

State Power Monopolization and Its Implications on Democratic Consolidation in Africa: The Realities of the Gambia

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Abstract : One of the challenges that Africa needs to overcome for the sustenance of its democratic gains is to separate the state from the ruling party to avoid the latter's attempt in monopolizing the former's resources and institutions for political supremacy. But this separation must go along with the process of depoliticizing the civil services (separation from partisan politics) which have been politicized by incumbents to register electoral successes. While researches conducted on the Gambia's democratic reality tend to have looked at a wide range of challenges confronting the country's democratic progress, this paper focuses on state power monopolization and its impediment to democratic governance in the country. The paper explores the involvement of civil/public servants in partisan politics in the Gambia. It looks at the intertwined nature of the state and the ruling party as state resources could not be separated from that of the ruling party (lack of separation between political and non-political resources) in both Dawda Jawara and Yahya Jammeh eras, and how such affected the country's democratic credential. The paper in particular addresses the need for the current government to depoliticize the country's civil service and concomitantly separate the state from the ruling party by not monopolizing the former's resources and institutions to galvanize political support.

Keywords : civil service, democratic consolidation, monopolisation, multi-party elections, public institutions, ruling party, state resources

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