

## **Essay Title: Strengthening Democracy: How Transparency and Accountability Shape Fair Elections in Tanzania**

### **Introduction**

In today's world, fair elections are crucial for any democratic society. They ensure that everyone's voice is heard and that leaders are chosen fairly. Tanzania's elections in 2019 and 2020 provide great examples of how transparency and accountability can make elections more trustworthy and inclusive.

### **Clear Electoral Laws and Regulations**

Imagine trying to play a game without knowing the rules—it wouldn't be fair! Similarly, clear electoral laws in Tanzania, like the Electoral Act of 2015, set out the rules for elections. They make sure everyone knows what's allowed and what's not, which keeps the process fair for all candidates and voters.

### **Fair Voter Registration**

Before any election, it's crucial to have a list of eligible voters that's accurate and honest. Tanzania used biometric registration systems in 2019 and 2020, which helped ensure that only real voters could vote and the use of biometric voter registration systems helped minimize multiple registrations and ghost voters. This kind of system reduces cheating and gives voters confidence that their vote really counts.

### **Independent and Accountable Election Management**

Imagine if the referees in a game were biased—they could favor one team over another. In Tanzania, the Electoral Commission (NECTA) is like the referee of elections. It's independent from politics, meaning it doesn't favor any party. It reports everything openly, which makes people trust that the elections are fair.

## **Watching Over Elections**

Have you ever had someone watch a game to make sure everyone plays by the rules? That's what election observers do. Both local and international observers were present in Tanzania's elections. They watched everything closely and reported any issues they saw. This openness helps keep everyone honest and ensures the results truly reflect the people's choices.

## **Keeping Money in Check**

Money can sometimes influence elections unfairly. In Tanzania, laws require political parties to show where their money comes from and how they spend it. This transparency helps prevent corruption and ensures that all candidates have a fair chance, no matter how much money they have.

## **Including Everyone's Voice**

Democracy is about everyone having a say, not just a few. Tanzania has made efforts to include young people, women, and people with disabilities in the electoral process. This makes sure that all voices are heard and that leaders represent all parts of society.

## **Support from Around the World**

Even though elections are a national affair, the world pays attention. Organizations like the African Union and the European Union help Tanzania follow international standards. Their support ensures that Tanzania's elections meet global expectations for fairness and transparency.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, Tanzania's experience shows that when elections are transparent and accountable, democracy thrives. By having clear laws, honest voter registration, impartial election management, vigilant observers, fair financial rules, inclusive participation, and international support, Tanzania has set a strong example. These efforts not only make elections fairer but also strengthen trust in democracy itself. As we move forward, these principles will continue to be crucial in ensuring that every voice counts and every vote matters.

## References

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