The Role of Local Authorities in Conflict Resolution and Crisis in Cameroon

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Abstract: *From time immemorial to present date, conflict has been a tradition within our different localities. Sometimes it goes very violent with high level of destructions within our environment. The worst is that, when this occur, it is difficult to have local institutions away from the courts to quickly intervene to address the conflicting issues. As a result of this, this article highlights the importance of instituting a trusted local government institution to play the role of a conflict resolver. As a descriptive study, the paper highlighted matrimonial conflict and Intra State conflict as possible areas of intervention by municipalities in Cameroon. This study concluded that though conflict is inalienable in human interaction or total institutions, what matters is the available mechanism put forth to resolve them when they occur. As such, the study considered it necessary to equipped and empowered Councils to act as a conflict resolution body considering their proximity to the grassroots.*

Keywords: Local Authorities. Conflict and Conflict Resolution

1. Introduction

Conflict is as old as life itself among human beings and remains inevitable especially among what sociologists term 'total institutions. Total institution as coined by Erving Goffma, refers to places where people are forced to live in daily contact, such as schools, offices, hospitals, urban quarters, Villages, public establishment, solidarity here is often a *sine qua non for survival and performance.* Terry [1] defines conflict as the existence of opposition or dispute between persons, groups or organizations. According to Koka and Gumbi [2] conflict means a struggle (physical or verbal or emotional). It is a clash between diametrically opposing forces. It is, also, a state of non-agreement between persons that could end up in violence. In general, conflict is negation to harmonious co-existence of a people. The management of such cases is always community based, rather than being referred to some constitutionally, or ideologically, or philosophically power based groups. Resolution is defined as the act of solving or settling a problem or a dispute. Galabawa [3] considers conflict resolution as conflict management in human relations and that it refers primarily to conflict within an institution though it can also mean dispute among institutions or between institutions and the public. Conflict resolution, which has as its objective the ending of conflict between disagreeing parties, is not an easy task. It is a process that requires consideration of various aspects such as time, energy, cooperation and the context within which the conflict occurs

It is noted that, when conflict occur, in striving to resolve such difference, there is a tendency of trying to establish fair process. Stuart Hampshire [4] contend that, while we will hardly reach agreement about the substantive good in our culturally and politically diverse world, we can come close to achieving a human universal value by committing to 'procedural fairness. Thus we have developed law, legal institutions, and other procedural mechanism to try to regulate our conflicts or potential conflict as modes of conflict resolution. These processes may be handled through, judicial, legislative, and executive entities. It is paramount to understand that, law and traditional legal institutions are not the only viable means for resolving human problems. Not every human problem has a legal 'solution', many problems, even when strictly legal; never go further than the lawyer's office. The article argues that, devices which are intended to solve disputes, mainly out of court, or by the non-judicial devices should be instituted, used in the public sectors of Cameroon. Resolving conflicts is pertinent because, weather conflict is functional or dysfunctional; it has an effect on parties, institutions and community as a whole.

1.1 Statement of problem

Many people try to avoid conflict by all means, other portion blames to something or someone for perpetuating conflict. This approaches or responsive do not resolve conflict and may make the situation worst if not quickly handled in an amicable manner for the continuity of society. Conflict is a normal part of life and evitable in total institutions and can easily occur between employees, community members, ordinary member's clients or between well constituted groups and goes with heavy destructions. Sometime the desired to get problem fixed is marred by accessibility, fairness, financial cost and lack of transparency in the process etc. When this occur, a legitimate institutions, trusted by the people, accessible to all and less costly is needed to address the issue. Our present scenario present an ugly one, the rampant occurrence of conflict within our surrounding goes unresolved and sometimes goes violently, accompany by some level of destruction. Worst is the lack of a local institution to rapidly intervene to reverse the situation. Ideally, Local authorities as the voice of the voiceless can play such a role as decried above, if empowered with conflict resolution potentials to propagate social cohesion in Cameroon.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Local Authorities in Cameroon

Cameroon is a bicameral parliamentary republic with two levels of government, national and local (regions and councils). There is constitutional provision for local government in Cameroon following law no Law No.96/06 of 18 January 1996 [5], as amended in the Constitution of 2 June 1972 [6]; in it article 55. Many laws have followed given specific orientations on how these bodies should function, the most recent is the 2019 law [7], before this law, regional and local authorities were governed by the Law No.2004/17 [10] on the Orientation of Decentralization, Law No.2004/18 [8] on Rules Applicable to Councils, and Law No.2004/19 [9] on Rules Applicable to Regions. In 2019, a new law came in place governing the local authorities in Cameroon which gives a special status to the South West and North West regions with the operationalization of the regions. The Law No.2019 / 024 of the 24th December 2019 on the general code of regional and local authorities of Cameroon reiterates in the general provision, section2: (1) that the local authorities of the Republic of Cameroon shall be Regions and Councils. Paragraph 2 further stipulates that, this entity shall carry out their functions with due respect for national unity and solidarity, territorial integrity and the primacy of the State. The Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development is responsible for government policies on local government administration. There are 374 local government / councils, consisting of 360 municipal councils and 14 city councils. These bodies have legal personality and administratively and financially autonomous under public law and ensure economic growth and social stability within their respective jurisdictions. For these institutions to meet the economic and social stability the environment with which they operate must be free of conflict, in case of ongoing conflict they must be an institution to intervene quickly to assure a serene atmosphere. Due to proximity of the local government institution to the people, they fit in the role of a conflict resolver if empowered, not only to intervene between disagreeing individual's, for example on matrimonial issues, but can play a major role on conflict between two armed groups within a State. Their role can come before, during and the post conflict area. They have to be embedded with extra admirable qualities that promote trust, with a strong moral standing especially those incarnating them.

3. Methodology

The research work adopted a descriptive designed. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources, sub themes generated based on the interviewed carried and content was analysed. So far 10 Mayors actively took part in the interviews.

4. Results and discussions

4.1 What are the moral standing expected of local authorities to play a role in conflict resolutions

In responding to this question, 8 of the mayor were on affirmative that, local government is indispensable in conflict resolution. Four (4) of the Mayor content that, the role of local government in conflict could be more legitimate and trustworthy depending on how serviceable they are in meeting the aspirations of citizens and how conflict free themselves. The outbreak of the Cameroon Anglophone crisis and the divided perception of mistrust held by many citizens within the municipalities could be well handle by Municipalities, consequently, such perceptions are gate-way or fertile ground to nurse grievances and attitudes that later manifest into violence if not managed very friendly. So it is imperative to have a fair mechanism, accessible to all to address disagreement, considering the fact that, Councils are the first organization that are closer to the people, designed to positively respond to the needs of the local and managed by those whom they have locally elected to represent them. If embedded with the skills of conflict resolutions and are effectives and efficient in their institutional functions, will boost legitimacy in the eyes of citizens and viewed as a trusted institution to carryout mediation or reconciliation in moments of conflict.

While two of the interviewer further explained that, for local government to intervene on issues involving disgruntled parties they must have some sort of integrity, moral standing of those managing it, in case of a mediating role. His view is in concordance with Article 4 [10] of the EU Mediation Directive introduced in 2008; which states that, to ensure the quality of mediation "Member States shall encourage, by any means which they consider appropriate, the development of, and adherence to, voluntary codes of conduct by mediators and organisations providing mediation services, as well as other effective quality control mechanisms concerning the provision of mediation services". Furthermore "Member States shall encourage the initial and further training of mediators in order to ensure that the mediation is conducted in an effective, impartial and competent way in relation to the parties." A code of conduct necessary to gain credibility for this role is imperative at the level of local government. Mediation skill or Knowledgeable in conflict resolution can be gained by the local authorities through training especially after their election and reelections. Paramount amount all is to gain the trust of citizens for the local government to act as mediator. The local bodies can gained the interest of the local elected official based on concrete actions, this will give them more legitimacy and make the population believe in their action whenever needs arises. Endeavor to avoid all form of discrimination while embracing togetherness and treat people equally irrespective of their political, religious and ethnic affiliations, grosso modo adhere to public service principles such as, equal accessibility to all. Neutrality at this institution is of importance to achieve the role of a conflict resolver and the trait of empathy, Patience and Alertness must be embedded within the institution.

Empathy; a LG should be adaptable to the different locations and varied personalities they will encounter, maintaining a non-judgemental position at all times;

Patience and tact; tenacity of purpose can make the difference between a structure that which is merely good and one who is superior, a good structure should not be the one that would be easily discouraged by non-cooperation;

Alertness; an ability to concentrate and listen to the information provided, constantly evaluating the information for both its value and veracity.

4.2. Effective service delivering, a gateway to fight against conflict

All of the ten interviewers agreed to the fact that, effective service delivering is a panacea to conflict. People get easily angry as a result of frustration. Matrimonial conflict is common because, some home can't have access to good basic services and programmes to improve livelihood. One of them explained that, basic services such as education, health, empowerment programs and local roads can be provided efficiently and effectively by local government institutions when accompany by adequate finance. And the local governments should be endowed with sufficient authority to perform the roles assigned to them. Needless to say, poor distribution of services and goods at the local level leads to massive discontents and frustration among the people deprived of basic services.

One of the Mayor highlighted the part of social justice as a tool to reinforce credibility of the local government institute, decentralized local governance is an alternative system of governance where a people-centered approach to resolving issues is followed to ensure economic and social justice. The entire process should be for locating people at the centre of power so that they become the basic engine of the development process and not, as hitherto, merely beneficiaries. There is a need to see the evolution of local governance through decentralized processes along a continuum. According to Kothari and Mathur merely setting up local self-government bodies does not necessarily amount to the advancement of democratic politics and realization of social justice. A local government can be an effective weapon for channeling local pressures, articulating, and aggregating local interests which may not necessarily coincide with the idea of central government. It can provide a forum for political education not only for the party leadership but also for the general population who would be able to appreciate the utility of this basic level of government. This, of course, presupposes the superior capacity of local people to understand and conduct local affairs. It can plan with its superior local knowledge, for enhancing social Justice and enlarging options for livelihood. Local governance enhances active popular participation in local development process aimed at enhancing justice for the weaker section of the society. Moreover, a local government can also perform two indirect functions: first it can prevent the emergence of alternative power centers at the local level that are usually not subjected to influence and authority of the state, and second, it can be used to decongest the government at the higher level (s),

thereby freeing national or regional leaders from unnecessary involvement in local issues.

Local governance is crucial for the development of democracy and offering space for resolving conflicts. Local politics deal with polices that are of direct concern to each community. Local infrastructure and public services are decisive for many basic needs of citizens. Local elites are confronted with the problem of resource allocation, of setting priorities for these public goods. They have to deal with economic and social conflicts rising in the community Jacob and Linder [11]**.** A more democratic elected officials is more likely to play the role in conflict resolution that a non-democratic local government institutions. These authorities by dent of their becoming responsive to citizens mitigate local conflicts and tensions.

Another area pertinent to local government is their role in matrimonial disputes as asserted by one of the respondent. These institutions play an advisory role in conjugal issues, thus the promotion of happy marriages and stabilities. This body can also play a veritable role in protracted crisis like the ongoing crisis plaguing the English Regions in Cameroon. In moment of crisis, Local governments due to their proximity to the population, stand a better chance to react in all the stages of crisis i. e prevention, management and reconstruction. Their role can be seen below in all phases of a conflict or crisis.

5. The role of local governments in the phases of crisis

5.1 Pre-crisis

This is the initial stage of crisis. The actions are preventive or preparation phase identifying referents in all sectors susceptible of being affected by crises. Local governments without technical capacity, have the responsibility to identify resource persons, from the private or the public sector. Due to the porous nature of must municipality in terms of technical capacity, the deconcentrated services through the supervisory authorities can accompany them. The provision of services during this phase is indispensable. Municipality must intensify their action with the grassroots to access pertinent information that can help hem address issues under contestation. Each municipality must also be familiar with the various groups, tensions, and potential sources of conflict.

Municipalities can play a role in crisis by establishing a crisis preparation plans laying out decisions and actions to be taken in a crisis. Existing diagnoses help local elected officials and technical agents identify the available means, resources and technical skills which can be called upon as a first response in case of emergency. These plans describe emergency actions to be carried out, sector by sector. Local officials must for example establish what needs to be done to rapidly communicate with inhabitants to provide emergency information through social networks, traditional media. This plan must include measures for the rapid deployment of territorial security services. In Cameroon with the outburst of instability in every Conner, there is absolute need of a well structure plan for rapid intervention on internally

displace person as a result of the current Anglophone crisis, as population displacements are a recurring event within the present context.

Pooling diagnoses: This is imperative as it open possible of having a draft of a national plan for crisis prevention and preparation through the sharing of ideas. This bottom-up mechanism would strengthen State capacity through more detailed knowledge of their territories. The local collectivity can occupy a central or leading role in the fight against instability, for instance the initiative to institute crisis prevention and preparedness mechanisms such as crisis watch mechanisms, control mechanisms, assessment and prevention measures, participative democracy, among many others should be welcome. The local councils can achieve this with the presence of other national organisation such as the "International crisis group" organization,

Ideally, one should be able to tie a more territorial approach and analysis grid into existing monitoring activities. Cameroon municipalities must be fully involved in monitoring tensions on their soil of the sphere of influence. By their proximity, they are more capable of recognizing warning signals of a crisis or conflict, take appropriate measures or alerting competent authorities. Councils watch tool could be developed to monitor tensions and alert the population. Councils can hold quarterly meetings to address identify grievances and to resolve existing issues directed to the Municipality. Each of these actions can be considered possible strands in decentralized cooperation partnerships, or can become projects funded by councils union. Most European local authorities have experience in assessing risks and drafting local risk prevention plans and/or territorial security plans. It is obvious that simply drawing up an identical plan is not the answer; effective and efficient planning happens through sharing experiences, methodology and knows how in risk management this would be extremely useful to local authorities in situations of crisis.

5.2 The role of local governments in the implementation of a crisis response plan:

All conflict or dispute occur within a specific local governments were they exercise their command; as a result, local government should play a front line role when confronted with crisis through provision of a rapid response after the identification and assessment phases, to do so they must implement conflict management plan.

1) They must immediately alert actors in the area; in the case of a conflict that witnesses an influx of refugees, the municipality must respond in the provision of basic needs and activate the water and waste management actions. Local elected officials can, alongside their referents in these two sectors, put previously established emergency measures into effect

2) Communication: Local officials and municipal technical agents must broadcast information to the population concerning the situation, the procedures to be followed, how they can be of use to the community, contact details, etc. Local governments must use both traditional means of communicating (printed press, radio, television, leaflet distribution) and innovative ones (social networks, etc.).

3) Carrying out an assessment: Using monitoring and assessment tools, local governments most estimate the cost of the situation and provide figures as to the cost of indispensable humanitarian needs to face the new situation, in the short, medium and long terms. Recurrent needs are water, waste disposal, housing, electricity, health care and education.

4) Contacting potential donors: By identifying their needs, local governments can provide precise information to donors and emergency organizations as to what is most necessary. This relationship with the donors is necessary for local authorities to be able to identify the most vulnerable and to channel aid in their direction. Municipalities in Cameroon must especially those in the English regions can jointly launch an appeal to international solidarity, giving precise details as to the immediate needs of displaced person within the regions.

5) Establishing decentralized cooperation as guided by the 2011 Prime Ministerial text [12], here councils cooperate on particular domain whose goal is geared towards ensuring a stable environment. The international community of local governments can be of potential help in territorial management in a situation of conflict. Union of Councils and decentralized cooperation gives possibility to work together, as individuals or within a network, to raise emergency funds to send to their colleagues, and/or to send personnel and experts to the field to accompany and provide technical support to the affected councils, the united City and Councils in Cameroon andthe association of regions of Cameroon can play formidable rule in this directive. For instance in France, it is such moments that municipal networks such as Cités Unies France can decide to open an emergency fund and call upon solidarity from French municipalities to raise funds to be used in the future efforts at rebuilding the territories devastated by the crisis. Within the present context in Cameroon on the ongoing conflict, the presidential reconstructed plan need to integrated municipalities in the implementation of it agenda, Local governments must serve as their referents and information relays. They can ensure access to the territories and populations by providing information as to which areas are high risk, access routes, and local specificities, also Municipalities can greatly assist in the removal of armed groups from the bushes to the DDR centers in Cameroon. They help coordination actors and humanitarian aid by providing meeting rooms and sharing assessments and diagnoses, in sum by being "territorial experts". Aid coordination is particularly important for effective crisis response and expertise must be recognized at the municipal level. Local governments and humanitarian aid organizations should be able to find coordination mechanisms for a more effective collaboration between services for the good of the populations, and to avoid setting up parallel bodies which could weaken local governance and effective crisis management.

In situation of conflict, councils touched must try to keep the upper hand over their basic functions by adapting to the new situation triggered by the crisis, through the eminent supply of basic needs such as food, lodging, health care facilities,

transportation, waste management, etc. and advice to inhabitants to minimize the scope of the crisis. To do so they must have access to emergency funds and possibly technical expertise support from their partners.

5.3 The post-crisis phase

This requires a long term assessments to be carried out during the conflict in the municipalities concerned which also requires the voting or putting in place of a budget to enable local authorities to intervene once the emergency phase of the crisis is over. If these assessments, communicated to donors and the union of local governments, bear fruit, affected municipalities must implement rehabilitation projects but must also consider the crisis as an opportunity to rebuild a resilient territory, in keeping with the principles laid out in the "Build Back Better" approach. In the presence context of the ongoing crisis effecting the English part of Cameroon, this approach is paramount, more to this, the implementation of the presidential plan to reconstruct the both regions, local authorities of Cameroon are given some privileged but not at the center of this program. Local authorities should be integrated fully to provide essential data for this program and constitute the follow up team to ensure effective reconstruction within their different municipalities. For councils to effectively play the role of reconstruction or intervene in the post conflict area, interventions are expected at three dimensions.

1) Projects
Projects must be mounted to reflect what has been destroyed or reflect priority need. The project designed by the affected municipality should be proposed to partner of councils and international donors. They must be linked to the Build Back Better approach for a more resilient territory and, over time, sustainable development. During the presentation of the designed project or proposal phase, municipalities can facilitate concerted negotiations as they have the advantages of legitimacy and proximity. For the project to be rapidly accepted or adopted for sponsorship by donors and/or partners and its implementation to begin, the project proposals must contain:
a) The main conclusions of the assessment;
b) The area (s) of priority (and justification of the choices);
c) A matrix of the logical framework describing the general and specific objectives of the identified project (s);
d) Expected results;
e) The activities to be organized and the partners (humanitarian organizations, the private sector, etc.) who will implement the project (s);
f) The necessary technical (material and human) needs;
g) A draft budget; and
h) Mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the project.

Regarding this phase, good practices can be drawn from experience countries such as Mali and the Central African Republic and could be taken as models for conflict-stricken territories. The city of Bangui for example drafted a precise project containing most of the elements necessary to implement a concrete project to foster the return, among others, of city markets.

2) The second phase deals with receiving of funds.
Once a project has been accepted or validated by the donors and partners, the funds which either take the following appellation, solidarity funds, subsidies, exceptional funds, are sent to the stricken municipality which, overseeing the project, redistributes the sums, at times billing services, to those involved in the project (construction companies to rebuild public infrastructure, or NGOs specializing in local democracy building). Once again, the local government plays the role of coordinator by informing and holding of regularly meeting with the various stakeholders for rigorous monitoring of project implementation, to ensure that work is progressing on schedule, to solve any problems encountered by the partners, etc. Local government is also in charge of putting in place mechanisms to assess and monitor the program in the short, mid and long terms, they to submit weekly reports, allocating funds for audits, etc. and managing communications both with partners and local constituents on the project's progress. Within the present context of the presidential plan to reconstruct the North West and South West Regions Cameroon, local authorities are eminent in the discharged of the duties mentioned supra. When requested or needed, municipalities can call upon technical support for this phase, and their partner local governments can establish agreements for technical support for the stricken municipality. Moreover, partner local governments can serve to guarantee project assessment and follow-up in partnership frameworks to reassure donors and ensure proper use of the funds. This is imperative in European Union funds; whereby the partners can get such funds toexecute in the effected Councils. It is difficult for some amount of funds to be given directly to councils that have no track records in managing huge amount, the partner is of paramount in such situation.

3) Use an integrative approach in the project.
Most lucrative projects lost their value when abandon especially when sustainability was not well censored. In other to guarantee sustainability, legitimacy should be guarantee by strengthening democracy and governance, involving the inhabitants through a participatory approach is a panacea to sustainability. All decentralized cooperation projects, and more broadly local development projects, take into account local democracy. Projects implemented in a situation of post-conflict reconstruction should particularly insist on this point, those that reinforce social cohesion, reconciliation and peaceful relations. Throughout the implementation of reconstruction projects, local authorities must give regular updates to their constituents on the project's main objectives, progress made in the various actions, and expected results. They must hold public meetings, create work groups with the various local administrative services in charge of the project, etc. The ending of a crisis can be the opportunity to better take into account the principles of participative democracy, a key element in territorial development, and, in the longer term and on a larger scale, can reinforce State and institution building.

The post-crisis phase can therefore provide an opportunity to reconstruct a more resilient State. Assessing results and designing a crisis management system: In the long term, once projects are completed, local governments should

report on the final assessment of the project. Such an assessment would also serve to better understand risk and crisis management comprehensively. It should highlight good practices, which elements in the system gave the best results in terms of prevention, preparation, management and reconstruction, and which should be improved or changed, as well as what elements should be added. The assessment's conclusions would partake in the crisis prevention/preparation phase since they would show how to optimize prevention and preparation plans, would make any necessary changes to existing tools and mechanisms, and would continue the work on consolidating territorial resilience. Local authorities have the necessary capacities to play a major role throughout the cycle of risk and crisis management. Moreover it would seem that their participation in crisis management could be a means to reinforce the entire State apparatus by linking questions of crisis resolution to territorial development and local governance.

6. Strategies to handle conflict within municipalities

Zartman's Strategies

Conflicts are inevitable in human interactions but what matters is how the conflicts are resolved for societal continuation. The, Zartman's six-fold strategies is of utmost importance [13].

1) Reconciling

It involves the bringing together of disputing parties around a table by a neutral party in order for the feuding parties to bury their hatchets. In the parlance of labour relations, this strategy is otherwise called bargaining or negotiating. In either way, parties in dispute are called together to clarify the points of conflict and reach a peaceful compromise. In the case of local administration, this is a very invaluable strategy and it is hereby recommended.

2) Allocating

It is often adopted by the government when Reconciling does not prove very effective in conflict resolution. Here, the government intervenes directly and determines what each of the disputing parties gets as share or payoff.

3) Institutionalisation

The third strategy and it refers to the totality of institutional procedures both at the administrative and legislative levels in resolving conflicts. In other words, it is the application of rules or institutional procedures for the purpose of resolving conflicts. Moreover, the judicial decision is also part of the institutional procedure. It implies that, the feuding parties can seek redress in the law courts.

4) Submerging.

It "refers to government initiatives that overcome the conflict by putting forth new program, higher goals, overarching concerns, or reframe perceptions [14]. This strategy is found very suitable in local government administration. Within the current crisis in Cameroon, the local government authority can put in place new programmes, or set superseding goals and policies. In this way, the local government authority would have tactically

submerged the conflict. It is equivalent to 'shifting the goal posts during the match'.

5) Adjudication

Here the local government boldly comes out with a clear policy statement regarding who is right and who is wrong in a particular conflict situation. This is an important strategy, which most governments usually shy away from adopting. Even in clear cases of justice, government finds it difficult to adjudicate without fear or favour. After properly constituting panels of inquiry, the white paper, or even the reports of those panels may not be allowed to see the light of the day. In this connection therefore, the local government system across the country should adopt this strategy more often in local governance and it will mark the beginning of their role in conflict resolution.

6) Repression

It is peculiar to authoritarian government where popular participation is discouraged or not allowed. It is the deliberate practice of stamping out conflicting agents or groups through intimidating means, which may include arrest, detention, assassination, tactful elimination or banishment. This strategy is not a democratic one but can only be used to suppress a revolutionary on subversive movement. Addition to the Zartman's six-fold conflict strategies proposed for municipalities, the opting strategies remains very important and necessary too, it requires that a dissatisfied member opts out without taking up arms against the other party. In this type of strategy, the two parties only disagree on mutual policies but could survive virtually independently of each other. The dissatisfied feels the best option is simply to opt out without designing devastating actions. Opting out could be streamline and encourage by municipalities to citizens to avoid violence.

7. Conclusion

Since conflict remains inevitably in all human location / habitations, the essence is to look for institutions closer and trusted by the people with appropriate strategies to address grievances when they occur, within a municipality, not necessary a judiciary. The local government institutions due to their closeness to citizens befit this role. To successfully gain the trust of the people as a conflict resolver, they must ensure to be conflict free themselves; shun exclusive pursuit for selfish desires, hypocrisy and should popularize their legitimacy based on concrete actions through service delivering, also be of high moral standing, coupled with high display of knowledge of human relations. Have a good mastery of the three phases of any crisis and the intervention strategies to be used.

8. Suggestions for Further Research

As the findings of this research are based on the role of local authorities precisely councils in conflict resolution, there is need to conduct a more field surveys on the role of traditional authorities in conflict resolution in Cameroon.

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