

Crisis of Governance and Poverty in the City of Likasi

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Abstract: *In this study we seek to demonstrate to what extent the governance crisis is a major obstacle to the development of an entire people. The underdevelopment that characterizes Congolese society has both endogenous and exogenous causes, which are reflected in several factors or explanatory variables. In the city of Likasi, despite enormous potential for mineral resources, under the helpless gaze of its leaders who apparently do not seem to know or want to make any effort to solve the problem of poverty in a common and sustainable way, things seem to be stagnant and give no hope of a better future.*

Keywords: Governance Crisis, Poverty

1. Introduction

In this article we will briefly give a humble contribution to the explanation of the phenomenon of poverty in the city of Likasi, trying to find the causes in the crisis of governance. Indeed, we start from the assumption that the Likasi Town Hall is going through a period of relative observance of the rules of good governance, which makes it almost absent on the poverty reduction scene.

Here we will try to give a practical scientific support for those who exercise political power to carry out actions developing in this part of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For a very long time, the population seems to be abandoned to it and is going through disastrous periods on all levels, particularly in the political, economic and social spheres. In view of the above, our basic concern is to elucidate the impact of the good governance crisis on the absence of poverty reduction.

Since the socio-economic factor is a factor in assessing the level of development of a country, the level currently facing the Democratic Republic of Congo is the level that does not correspond to all the potentialities it possesses. If, therefore, we find at Likasi Town Hall a relative observation of the rules of good governance, this would not lead to a harmonious reduction of poverty in the whole city. This is what we will try to demonstrate the most in this analysis.

To address this theme, we will explain some terms first before determining the impact of the governance crisis on poverty and conclude.

2. Background

1) The notion of governance crisis:

The concept of good governance was invented by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, with a view to channeling and directing the aid and loans they grant to developing countries, with a view to combating mismanagement and corruption dilapidation of these aids and loans.

However, experience shows that the concept of good governance in itself bears the democratic essence through the mechanism of institutionalized citizen participation, seen as a mode of social and political organization oriented towards the maximization of social welfare and the reduction of social welfare human and social costs¹.

Governance can be defined as the set of modalities of determination (or choices) of the political regime, of appropriation and exercise of political power.

It focuses on the type of regime, the stability of the political system, the method of selecting political leaders, the representation of men and women, the credibility of the electoral system, the distribution and balance of power, respect for of the rule of law, the weak capacity of institutions to play their role, the weakness of civil society and the media, etc.

According to G. HYDEN and M.BRATTON (2005), governance is the conscious and organized management of the regime's structures in order to strengthen legitimacy in the political sphere.

The crisis of governance is nothing more for this HYDEN and M.BRATTON (2005) than the non-respect of the rules of governance whose indicators are as follows:

- a) Political stability and the absence of violence;
- b) Productivity and sustainability;
- c) Control of corruption and quality of regulation;
- d) Legitimacy and political accountability;
- e) The rule of law, a fair, autonomous and reliable justice system;
- f) Responsible administration and effective management of public services;
- g) Transparency, accountability and efficiency of mixed case management;
- h) Freedom of information and expression;
- i) Participation and freedom of association;
- j) State cooperation with civil society organizations;
- k) Effectiveness of government (skills)...

¹AfDB, Economic and Financial Governance According to the Vision Developed by the African Development Bank. www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/economic-financial-governance/overview/.30may2013

2) The notion of poverty

Poverty can be subdivided into two types, which include:

A. Absolute poverty:

Absolute poverty is the situation of people who do not have the minimum amount of goods and services for a normal life. It is therefore the non-satisfaction of essential needs. It is absolute or great poverty designating a situation in which people do not have the necessities of life that would ensure their survival. For example, they may suffer from famine, lack of clean water, real housing, enough clothing or medicine, and struggle to stay alive. This is a common situation, especially in cities that do not have considerable wealth or are not exploited.

B. Relative poverty:

Relative poverty is about people who are worse off than most other members of the community. In other words, those who are below a threshold based on average earnings are considered poor by begging for the population to which they belong.

According to BOUTILLIER M (2002), said that because of poverty, this person can be disadvantaged in many ways: unemployment, low income, unhealthy housing, inadequate health care and obstacles to his access to learning throughout from life, culture, sport and recreation. It is often marginalized and excluded from participation in activities (economic, social and cultural) that are the norm of other people and its access to fundamental rights may be restricted. For example, children growing up in poverty are more likely to suffer health problems, to be less successful in school, and to become the next generation of adults at risk of unemployment and long-term poverty.

C. Causes of poverty:

Poverty can have many causes, including:

- a) The lack of natural resources;
- (b) State mismanagement;
- (c) The absence of distributive justice;
- (d) Inadequate infrastructure;
- (e) The deficient industrial organization;
- f) Lack of capital;
- (g) Psychological reasons;
- h) Etc.

3) Governance and Poverty Crisis in the City of Likasi

According to some studies, the profile of poverty as experienced and expressed by the Congolese population during community consultations and / or opinion polls is multidimensional. It differs according to the place of residence and varies from one city to another. In addition, perceptions of poverty are differentiated according to specific social groups. Perceptions of poverty revolve around a few dimensions of people's experiences, some of these dimensions are tangible (such as unmet basic needs, deterioration of factors of production and low access to basic social services) and other intangibles (this is the case of the lack of peace, the culture of impunity reinforcing corruption, injustice and exclusion).

4) Governance and Poverty Crisis in the City of Likasi

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5) The challenge of poverty in the city of Likasi.

a) To health:

The city of Likasi has an area of 245 km² and a population of 506,670 inhabitants; we have 61 health facilities, and 42 doctors².

Simple calculations will allow us to understand the difficulty of the city in this area:

- 506,670 people over 245 km² or 2,068 people per km².
- 245 km² / 42 doctors that gives 6 km² for 1 doctor.
- 245 km² / 61 structures that gives 4 km² covered by 1 structure.
- 506,670 people for 61 sanitary structures mean 8,306 people for 1 health facility.
- 506,670 people for 42 doctors led to 12,064 people for 1 doctor.
- 61 structures / 42 doctors provide less than 2 doctors per medical facility.

In short, a doctor must cover 6 Km² alone and support a population of 12,064 people. A structure must alone serve 4 km² 8,306 people with less than 2 doctors.

b) Education

The pupil enrollment figures expected to be on school show that the 5 to 9 age groups are 81,989, 10 to 14 are 54,633, 15 to 19 are 54,210 which makes a total of 190,832 who would be entitled to education; unfortunately 101,316 are on the school bench with 2,727 Teachers³. So we have 53.09% of students in school and 186 students per teacher.

c) C. Employment

Population: 506,670 people.

Workers registered in Likasi: 2,543 + 3,951 of the GCM, SNEL and SNCC = 6,494 workers or 1.2% of the population of Likasi⁴. So we have 506,670 inhabitants of Likasi - 6,494 workers = 500,176 people without jobs or 98.7%.

d) Basic diet

- Number of consumption units: 506,670 people (men, women and children).
- Tonnes of maize produced in 2014: 41,735 tons for 506,670 consumers⁵.

² Activity Report of Likasi Medical District / Fiscal 2013

³ Promo-scolaire 2014, 2013-2014 school year, Urban sub-division of EPSP / Likasi;

⁴ Activity report of the Urban Labor Inspectorate and Social Insurance / Fiscal 2013;

⁵ Likasi City Council Activity Report / Fiscal Year 2014;

- 41,735 tonnes x1000 kg = 41,735,000 kg of maize produced.
- 41,735,000 kg / 506,670 consumers = 82 kg of maize per year per consumption unit.
- 82 kg = 82000 g / 365 days = 225 g corn / day is little more than a glass of corn.

This demonstrates the inadequacy of local production from the point of view of staple food and the dangerous external dependence of the city. However these agricultural production statistics are to be taken with reserve because they do not necessarily reflect the reality because of the abundance of the informal.

6) The city hall facing the challenge of poverty

a) Governance of the city

Projects

Here are some steps taken by the city council to reduce poverty. These are mainly the different projects that the Likasi City Council presents.

Entity-specific projects are listed as follows:

- a) Rehabilitation downtown market: 47,343,000 fc.
- b) Rehabilitation peace market: 20 192 000 fc.
- c) Rehabilitation building Administration mairie.
- d) Residency residence of the mayor, deputy mayor and head of urban division.
- e) Rehabilitation building basin of the city. (c + d + e) = 110,000,000 fc.
- f) An amount of 250 000 000 fc is foreseen to build some small buildings which can house the offices of the districts, the stadium of the city but the details on these projects are not provided.

In fact, most of these projects remained almost a dead letter (this is the case of the development of the city center market and the development of the Kikula peace market), those that were started did not succeed. (This is also the case of the completion of the construction of a meeting room at the city center amusement park, the completion of the construction of the Kanona sports stadium).

Moreover, all these projects have nothing to do with the vital areas of the inhabitants of the city that we just mentioned above. No project in the field of health, education, employment, etc.

The budget forecasts

The financial autonomy of the city of Likasi is justified by the development of its own budget in which it forecasts its revenues and expenditures without referring to the province or the central government. Its budget is financed by the revenues whose sources are as follows:

- The annual fee for issuing the license;
- The special tax of road traffic;
- The daily sales tax at the public market of the city;
- Various consumption taxes on beer and tobacco;
- The tax on the area of mining concessions;
- The tax on the area of forest concession;
- The firearms license fee;
- The burial tax;

- The hygiene tax
- Tax on sales of precious materials from artisanal production, etc⁶.

The sources of the aforementioned revenues that finance the city budget allow it to intervene in the various areas of local life namely: the old people's home, the orphanage, the fuel for the PNC in view of the security of the city, road accidents, construction of some gutters in the city, etc.

The budget estimates, which seem fanciful, do not reflect anything that ensures any fight against poverty. They are often made for the purposes of reports required by the hierarchy, it has nothing to do with reality. If we take the case of the budget 2013, which amounts to 2 797 994 492, 64 fc, the expenses concerned the public debt, the staff, the goods and materials, the expenses of transfer and interventions, the equipments, the construction, rehabilitation or rehabilitation. These last three points seem to concern the development, in fact it is about some modifications affecting the offices (liming), houses of the authorities.

b) The governance crisis and poverty.

The legal aspect

To demonstrate the problem of legality in the governance of the city of Likasi, we will content ourselves with the most recent case. Since 2008 a law has been passed for the organization and operation of ETDs. We do not need to critically analyze this law, but it turns out that it is the legal framework that gives legality to the exercise of power in ETDs. It sets the organs and their competences, the mode of accession to this power, the relations between organs, between ETD and between the State and the ETD as well as the resources. In short, all that is needed for a minimum of operation is in the legal texts.

Unfortunately these texts have experienced or are experiencing enormous difficulties in their applications. The organs have never been equipped with animators chosen according to these texts. In other words the city has been managed for 8 years, by organs that are placed out of all respect for the text that organizes it. During all this time there was only one mayor of the city appointed, in the absence of the important body of decision.

Hence, there is a fundamental problem. Is the appointed mayor competent to assume the roles of all bodies whether legally or in fact?

On the legal level, in addition to being appointed is not provided for by the legal texts, but its powers are limited: largely it is there to execute the decisions of another body.

But in the absence of the other organ, can it exercise all the attributions?

At first, this distorts the democratic game inherent in the decentralization system. Secondly, extraordinary capacities are needed to take into account the diverse and divergent

⁶Budget estimates / financial year 2014;

interests of the entire population. Indeed, the presence in the councils of the people representing the people simply means the representativeness of all the tendencies and all the possible interests. Which brings the people closer to power?

Finally, there is an ambiguity in the application during the transition between the different texts. Indeed, while the organs linked to the new text are not yet installed, will it continue to follow the old text whose organs were also not installed? The legal framework is therefore a difficulty in the exercise of skills, in the city of Likasi, so this crisis is really effective.

In our opinion, it suffices to demonstrate the absence of decisions in the vital areas of life. Because if the bodies authorized to decide and control the execution in these fields were installed we think that there would be even some positive actions well realized.

The practical aspect

The reality of poverty in the city of Likasi is such that it affects many aspects of people's lives and limits access to the fundamental rights of the people concerned. The latter are often confronted with a whole range of inequalities that reinforce each other to close the trap of poverty. This limits the possibilities for the people concerned to achieve their full potential.

For example, a person who is relatively poor in a rich country generally suffers less than material deprivation than someone who lives in a country whose overall standard of living. In this type of country, poverty can be much more extreme, you will be much more likely to miss necessities and your survival will be more like a struggle; however, since the overall standard of living is lower, there may be less relative poverty ie less difference between the poor and the standard of living of the rest of the population. This can give rise to misunderstandings about the perceived poverty and may downplay the seriousness of some groups, especially in some towns in the province of Upper Katanga. Of course, the worst situations are to be found in cities where the standard of living is low and the level of relative poverty is high.

This can lead to misunderstandings about the extent of poverty and may downplay the severity of poverty affecting some groups, especially in some cities in the province of Upper Katanga. Of course ; the worst situations are to be found in cities where the standard of living is low and the level of relative poverty is high.

The city of Likasi lives in a deplorable situation following its governance by having projects that have nothing to do with the reduction of poverty in the city of Likasi. The power of the city is perceived only as a sense of annoyance, of ransom, as if it does not exist in the sense of development.

When addressing this issue, the justifications are multiple (lack of means not retrocessions, etc.) which demonstrate not only the incapacity of the rulers but also the ignorance of the existing possibilities and the lack of political will.

3. Conclusion

In conclusion, we will simply say that it is better to manage the situation realistically and concretely than to take measures without calculating the duration of their feasibility. The country has to be managed on a daily basis, so measures must be taken for that, rather than enacting laws that come into force without any provision for their implementation.

This study is an interpellation to the public authorities national, provincial and local, and mainly those of the city of Likasi. Through these analyzes it is clear that there are serious problems of poverty in employment, education, health, nutrition, etc. but in terms of governance, nothing is done in these areas. The application of the rules of good governance hardly appears in the management of public affairs in the city of Likasi.

Indeed, we have provided evidence that demonstrates the lack of participation of the population in the management of the city, transparency remains a rare pearl, the respect of the rules of law is very rare because here, one goes until ignorance even of these rules, etc.

It turns out that in similar governance the city of Likasi must forget to one day leave this poverty which surrounds it thanks to the local authorities. It turned out that the level of poverty is not one of the lowest in the province or in the country. This is an alarming situation because of the political, legal and socio-economic problems, and so on. are very serious and urgent.

Unfortunately, it appears that the governance of the city of Likasi is unable to initiate and respond to this crisis despite the presence of certain factors of good governance. This led us to understand that the real and big problem of installing good governance in the city of Likasi is rather at the level of man.

At the first stage, we note that economic growth is a function of fiscal policy: it is the set of measures that the state takes to achieve the macroeconomic performance objectives: the good distribution of income, the stability of economy and economic growth.

Thus, to achieve these objectives, the public authorities must use financial means that will come from taxation in particular and other revenues in general, hence the implications of mining taxation are positive on economic growth because it participates positively in state budget.

Thus, for the smooth running of the development, we wish the setting up of the effective mechanisms of control of the management of the resources, the transparency in the perception and the improvement of the receipts.

This situation has long embarrassed the decentralized entities, which in any case does not in our view, allowed their good governance. We dare to believe that the upcoming municipal elections will allow ETDs to emerge from this crisis and have positive development impacts.

A local proverb says: "It is the wood that is held in the hand that allows killing the snake".

To say that the limited resources available to the city could contribute to some extent to the reduction of poverty.

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