

## The Impact of Political Interference in Decision Making on The Performance of Local Government Authorities (LGAS) in Tanzania: Case of Temeke Municipal Council in Tanzania

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### ABSTRACT

*This study assesses the impact of political interferences in decision-making on the performance of one local government authority in Tanzania, Temeke Municipal Council. Specifically, this research had two aims: the first one was to identify areas where political interference occurred most and the second was to assess the impact of political interferences on the social services delivery performance. In pursuit of the Wilson's Orthodox theory in realization of classical models, this study adopted a case study research design and quantitative research approach. The study population was 358, comprising administrators and politicians. A simple random sampling method was used to select 97 administrators in the sample, while a purposive sampling method was used to select 1 Director and 91 politicians in the sample of 189 respondents. The data was collected through questionnaires and analysed quantitatively using descriptive analysis, Pearson's Correlation and multiple regression analyses with the help of SPSS software. The study found that the political interference was statistically significant (with  $p \leq 0.05$ ) in hiring of technical experts, revenue collection & expenditure together with developing social services, and taking disciplinary measures. The research also found that the political interference in the decisions of local government namely budgeting and budget allocation, revenue collection and expenditure, developing social services, taking disciplinary measures, and reporting positively influence social service delivery at the Municipality. There were exceptions when it comes to the political interference in the hiring of technical experts as the results show that it negatively affects the social service delivery of the local government. The research concluded that the interference or rather the interaction between the politicians and administrators in the local governments should be guided by laws so as to tap the benefits which lead to the advancement of Temeke Municipality.*

**Keywords:** Local Government Authorities, Performance of LGAs, Political Interference, Politics-Administration Dichotomy

### I. INTRODUCTION

One of the topical issues in public administration over the decades is the politics/administration dichotomy specifically the political interference in the public service/ bureaucrats (Chandra, 2022; Mngomezulu 2020; Peters & Pierre, 2022; Wilson, 1887; Yusuph & Guohua, 2017). This has been more visible in most of local governments because they directly handle issues of the interests to the public. Globally and in Africa in general, political interference in decision-making is arguably one of the problems affecting local government authorities (Mamokhere 2022). Political interference occurs when political or government officials influence the decisions or activities of institution which is supposed to operate independently. For local government authorities the activities prone to political interference include the allocation and use of public funds for different social services such as constructions of roads and schools, hospitals as well as other administrative management of staff especially on disciplinary decisions (Mfuru *et al.*, 2018).

Across the globe countries have experienced different degrees of political interference across time and regimes in power (Peters & Pierre, 2022). The politicians have been finding it necessary to interfere or to be involved in a decision-making process by the administrators due to different reasons. Some are motivated by the need to see improvements and believing that close engagement with lower organs and departments will improve performance. This is linked with trust issue; not trusting the will or competence of the subordinate authorities (Peters and Pierre, 2022).

Another line of argument is that the political interference occurs because some nations' institutions do not provide a clear separation between political and administrative duties making politicians able not only to oversee but to direct administrators on what they should or should not do or even to politicize administrative position through the appointments of senior staff (Peters & Pierre, 2022). Considering the differences in priorities and interests, the two groups tend to struggle or stack to arrive at many decisions especially the financial ones, which, in turn, may affect the

performance of the LGAs in social services delivery. Report on LGAs in Nigeria reveals that political interferences were negatively and significantly related to the performance of the LGAs (Usang & Salim, 2016).

Although LGAs are the leading representatives of Central governments worldwide, they are likely to face the challenge of being influenced by politicians at the local and central government levels. This has been observed in countries of Africa (Mamokhere, 2022); Mfuru *et al.*, 2018). In Tanzania, political interference in the decision-making processes has been evident over the years in the history of the LGAs (Mfuru *et al.*, 2018; Warioba, 2008).

In an attempt to see whether or not politicians should be separated from administrators in the LGA setting, several studies were conducted, and the findings were inconclusive. Some studies found a negative effect of political interference on local governments performance (Agbor and Okon 2019; Usang and Salim 2016). Other studies however, Rogger (2018) and Njunwa (2020) demonstrated that political interference was not harmful and asserted that when it was completely lacking, the performance of the organisations was negatively affected (Njunwa, 2020; Rogger 2018). These mixed results calls for further research on the area with a particular focus on whether the interference benefits citizens or not in as far as social service delivery is concerned. Hence this article has two aims: the first one is to identifying areas where the political interference occurs most and the second is to assess the impact of political interferences on the social services delivery performance. The study will focus on one urban local government authority, the Temeke Municipal Council, which is one of the five municipalities of Dar es salaam, Tanzania other being Kinondoni, Ilala, Ubungo and Kigamboni. The municipal councils in Tanzania are authorizing by the law to collect revenue from their jurisdictions and to provide social services. The law also gives power to the Minister responsible for local government to intervene in many functions and powers of these urban local authorities (Maqoko & Asmah-Andoh, 2019)

### 1.1 Statement of the Problem

The performance of the LGA in Tanzania is affected as a result of the disruption of the political interferences between the duties of politicians and administrators. The problem is caused by the failure of the laws of creating policies and distinct responsibilities of the LGAs and Politicians. Even through the Tanzanian Constitution clearly defines the role of government separately from that of public administration and, although the public sector is important for freedom of governance, government is considered to be within the discretion of public officials but politicians have been seen to get in the jurisdictions of public administrators.

Several studies conducted to explore impact of political interferences in the decision making by the administrators as well as to whether the politicians and administrators should be separated are inconclusive. Example, Agbor and Okon (2019) revealed that political interferences have negative effect on performance of the organizations. But Njunwa (2020) demonstrated that political interferences were not bad and if it was completely lacking the performance of the organizations was negatively affected. Maqoko and Asmah-Andoh (2019) posited that there is uneasy in political interference regarding political and administration regarding provision of services and management of LGAs resources. Also, Mngomezulu (2020) explain that political interference in the management of services is a major problem in many municipalities, which face serious difficulties in managing the impact of politicians and authorities. Unnecessary political interference in management issues and relations between the political elite and local government leadership appears to be the order of the day. A situation above creates opportunity for conduct of researches to explore whether or not political interferences account for a positive or negative effect on the performances of the LGAs .

### 1.2 Research Objectives

- i. To examine the impact and role of both Politicians and Public administrators based in mutual trust and understanding at Temeke Municipal Council.
- ii. To assess the magnitude (efficiency) of political interference in decision making process at Temeke Municipal Council.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Theoretical Review

#### 2.1.1 Wilson's Orthodox Theory

Wilson's Orthodox is the prominent theory widely used to understand, explain, and give future predictions about political interference in public administrative organs. Woodrow Wilson developed this theory in the early 1887s due to the increase in the politics-administration debate among many scholars and practitioners, indicating that there should be a clear distinction between politics and administration (Wilson 1887). Wilson argued that the field of administration is a field of business and lies outside the proper sphere of politics; thus, administration questions should not be political questions. Yusuph and Guohua (2017) in studying the application of the New Public Management (NPM) in Tanzania

argued for the autonomy of local government from the central government pointing to the negative aspect of political interference to the application of professionalism of local government officials.

Given the above, Wilson's Orthodox theory was relevant to this research because the local governments in Africa (Agbor and Okon 2019; Mamokhere 2022; Mbatha and Mutereko 2021; Mngomezulu 2020) and specifically in Tanzania (Masoud 2023; Yusuph and Guohua 2017) are characterized by political interference. Consistent with that, Dini and Shayo (2022) used Wilson's Orthodox Theory to assess the effects of the dichotomy between politics and administrators in the decision-making process in several Districts in Tanzania. Also, Njunwa (2020) adopted Wilson's Orthodox Theory to examine the interaction level between elected and appointed officials in the implementation of health and education infrastructure projects and to investigate the contribution of political-administrative relations in the construction of health and education infrastructure projects at Morogoro District LGA. Terrance (2023) conducted a systematic analysis of literature on political interference in South African Municipalities, also applying Wilson's Orthodox theory. Equally, Wilson's Orthodox Theory is applied in this article to assess how political interferences in decision making affected performance of the Temeke Municipal Council.

The theory has three models, the classical model, the village model, and the adversarial model. We chose these three models to capture as broad a picture as possible, including any changes in the politico-administrative relationship that reflect the actual situation in Tanzania.

*The village model* in this model there is no clear separation of roles between politicians and administrators. Politicians and administrators frequently interact. They participate in political debate and ideas and both provide advice on the implementation of policy decisions. Political decision-making and its implementation are somewhat linked. That is to say, politicians themselves will sometimes perform tasks that are administrative in nature, such as collecting taxes or acting as supervisors over the execution of projects, and administrators will undertake activities that are typically political in nature, such as acting as interest brokers between different social groups. Under the village model, together politicians and administrators form a closed community. The members of this community share norms and values. The village model is based on mutual trust and respect and faithfully follows the decisions that are the basis of decisions shared by the community (de Ridder, 2016). Given these characteristics, the level of conflict between politicians and leaders will be low.

*The classical model* of politico-administrative relations stems from patriarchs of public administration science; for instance, Weber and Wilson say it is characterised by a clear separation of roles between politicians and administrators, with the former focusing on political decision-making and the latter on the neutral, non-partisan impact of decision-making (Rogger, 2018; Rosenbloom, 2008).

*The adversarial model* characterises a constant power struggle as politicians and administrators attempt to obtain or control decisions. While politicians set their policy priorities and influence policy implementation, administrators attempt to protect their values and make political decisions. The main assumption is that experts and politicians have their own goals and strive to achieve them (Rogger, 2018).

Overall, the research stated above raises a debate; for some scholars, political interference in decision-making negatively affects the performances of the LGAs, while for others, political interference is good because when it is completely lacking, the performance of the LGAs will also be affected negatively.

## 2.2 Empirical Review

### 2.2.1 The Impact and Role of both Politicians and Public Administrators Based In Mutual Trust and Understanding

According to Uronu (2023), decision making is a cognitive process resulting in the selection of a course of action among several alternatives. He argues that every decision making process produces a final choice which may or may not prompt action. Usang and Salim (2015) noted that LGAs should decide upon delivery of variety of social services and other community improvement projects in their local jurisdictions while also considering the Government plans, priorities, policies, laws, regulations, budget, resources, politics, needs and expectations of the public. Agbor and Okon (2019) reflect that political interferences in LGAs are likely to occur in the decision making process relating to developing social and economic infrastructure, budgeting and budget allocation, revenue collection and expenditure, hiring of technical experts, taking disciplinary measures against staff and procuring of goods and services. According to Terrance (2023), political interference in decision making process is said to occur if there are the influences exerted by higher level of the Government or politicians to shape the courses of action to be chosen or implemented by the administrators in the LGAs.

Dini and Shayo (2022) noted that political interferences in decision making process affect the performance of LGAs. They related performance of LGAs with accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, fiscal health, financial soundness, revenue autonomy, consumer satisfaction, fiscal strength, responsiveness, quality of service, financial outcome, and financial performance. Masoud (2023) measured performance of the organization using qualitative measures namely; i) uninterrupted supply of water, ii) extension of water supply to new areas, iii) supply of clean water

and iv) prompt maintenance of water infrastructure. In views of the cited authors performance in the public sector organizations implies many things and various measures. So, in this paper performance of LGAs implies service delivery measured by availability, promptness and dependability of the social service delivered by Temeke Municipal Council (Peters & Pierre, 2022).

### **2.2.2 The Magnitude (Efficiency) of Political Interference in Decision Making Process**

Mngomezulu (2020) studied political interference in the uMlalazi Local Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, finding that decisions by municipal managers favored wards led by the ruling ANC party, which received more development project allocations than opposition-led wards. This political bias caused burnout among municipal staff, who felt pressured to compromise their professionalism. The ANC's policy of appointing its members to senior positions contributed to these issues. Similarly, Maqoko and Asmah-Andoh (2019) highlighted conflicts between politicians and administrators in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, negatively impacting social service delivery. In contrast, Njunwa's (2020) study in Morogoro Municipality found that cooperation between elected and appointed officials can enhance project implementation, suggesting that while tensions can arise from overlapping roles, effective collaboration is possible when challenges are addressed. Political interference affects various decision-making processes in local government, including budgeting, hiring, and procurement (Agbor & Okon, 2019).

On the other hand Mbatha and Mutereko (2021) examined the relationship between political interferences and corporate performance in four public Universities in Uganda. The results showed that political interferences in decision making negatively affected performance of the public Universities. The researchers measured political interferences using number of politicians who were involved in decision making processes of the public Universities. They recommended that political interferences may be reduced by limiting number of political appointees among public Universities.

In the same trail Rogger (2018) investigated the consequences of granting politicians power over bureaucrats in the implementation of small scale public infrastructure projects in Nigeria. The study assembled a nationally representative data set from Nigeria which tracked public projects from inception to audit stage. The results showed that over 18% of the likelihood of the project to be launched was influenced by political interferences. The researcher stated further that the interference accounted for over 15% of the cost of reducing project quality and increased report on misuse of fund. Based on the stated findings, political interferences have both positive and negative results. That is to say politicians interfere in the decision making is likely to compel administrators to take certain action which they could otherwise not undertaken but such interference is likely to decrease the quality of the decision or actions undertaken by the administrators.

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

The study deployed case study research design whereas normally, a case study research design involves conduct of an investigation within a single or few contexts within which the problem takes place. This situation made the use of case study research design suitable for this study in order to gain insights and understanding about the political interferences in decision making of the administrators which were taking place at Temeke Municipal Council and their impact on the performance of Temeke Municipal Council LGA in service delivery.

### **3.2 Study Population and Sample Size**

The study population comprised all administrators and politicians at Temeke Municipal Council who were 358 in total. It was due to stated feature made all administrators and politicians suitable population of this study.

### **3.3 Sampling Techniques**

The sampling techniques used were probability sampling and non-probability sampling techniques. The probability sampling technique used was stratified to select a sample of 97 individuals comprising the Heads of Departments, Units and Sections, Ward Executive Officers and Mtaa Executive Officers. The stratified sampling method was preferred because it enabled the avoidance of biases, ensured randomisation of the members in the sample and ensured the representativeness of each stratum in the sample. The non-probability sampling used was a purposive sampling that made a selection of 92 individuals, comprising one municipal director, 16 councillors, and 75 street chairpersons, in the sample.

### **3.4 Data Collection Methods**

The study used a primary source of data because it aimed to obtain instant data on the political interferences within the context of Temeke Municipal Council, where it took place. In that regard, a structured questionnaire was

used. The constructs of the questionnaire were adapted from relevant reviewed literatures, Wilson's Orthodox Theory and classical models. The political interferences in the decision-making instrument contained 11 items, while the performance instrument contained three. Finally, two types of the Likert scale of 5-points were adopted for rating the responses of the respondents on each item. A total of 189 copies of the questionnaire, equal to a total number of individuals in the sample, were distributed to respondents by the researcher and two research assistants using the drop-and-pick-later technique. The performance of LGAs in service delivery is measured by the availability, promptness, and dependability of the social service delivered by the Temeke Municipal Council.

### 3.5 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed quantitatively using descriptive analysis, multiple regressions and Pearson's Correlation. The questionnaires were examined for the completeness. All 189 distributed questionnaires were returned, fully and correctly filled, which made a response rate of 100%. Afterwards, the data were coded by assigning numbers as tags. The data for the demographic characteristics of the respondents were coded by assigning numbers from 1 to 7 depending on the classifications of the demographic variable concern. However, the data for research variables (political interferences in decision-making and performance of in-service delivery) were coded by assigning numbers in accordance with five scales of the responses from 5 = for the highest response to 1 = for the lowest response. The coded data were recorded in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program version 25.

The data Reliability of the research instrument used was tested using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. Typically, the reliability of the instrument increases as the value of Cronbach's Alpha coefficient approaches 1.0, whereby a good reliability scale must be  $\geq 0.7$  (Edrak et al. 2013).

## IV. FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Descriptive Analysis of the Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Demographic characteristics (age, gender, education level and work experience) of the respondents were distributed as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
*Age, Sex, Education Level and Work Experience of the Respondents*

Variables	Classifications	Respondents	Percentages
Age	Between 18 and 24 years old	2	1.1
	Between 25 and 34 years old	19	10.1
	Between 35 and 44 years old	69	36.5
	Between 45 and 54 years old	75	39.7
	From 55 years old and above.	24	12.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Gender	Male	98	51.9
	Female	91	48.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Education levels	No formal education	1	.5
	Primary education	10	5.3
	Secondary education	24	12.7
	Technician certificate	33	17.5
	Ordinary diplomas	45	23.8
	Bachelor degrees	38	20.1
	Master degrees	36	19.0
	PhD	2	1.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Work experience	Less than 5 years	39	20.6
	5-10 years	58	30.7
	11-15 years	51	27.0
	Above 15 years	41	21.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Based on the data presented in Table 1, the respondents were distributed into different age groups from 18 years old and beyond which is the age group of productive workforces in most of workplaces. That enabled to incorporate the

perspectives on the respondents from different age into the datasets of this research which increased the quality of the data.

Regarding gender, Table 1 shows that the respondents were distributed fairly between males and females where 51.9% were male and 48.1% were female. This was useful to incorporate the perspectives of both male and female genders in the datasets, avoid gender biasness, and increase the validity of the research results.

Again, Table 1 shows that the respondents were distributed into different education levels, with those who had no formal education being 0.5% of all respondents. The majority of the respondents attended formal education from primary education to PhD. This depicted that most of the respondents had a good understanding and interpretation of the research subject, which helped to provide true, reliable, and valid research data.

Furthermore, Table 1 indicates that only 20.6% of all respondents had experience of less than five years. The rest had work experience of over five years. These results mean most respondents were familiar, knowledgeable, and understood the organisation well. Hence, they could provide accurate, valid, and reliable research data on the interactions between political interferences in decision-making and the organisation's performance in service delivery.

## 4.2 Descriptive Statistics

### 4.2.1 Magnitude (efficiency) of Political Interference in Decision Making Process

The first objective of this study was to identify the impact (extent) of politics in the decision-making process of Temeke Municipal Council. Is the performance of local government efficient or inefficient that the politician interferes? What is the motive behind interference? These were questions which were covered in this objective. So, the study constructed questions on four groups of decisions which were thought to be made by administrators at the organization and then the respondents provided their responses on the level of involvement or control by politicians in each decision. Eventually, magnitude of political interferences in each decision was computed using the Index of political interferences (IPI) which involves averaging sum of the responses on the involvement of politicians in the decisions ( $\Sigma S$ ) by total number of respondents ( $n$ ) who were 189 for this particular research. IPI assumes the values from 1 'no involvement at all' to 5 'complete involvement'. The values of IPI obtained by the decisions were as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2**  
*Index of Political Interference among Decisions*

S/N	Decisions	$\Sigma S$	n	IPI
1	On the matters related to the interests of the citizens such as schools, healthcare and security.	783.0	189	4.1
2	On the matters related to economy such as levying, market, infrastructure development, etc.	758.0	189	4.0
3	On the matters related to finance and expenditures such as construction projects, purchase of assets, etc.	765.0	189	4.0
4	On the matters of employment such as recruitment, disciplinary proceeding, etc.	688.0	189	3.6

According to the IPI values presented in Table 2, the magnitude of political interference in organizational decision-making is generally high. On the matters related to the interests of the citizens such as schools, healthcare and security, the value of IPI was 4.1. The IPI value translated that the magnitude of involvement of politicians for decisions on the matters related to the interests of the citizens at Temeke Municipal Council was high.

Also, Table 2 shows that the value of IPI for decisions on the matters related to economy such as levying, market and infrastructure development was 4.0. The IPI value supported that the magnitude of involvement of politicians for the decisions related to economy such as levying, market and infrastructure development Temeke Municipal Council was high.

Also, it indicates that the value of IPI for decisions on the matters related to finance and expenditures such as construction projects and purchase of assets was 4.0. The value of IPI tells that the magnitude of involvement of politicians for the decisions related to finance and expenditures at Temeke Municipal Council was high.

Moreover, the findings obtained in Table 2 explain about the decisions on matters of employment such as recruitment, disciplinary proceeding, etc., had the value of IPI = 3.6. The value mirrors that the magnitude of involvement of politicians for the decisions related to finance and expenditures at Temeke Municipal Council was high.

The overall results show that there is a high level of political interference in the decision-making process of the Temeke Municipal Council. The phenomenon occurred across all decisions which were made by administrators on the matters related to the interests of the citizens, economy, finance and expenditures and employment.



### 4.2.2 The Impact of Political Interference in Decision Making

This research aimed to identify the decisions interfered by the politicians of Temeke Municipal Council and whether or not they affected the efficiency of the local government. The study constructed mostly likely decisions which were thought to be made by administrators at the organisation and then the respondents provided their responses on the level of involvement or control by politicians in each decision. The eight common areas of decision making where political interferences were thought to occur included; budgeting and budget allocation, revenue collection expenditure, developing social services, procuring of goods and services, developing economic infrastructures, taking disciplinary measures, the hiring of technical experts, and reporting.

The analysis was done using correlation and regression analysis and results in Table 3 were generated using the SPSS software to explore the Pearson's correlations to establish the relationships between the identified variables for measuring interference of politicians in public activities.

**Table 3**  
*Political Interferences in Various Decisions*

Correlations		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Budgeting and budget Allocation	Pearson Correlation	1							
	Sig. (2-tailed)								
	N	189							
Revenue Collection & expenditure	Pearson Correlation	.139	1						
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.057							
	N	189	189						
Developing Social Services	Pearson Correlation	.651**	.436**	1					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000						
	N	189	189	189					
Procuring goods and services	Pearson Correlation	.132	.299**	.459**	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.071	.000	.000					
	N	189	189	189	189				
Developing economic infrastructure	Pearson Correlation	.466**	.230**	.321**	.238**	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.001	.000	.001				
	N	189	189	189	189	189			
Taking disciplinary measures	Pearson Correlation	.377**	-.175*	.221**	.478**	.079	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.016	.002	.000	.282			
	N	189	189	189	189	189	189		
The hiring of technical experts	Pearson Correlation	-.129	.634**	.254**	.287**	.047	.096	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.078	.000	.000	.000	.519	.191		
	N	189	189	189	189	189	189	189	
Reporting	Pearson Correlation	.401**	.159*	.221**	-.211**	.511**	.150*	.485**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.029	.002	.004	.000	.039	.000	
	N	189	189	189	189	189	189	189	189

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The results presented in Table 3 explain the strongly positive significant correlation between budgeting and budget allocation with developing social services, developing economic infrastructure, taking disciplinary measures and Reporting ( $p=0.000$ ), revenue collection and expenditure ( $p=0.057$ ), procuring goods and services ( $p=0.071$ ), hiring of technical experts ( $p=0.078$ ). Also, there was strongly positive significant correlation between revenue collection & expenditure and developing social services, procuring goods and services and hiring of technical experts ( $p=0.000$ ), developing economic infrastructure ( $p=0.001$ ), taking disciplinary measures ( $p=0.016$ ) and reporting ( $p=0.029$ ). Moreover, developing social services correlated with procuring goods and services, developing economic infrastructure, hiring technical experts ( $p=0.000$ ), taking disciplinary measures, and reporting ( $p=0.002$ ). Additionally, procuring goods and services had a strong positive significant correlation with taking disciplinary measures and hiring technical experts ( $p=0.000$ ), budgeting ( $p=0.004$ ), developing economic infrastructure and reporting ( $p=0.000$ ), and hiring technical

experts and Reporting ( $p=0.000$ ). From the above results it can be shown that almost all variables were significantly correlated, therefore the variables are moving together-interference in one variable can lead to the interference in other variables.

### 4.3 Multiple linear Regression Results

Additionally, the influence of the independent variables was examined using multiple regression analysis to examine changes in the variables as we have seen in correlation the summary of the result based on SPSS is explained in the Table 4.

**Table 4**

*Regression analysis on Impact of Political Interferences in Decision Making on the Performance of Local Government Authorities*

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square		Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	.886 <sup>a</sup>	.784	.775		.14954		
Model			Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
			B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)		.588	.070		8.422	.000
	Budgeting and budget Allocation		.116	.066	.141	1.763	.080
	Revenue Collection & expenditure		.274	.074	.315	3.701	.000
	Developing Social Services		.147	.061	.178	2.412	.017
	Procuring goods and services		.119	.093	.172	1.281	.202
	Developing economic infrastructure		-.071	.083	-.103	-.859	.391
	Taking disciplinary measures		.237	.108	.343	2.191	.030
	Hiring of technical experts		-.416	.094	-.470	-4.426	.000
	Reporting		.005	.063	.006	.074	.941

a. Dependent Variable: Impact of Political Interference in Decision Making on the performance

The regression results show that 77.5% (Adj R Square =0.775) of the variance impact of political interference in decision making on the performance of local government performance was attributed to politicians interfere with budgeting and budget allocation, revenue collection and expenditure, developing social services, taking disciplinary measures, hiring of technical experts and reporting. The remaining percentage (22.5%) is due to interactions with other elements/variables that were not studied in the present study. This suggests that there is a positive relationship between political interference and the performance of Temeke Municipality.

However, it has been shown that among studied factors for analysing the extent to politicians have interfered with performance of local government the statistically significant predictors of the impact of political interference were hiring of technical experts( $p=0.000$ ), revenue collection & expenditure ( $p=0.000$ ) together with developing social services ( $p=0.017$ ), Taking disciplinary measures ( $p=0.030$ ). On the other hand the political interference in the hiring of technical experts negatively impact the performance in social services delivery ( $\beta = -.470$  and  $p=0.000$ ).

Therefore it can be said that the political interference at Temeke Municipal council brought positive results with the exception of the engagement of politicians in the hiring of technical experts.

### 4.4 Discussion

Based on the results, political interferences on the decisions for developing social service infrastructure, procuring goods and services, budgeting and budget allocation, taking disciplinary measures against staff and developing economic infrastructure positively affected the performance of Temeke Municipal Council in service delivery when measured by availability of social services, promptness in social service delivery and dependability of social services. The results showed lines of agreement with several researchers. Rogger (2018) reported that over 18% of the likelihood of the project being launched in Nigeria was positively influenced by political interference. However according to his study the chances of completion were negatively affected by this interference. Our study is slightly different as we measured performance in general terms. Our article disagrees with Mfuru et al., (2018) who argued that Tanzania politicians interfere unnecessarily in public administration matters, exploit the public officers and present an exaggerated picture of public administration officers' work.

Our study supports Wilson's village model. The model recognizes unclear separation of roles between politicians and administrators. Politicians and administrators frequently interact. The politicians not only make policies but also they have interest to see to it that the policies are effectively implemented (Peters and Pierre, 2022). This is not necessarily bad even though it violate the separation of powers doctrine. Both politicians and administrators had their goals and operations, the former being the policy-making and supervisory of the latter while the latter being the



implementer of such policies by political interferences in the decisions for developing social service infrastructure, procuring goods and services, budgeting and budget allocation, taking disciplinary measures against staff and developing economic infrastructure. The lines between the two is blurred and one cannot say it should not be so unless the social service delivery is jeopardized as seen in other studies where the interference had negative impact (Mamokhere 2022; Mbatha and Mutereko 2021; Terrance, 2023).

The results are in line with Njunwa's (2020) research from Morogoro District Council in Tanzania narrated that the existence of a good relationship between administrators and politicians was associated with the high mobilisation of project resources, increased public participation, improved trust, minimised conflicts of interest and ensured transparency and accountability in the projects. His findings support that political interferences positively affect the performance of organisations, which is a similar case for political interferences on the decisions for developing social service infrastructure, procuring goods and services, budgeting and budget allocation, taking disciplinary measures against staff and developing economic infrastructure, which affected positively the performance of Temeke Municipal Council in service delivery.

Our study results are different from a study by Agbor and Okon (2019) who reported that undue political interferences undermined the efficient administration of public water supply and prevented operations of the Cross River State Water Board Ltd in Nigeria. Likewise, Mafuru et al. (2015) offered a similar line of results revealing the existence of tension between politicians and administrators in Tanzania due to the political interference. In their study however, they revealed that the interference was two way and was sought for; sometimes the administrators were also seeking the political influence as support to get their projects going.

Our study also revealed that hiring of technical experts if interfered by the politicians can negatively affect the performance of the local government. This was also reported in other studies where it was revealed that administrators could not practice professionalism due to being loyal to their appointing officer. These administrators usually make biased decisions in allocating projects victimizing the wards who elected councilors from the opposition parties (Maqoko and Asmah-Andoh 2019; Mngomezulu 2020) .

The solution to problems that arise due to interference needs the suggestion of a village model that assumes that politicians and administrators work together and use their capabilities and authority to develop better plans and projects. The tensions between the two should be resolved by mutual understanding and team building. This will solve the conflict especially when both see other their authority is neglected as shown in other similar studies (Mafuru et al. 2016) .

## V. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Conclusions

The conclusion drawn by this article is that political interference in decision-making persisted at Temeke Municipal Council LGA. However, such interferences accounted for both positive effects on the performances of the LGAs in social service delivery. So, the article urges that the areas in which politicians and administrators should interact to enhance the performance of LGAs must be clearly stipulated by the laws and regulations which govern LGAs. Such areas should include developing social service infrastructure, procuring goods and services, budgeting and budget allocation, taking disciplinary measures against staff and developing economic infrastructure. However, such laws should limit political interference in decisions related to the hiring of technical experts for the sake of the performance of LGAs in social service delivery. This is because of political interferences the hiring of technical experts leads to a decline in the performance of LGAs in social service delivery.

### 5.2 Recommendations

The recommendations of this study rely within the existing policy and legal documents which establish and confer power and responsibilities to the politicians and administrators in the LGAs such as the Constitutions of the United Republic of Tanzania, Local Government Authorities Acts and by Laws. The areas which politicians and administrators should interact to enhance performance of LGAs should be adequately and clearly stipulated by the stated documents. Such areas should include developing social service infrastructure, procuring goods and services, budgeting and budget allocation, taking disciplinary measures against staff and developing economic infrastructure.

However, the stated documents should limit the frequency and magnitude of political interferences for the decisions related to revenue collection and expenditure and hiring of technical experts for the sake of performance of LGAs in social service delivery. This is because political interferences in revenue collection and expenditure and hiring of technical experts as of the present study may accompany with decline in the performance of LGAs in social service delivery.

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