Member of Parliament, District Commissioner and President of African Network of elections observers (ANEOPI). It is a qualitative study, and hence analysis of information is on logical reasoning appended with conceptualization. The harnessing of information has observed systemic thinking which is looking backward, sideways, to the right, to the left and into the future for the purpose of aggravating meanings without hampering the present and future generic beneficiaries.

4. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Leaders of political parties have huge role to play for improving peace and hence development. We know that political party leaders are bound together by policies that they put in place. Policies step from the vision of those who lead the party. We appreciate the presence of machineries and various structures of the political parties, which drive political organizations. Political parties' main objective is to clinch power of the state. In doings so some parties attempt to schedule a period for achieving the same. Our experience indicate that some do not. Even parties that fought for independence of various countries in Africa and the world over, had varied spelt period of attaining independence- power of the state. Indeed some did not have. This is common even to those oppressed. Some determine the extent of their waging of war against those who oppress, some fight without that determination of period, hence to them victory is unpredictable situation.

In the current world, it is important to realize that whether political parties have time set to get in power, few important things are imperative. 1) The intentions of political parties should enshrine peace in everything they do. 2) Plans and actions of these parties should be adherent to development. 3) Spoken policies and thus speeches of political party leaders should profess truth. 4) Appreciation of defeat and thus victory in times of elections without undue influence of pegging failures to others even when such is not the case. 5) Political parties are not important compared to the peaceful environment on which we thrive.

4.1. Enshrining Peace in All Undertakings

Plans and strategies to get in power should always be responsive to peace and tranquility. The focus of what we plan should tell us that we prefer prevalence of peace than success of our plans at the expense of jeopardizing peace and tranquility. In achieving this we must appreciate that the land we work has existed before the creation of our parties. We should ask ourselves, are the plans and strategies set able to maintain peace and tranquility? Suppose we succeed or fail with the plans and strategies we have put in place, shall peace be enhanced? Would failure of our plans create a sense of violence amongst our members? When we are done with asking such questions, we know then that we applaud more peace than a mere victory of our parties.

4.2. Adherent of Plans and Actions to Development

Plans and actions of these political parties' leaders should adhere to development. We would not like to see plans that hamper the peace that countries enjoy. We know for instance that army throughout the world are legal entities formed by the ruling government for the purpose of protecting people, properties and the borders of the nation pending the type of the army. It would be chaotic to realize that some political leaders form a more les similar entity for the reasons totaling to "protection of our members and leaders". This is not expected under civilized leadership. In this regard, when we notice our fellow political party leaders go astray, the solution is to correct the path and not re-affirm. We

should not at all cost entertain bad practices with the view to protecting our selves, leaders and members. Let the creation and formulation of these organs be at the mandate of the government. Henceforth we should not allow dubious actions which would be interpreted as conflicting with the government. Political party leaders and followers should apprehend that, one day the so called opposing party today, would be the ruling party. The question is, how opposing party manage the already destroyed country, which indeed, had been destroyed through actions of the same party. Clinching power should not be at the expense of exchanging peace with violence. To manage this, plans and actions must observe rule of law, among others.

4.3. Speeches and Policies Should Profess Truth

We are called professors, because we profess the areas of our specialization. Some professors are specialized in business management, law, sociology, finance, management and political science to mention some. Leaders of political parties should learn to value every single word they utter on rallies-open doors, and in doors. The words we speak create people that comprehend to the words. We may not be weak, but those who listen to our speeches tend to act the dimension of our words. Hence, one ought to be sensitive on every single word that is spoken if peace and tranquility is of value. We political leaders have followers; we call them followers because they follow us. We know that leaders are basically better placed than the followers. In African countries, we have noted for example followers that rally, would always be caught in the absence of their leaders. Hence, leaders seem to infiltrate persuading words to people and they follow words and not the physical orientation of the same leaders. We understand that by saying this it may mean that the emphasis is on only words that provoke members and or people of different thinking in political arena. Political leaders must be sensitive policy confession. For example, African continent and the world at large is facing increasing unemployment rate. We know in most case this is self-reporting, hence validity may be questionable. Yet we should take it. Importantly, political leaders should not for example say "If we get in power, we shall have free health services and or education services" if the economy does not support such sentence. If economic strategies in all senses do not support it then we shall be creating unnecessary hopes on the people we lead or on those we expect to lead. Political leaders must profess truth of the matter. To achieve this, professional people should be employed or incorporated in parties business especially on visioning the parties' future.

4.4. Appreciation of Defeat in Times Elections

Defeat and victory are the two facets of any party contesting. Hence, analyzing possibilities for losing an elections is no sin. Leaders should come out and confess the results. What we have seen and experienced, is that those who contest are misled by the followers, or by their inadequacy of knowledge regarding who support who and why. Norman (2010) in his popular book, elections management in Tanzania is the electoral commission bias in favor of the ruling political party? Assert clearly that, leaders should consider recruiting political analyst as potential in creating a correct perception on the victory, change of policy, and change of governance among others. Political leaders when are seated without people who are specialist in the analysis, ought to make decisions which contravene the willingness of the majoritarian. Information received from same team would always be in favor of the team unless some team members are potential analysts. When we have an eye of specialist, we would always appreciate those who attain victory through righteous manner. In this regard, we do not expect those who manage processes of elections to execute bias or favor, instead to give honor to he who deserves honor.

4.5. The Nation or Land is More Valuable than Political Parties

Political party leaders should appreciate the fact that the land we operate is more valuable than our groups formulated through laws in the name of political parties. We should apprehend the fact that, we are not important compared to the assurance of resilience of the present and future generation. We may win an election, but the paramount question is what next if the land will be a place to hate? We better win in proper manner. Hence, preaches and speeches should connote sensitivity to the peace environment we work in and with. Leaders, we must realize that the land we contest had existed prior to the establishment and or creation of the parties we affiliate with. Our parties are just vehicles which compete to travel passengers, and the strength is on the driver who has ability to choose path to go through.

5. CONCLUSION

We are now concluding that political leaders as human beings have a sense and feelings, we ought to do right and wrong. However, the very purpose of creating our parties is to bridge the gaps of leadership vision of those leading now. We do it through democratic means which we have agreed upon through the use of tools of law creation such as parliament. The inner purpose of clinching power, is to foster development of the area we want to lead. Parties are just means to get political leaders in avenue for leading. In addition, we cannot practice politics, in violent manner; neither can we do it in chaotic situations. Hence, we should strive at creating peaceful environment. We can attain this through weighing whatever we do in terms of plans, strategies, sayings, acts and demonstrations to mention but a few with peace and development. The survival of our present and future generation is paramount compared to our political survival. Let us join hands to preach and profess peace and actions that prompt peace all over the world, starting at the villages, wards, divisions, districts, regions, provinces, gubernatorial, and finally at national level.

REFERENCES

Armstrong, Michael (2004), a Handbook Human Resource Management Practice. 8th Edn. Kogan Page: London

Aristotle (1958), The Politics of Aristotle, trans. C. Lord (Chicago: university of Chicago press).

Baki, Vian, and David M. Barlow (eds) (2007), Communication in the Age of Suspicion: Trust and the Media. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Bass, Bernard M. (1998), Transformational Leadership: Industrial, Military and Educational Impact. Mahwah NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Blondel, Jean (1987), Political Leadership. London: Sage.

Bose, Meena (2006), 'What makes a great President? An Analysis of Leadership

Qualities in Fred I. Greenstein's The Presidential Difference', in Berman (ed.) (2006), pp. 27–44.

Brysk, Alison (2002), Globalization and Human Rights. Berkeley: university of California Press.

Burns, James MacGregor (2003), Transforming Leadership. New York: Atlantic.

Byman, Daniel, and Kenneth M. Pollack (2001), 'Let us Now Praise great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In', International Security, 25, 4, 107–46.

Carlyle, Thomas (1993), On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History, Introduction and notes by Michael K. Goldberg (Berkeley CA: university of California Press).

Ciulla, Joanne B. (ed.) (2004), Ethics: The Heart of Leadership, 2nd edn .Westport CT: Raeger.

Coll, Alberto R. (1995), 'Normative Prudence as a Tradition of Statecraft', in Joel H.

Rosenthal (ed.) (1995), Ethics and International Affairs: A Reader .Washington DC: Georgetown university Press), pp. 58–77.

Deutsch, Karl W. (1978), The Analysis of International Relations, 2nd edn. Englewood Cliffs NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Drucker, Peter F., with Joseph A. Maciariello (2006), Management, rev. edn (New york: Harper Collins).978-0-7546-7182-4 Masciulli et a23 23 25/09/2009 12:42:37

Eden, Robert (1983), Political Leadership and Nihilism: A Study of Weber and Nietzsche. Tampa FA: University Press of Florida.

Edersheim, Elizabeth Hass (2007), The Definitive Drucker. Toronto: Mcgraw-Hill.

Ferguson, Niall (ed.) (1999), Virtual History: Alternatives and Counterfactuals. New York: Perseus.

Fukuyama, Francis (2002), Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution. New york: Farrar, Straus and giroux.

George, Alexander L., and Andrew Bennett (2005), Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences.Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

George, Alexander L., and Juliette L. George (1998), Presidential Personality and Performance. Boulder CO: West view.

Gergen, David (2000), Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership, Nixon to Clinton: New York: Simon & Schuster.

Grainger, J.H. (2005), Tony Blair and the Ideal Type. Exeter: Imprint Academic.

Greenstein, Fred (2006), 'Plumbing the Presidential Psyche: Building on Neustadt and Barber', in Larry Berman (ed.), the Art of Political Leadership: Essays in Honor of Fred I. Greenstein (New York: Rowman & Littlefield), pp. 17–26.

Grint, Keith (2005), Leadership: Limits and Possibilities. New York: Macmillan.

Hamby, Alonzo (2006), 'Leadership, Charisma, and Political Cultures in the great depression: Adolf Hitler, Franklin Roosevelt, and Stanley Baldwin', in Larry Berman (ed.), The Art of Political Leadership: Essays in Honor of Fred I. Greenstein. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 17–26.

Havel, Vaclav (1990), Disturbing the Peace: A Conversation with Karel Hvizdala. New York: Knopf.

Hay, Colin (2002), Political Analysis: A Critical Introduction. New York: Palgrave.

Heifetz, Ronald A. (1994), Leadership without Easy Answers. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press/Belknap Press.

Hodgkinson, Christopher (1983), The Philosophy of Leadership. New York: St Martin's Press.

Hollander, Edwin, (1998), 'Ethical Challenges in the Leader–Follower Relationship', in Ciulla (ed.) (1998).

Hook, Sidney (1943), the Hero in History: A Study of Limitation and Possibility. New York: John day Company.

House, Robert J., Paul J. Hanges, Mansour Javidan, Peter W. Dorfman and Diping

Upta (eds) (2004), Culture, Leadership, and Organizations: The GLOBE Study of 62 Societies (Thousand Oaks CA: Sage).

Hunt, Sonja (1984), 'The Role of Leadership in the Construction of Reality', in B.

Kellerman (ed.), Leadership: Multidisciplinary Perspectives. Princeton NJ: Prentice-Hall, pp. 157–78.

Ignatieff, Michael (2004), the Lesser Evil: Political Ethics In An Age of Terror. Toronto: Penguin.

Jones, Briand. (ed.) (1989), Leadership and Politics: New Perspectives in Political Science.

Lawrence KA: university Press of Kansas.

Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink (1998), Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics. Ithaca NY : Cornell university Press.

Kegley, Charles W. Jr. (1995b), Controversies in International Relations Theory: Realism and the NeoLiberal Challenge. New York: St Martin's Press.

Kellerman, Barbara (2008), Followership. Boston: Harvard Business School Press.

King, Anthony (2002), Leaders' Personalities and the Outcomes of Democratic Elections. New York: Oxford University Press.

Kissinger, Henry (1974), American Foreign Policy: Expanded Edition. New York: Norton.

Klenke, Karin (1996), Women and Leadership: A Contextual Perspective. New York: Springer.

Norman A.S. King (2013). The challenges of managing elections in Africa. Zenith International Journal of Business Economics and Management Research. Vol.3 (5), pp.22-35

Norman A.S. (2005). Development is a war challenges and realities. TREECA: Dar es Salaam

Norman, PAWATS (2003). Globalization in developing world: What do we do? Lefkosia: Cyprus

Norman A.S. King (2013). African development bailout: Striking a balance between religion, peace and tranquility. International Journal Social Science Research. Vol.2 (5), 55-65

Nye, Joseph Jr (1999), 'New Models of Public Leadership', in Frances Hesselbein, Marshall goldsmith and Iain Somerville (eds), Leading Beyond the Walls (San Francisco: Jossey Bass).

Nyerere J. Kambarage (1974). Ujamaa Essays. McGrawill: London

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques (1987), Basic Political Writings, trans. and ed. Donald A. Cress. Indianapolis: Hackett.

Shriberg, Arthur, David L. Shribert and Richa Kumari (2005), Practicing Leadership: Principles and Applications. New York: Wiley.

Singer, Peter (2004), One World: The Ethics of Globalization, 2nd edn. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Takala, T. (1997), 'Charismatic Leadership: A Key Factor in Organizational Communication', Corporate Communication – An International Journal, 1, 8–14.

Tucker, Robert C. (1995), Politics as Leadership, 2nd edn. Columbia MO: university of Missouri Press.

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Norman A.S. King is professor of business management. He lectures in Teofilo Kisanji University, University of Iringa and Genesis University College- Genesis School of information technology and journalism. He has saved as Member of Parliament in the East Africa Legislative Assembly; UN electoral adviser, Commonwealth regional coordinator, district commissioner, and currently the president of Africa network of professional election observers. He has authored 84 International journal articles, and about 24 national journal articles. He has also authored 10 books.

DR. Montanus Cyprian Milanzi is Senior lecturer in Mzumbe University. He also lectures in Tumaini University, Teofilo Kisanji University, and Saint Augustine University in Tanzania. He has authored about 50 articles in both international and national journals. He is consultant in Management Sciences. He advocates on generation of new knowledge rather than cycling the same knowledge.

DR. Newton Kyando is Director of Open University Katavi campus. He also lectures in Tumaini University Mbeya campus. He has authored about eight articles in both international and national journals.

DR. Lucy Massoi is Deputy Principal Mzumbe University Dar-es-salaam campus. She has authored about seven articles in both international and national journals. She is consultant in local government administration.