UPNG UPDATE 2022

By Mr. Russel Yangin

Political Party Presence in 2022 election: Section 63 of the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties (OLIPAC) and its impact on the taggepera and laakso Index
Question

• How is section 63 of the OLLIPAC salient in establishing visibility political parties after 2002?

• Using the Taagepera and Laakso index to calculate the strength of effective number of party (ENP) seats shares won by dominant political parties (i.e. NA, PNC & PANGU) after 2002
• PNG exhibit a weak party system
• Electoral Volatility _ Taagepera and Laakso index to calculate high electoral volatility 1977 – 2002
Objectives of OLLIPAC 2001

- The OLIPPAC reforms have two key objectives

1. to stabilise and encourage the development of political parties through new rules that regulate the formation, composition and funding of parties

2. to stabilise the executive through provisions that limit how MPs can vote on a motion of no-confidence against the executive, as well as establishing rules for the formation of government, defections from political parties and offences for breaking the law, and imposing restrictions on independent MPs.

- Note: In 2010 certain section of the OLLIPAC breached section 50 of the constituting however the court upheld section 63 of the OLLIPAC
What is section 63 of the OLLIPAC

Section 63

- preceding an election of the prime minister, the largest party in parliament is invited to nominate a person to seek the majority endorsement in the house and hence to form government (even though he or she may not at this stage have the largest coalition of parties)
Taagepera and Laakso Index (1979) calculate the strength of political parties in the party system

- Taagepera index is a mathematics formula to calculate the strength of a political party seat in a political party system

\[ \text{ENP} = \frac{1}{\sum (p_i^2)} \]

- When there is Visibility of political party the ENP decrease, No Visibility the ENP increases

- In dominant two party system the ENP = 2 – 2.6 indicating a strong or dominant party system. In a multiparty system the ENP will be more than 3 – 6 indicating a multiparty system.
ENP Calculation by Okole, 2006

**Table 2**

The number of post-election parliamentary parties, 1972–2002

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of parties in parliament</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laakso/Taagepera Index (effective number of parties)</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.74</td>
<td>9.29</td>
<td>12.60</td>
<td>15.99</td>
<td>16.16</td>
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*Notes:* (1) The numbers in Table 1 are somewhat higher than those calculated by Lijphart (*Patterns of Democracy*, 76) for PNG.

**ENP = 1 / sum (pi^2)**

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Number of parties in Parliament (NOP)
Effective Number of Party per seats (ENP)

source: Okole (2006)
ENP calculation an extension from Okole 2006

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<td>11.85</td>
<td>10.74</td>
<td>9.23</td>
<td>6.52</td>
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Number of parties in Parliament (NOP)
Effective Number of Party per seats (ENP)

Source: Okole (2006)
Figure 1: Percentage of seats won by the largest party

ENP = $1 / \sum (p_i^2)$

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What is the story?

- Taagepera and laakso index of calculating the strength of political parties indicate that after 2002 there was a decline of ENP from 16.16 in 2002 to 6.52 in 2022.
- After 2002 more winning candidates (MPS) are joining political parties.
- Political Parties have not yet fully developed, however OLLIPAC and in particular section 63 of the OLLIPAC have positively affected the visibility of political party in election after the 2000 reform.