

Strathmore University.

Informatics and Computer Science.

Citizen - Politician System

101358, 102008.

***Declaration:***

*An informatics system project proposal submitted to the faculty of information technology in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the award of a degree in Informatics and Computer Science.*

26 August 2018.

# Declaration

We, 101538 and 102008, declare that this project has not been submitted in Strathmore University or any other university for the award of a degree in Informatics and Computer Science or any other degree.

**Student Signature:**

Sign ­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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# Abstract

## Background

## Problem Statement

## Proposed Solution

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

## 1.1: Background

Politicians play a major role in the economic and political sector. Many Kenyans often would love to be in positions of leadership but as we all know, not everyone is qualified. Speaking of qualifications, the law of Kenya embodied in the Kenyan Constitution gives qualifications for various political seats from the lowest to the highest. The Constitution of 2010 gives a better set of qualifications as compared to its predecessor. For example, it has considered the educational background of our leaders, stating that a leader must at least have a degree if they wish to sit in office. There are recent events between Joho and the government where his high school result slip was leaked, and it left many shocked to find out that the governor of county 001 only managed to bag a D-. The question as to whether this should have been brought to light before the 2013 elections is yet to be answered. Whether his loyal followers would still vote for him after such a revelation is still a food for thought. And the even sadder revelation is that he is not the only one who has wriggled his way into our government without the educational requirements being met. An exemplary example: 'Yaliyo ndwele Sipite.'

The Kenyan constitution was promulgated on the 7th of August 2010, leading to a devolved government and independence of the arms of government. Shockingly, not everyone really understands the work of the various leaders in the so-called devolved government. People will always demand any leader in their region to solve problems in that region without a clue as to whether the problem falls in his docket or not. This only shows us that though the constitution is within anyone's reach, there is even an application for it, but not everyone goes through it. The roles of different leaders are not understood by many people. Which is quite a sad affair, since the people with the highest number of votes are the ones living in oblivion and our leaders are quite comfortable with them like that, so that they can easily be manipulated. They would rather seat in parliament and discuss how their salaries should be raised instead of discussing how the common citizen can be made to understand the political system better.

Speaking of leaders, how do they get into office? Through elections after every five years. They can go for re-election for another term. The constitution states that a leader can only be in office for a maximum of 2 5-year terms. During campaigns the candidates manipulate people with literally anything within their reach, especially money. They will move around in their vehicles giving speeches and giving money. It is also very conventional to find them out in the streets before elections dishing out their manifestos in form of booklets in this technologically forward country. The booklets will then be thrown away after being superficially perused by mama mboga or wanjiku the common mwananchi. After which the said citizen will confidently vote for the leader without keeping in mind that the manifesto will be used to gauge the leader's performance after 5 years. And when the leaders have been voted into office after a rigorous campaign, they fulfill all except what was in their manifesto. A classic example is the laptop story. Need I say more? The leaders will then come again after 5 years, give us money, give us empty promises, we vote them in and the cycle continues.

Speaking of voting in our leaders, our country has a tense voting period. After what happened in 2007/08, the election period is normally a very tense one. It is not uncommon to find people from the outside community here to supervise our elections. Though we have tried to lighten the mood with githeri-man and funny memes about 'Yaliyo ndwele Sipite' and 'ndani, ndani, ndani kabisa', the tension is still there. What really happened in 2007? PROPAGANDA. Leaders sent out their people to spread propaganda about their counterparts leading to an uncomfortable citizen who resulted to fighting for his rights, literally. This left many citizens displaced as Internally Displaced Persons, businesses shut down and the foreign sector suffered a major blow. Kenya has never been more divided politically as it is now. It is not uncommon to hear people saying they will vote for 'mtu wao' meaning a leader who is of the same tribe. This is because after what happened in 2007/08, Kenyans cannot trust anyone who does not speak their language. So, where can we all get the valid information about our leaders? Where can we get politically informed in a safe and unbiased way? Who or what can restore our faith in our leaders after the 2007/08 events? Hold that thought.

In Summary, this is the state this nation: inflation is on the rise, evidenced by the striking motorists due to rising prices of fuel. Corruption is so rampant it is a norm in our country. A citizen can't even go to jail and serve time for his mistake just because he or she can pay off the police and make it all disappear. It’s even reached a point that the President asked, "What do you want me to do?". And to top it all off, we voted for a leader who was removed from office due to being corrupt. All due to bad leadership and empty promises by the leaders. The bible says that God’s people perish due to lack of knowledge. And the lawyers have their motto: Ignorance is no defense, from that aspect all this would not have happened if the people had information about the leaders to begin with.

Information is needed to bring change.

## 1.2: Problem Statement

Normally, during campaigns politicians present their manifestos to the citizens to gain more votes on their side. What really happens is that most of them lie in their manifestos because they barely fulfil 30% of what is stated in their manifesto. This is not right because they must be held accountable for what they promised to fulfil.

For low level positions like MCA, most of the time citizens have no idea who the person is, what he does or what he stands for. This is quite a critical issue because what happens during elections is that the citizens choose a leader who is in their line of political party hence they choose a person they don’t know and thus there is a high percent that the politician will sit on his job.

After elections once the leader has been chosen, usually the politician sets up an office where the citizens can reach to him and inform him of any problems. At times the location is too far for the citizens to access and since some don’t have adequate means to communicate with the politician it becomes hard to contact the politician. Citizens need to know have an easier way to contact their politicians and alert him of any concerns.

Citizens often follow euphoria in voting instead of analysing achievements of the campaigner in their area. This is an issue that brings about biasness for example, especially in the rural areas the citizens choose a person who belongs to their tribe even if he is not the qualified person for the position. Citizens need to be made aware of the qualification status of their leaders.

Citizens don’t get to know what to know what their politicians have done in their terms of office. This brings about confusion during re-election since some don’t know what the politician has done for his people. It may lead to the election of a lazy leader and ruling out of a good potential leader.

## 1.3: Aim

To develop an application that assists the citizens to know their politician fully and his efficiency in bringing change to the country.

### 1.3.1 Specific Objectives

1. To analyse the politician based on his promises or actions.
2. To display his political background that the public needs to know.
3. To display the achievements and downfalls of the politician during his term of office if any.
4. To design, develop and test an application that assists the citizens to know their politician and his efficiency in bringing change to the country.

### 1.3.2 Research Questions

1. Who is the politician and what has he/she done for us or what is he/she promising to do?
2. What is his political background?
3. What are the achievements and downfalls of the politician?
4. How is a political application designed, developed and tested to assist citizens know their politician?

## 1.4: Justification

## 1.5: Scope and Limitation

# Chapter 2: Literature Review

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## 2.4: Gaps in Existing System

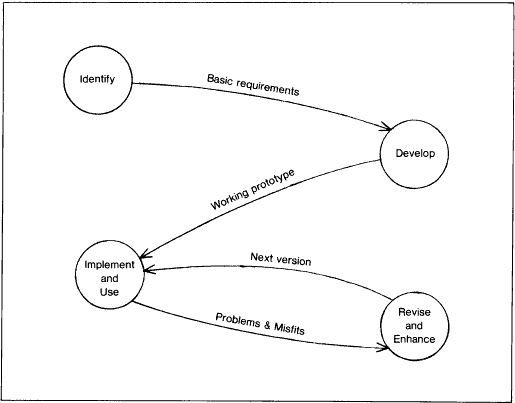
# Chapter 3: Methodology

## 3.1: Introduction

This chapter discusses the System Development Methodology, System Analysis and Design aspect of the project, System Development Tools and Techniques and the Deliverables for the project.

## 3.2: System Development Methodology

A Software Development Methodology or System Development Methodology in Software Engineering is a framework that is used to structure, plan, and control the process of developing an information system (http://www.itinfo.am/eng/software-development-methodologies/, “Software Development Methodologies,” n.d.). The Citizen - Politician Website will be developed using the Prototyping Model. The Prototyping Model is a Software Development Life Cycle Model where a prototype is first developed to allow the users to evaluate developer proposals and try them out before implementation (Naumann & Jenkins, 1982). A prototype is a working model of the proposed system.(Naumann & Jenkins, 1982)



#### Figure 3.1: The Prototyping model.

The prototyping model to be used will be the evolutionary prototyping model. The Evolutionary Prototype model is a life cycle model in which the system is developed in increments so that it can readily be modified in response to end user and customer feedback (Shafer, Press, Scott, & Bieman, n.d.). This means that the prototype eventually becomes the final product. Prototyping consists of 6 stages:

### 3.2.1 Requirements gathering and analysis:

A prototyping model begins with requirements analysis and the requirements of the system are defined in detail. The user is interviewed to know the requirements of the system. Basic system requirements are known for the Citizen – Politician Website as described on the System Objectives. These will be arrived at from Interviews with the citizens, politicians and owners of the system who will act as the administrators of the system.

### 3.2.2 Quick design:

When requirements are known, a preliminary design or quick design for the system will be created. It will not be a detailed design and will include only the important aspects of the system, which gives an idea of the system to the user. A quick design helps in developing the prototype.

### 3.2.3 Build prototype:

Information gathered from quick design is modified to form the first prototype, which represents the working model of the required system. The first prototype of the project website will be presented to users for verification and then comments from users will be used to modify the system.

### 3.2.4 User evaluation:

Next, the proposed system will be presented to the user for thorough evaluation of the prototype to recognize its strengths and weaknesses such as what is to be added or removed. Comments and suggestions will be collected from the users and provided to the developer.

### 3.2.5 Refining prototype:

Once the user evaluates the prototype and if he is not satisfied, the current prototype will be refined according to the requirements. That is, a new prototype is developed with the additional information provided by the user. The new prototype will be evaluated just like the previous prototype. This process continues until all the requirements specified by the user are met. Once the user is satisfied with the developed prototype, a final system is developed based on the final prototype.

### 3.2.6 Engineer product:

Once the requirements are completely met, the user accepts the final prototype. The final system will be evaluated and tested thoroughly followed by the routine maintenance on regular basis for preventing large-scale failures and minimizing downtime.



#### Figure 3.2: Steps in Prototyping methodology.

## 3.3: System Analysis

It is a process of collecting and interpreting facts, identifying the problems, and decomposition of a system into its components (tutorialspoint.com, n.d.). It refers to identifying the requirements of the system. The requirements include: Functional Requirements and Non-Functional Requirements. It also entails giving a system narrative or a walk through the system.

### 3.3.1 Functional Requirements.

The official definition of ‘a functional requirement’ is that it essentially **specifies something the system should do.** Typically, functional requirements will specify a behaviour or function, for example, the Citizen-Politician Website will enable its users to: **Create an account, Log into their account, define the type of account created, post a comment, achievement or critique, modify their account information and report a bug or problem.** The website will also be able to **analyse the politicians and give each a percentage score based on comments, achievements or critiques.** Finally, the system will be able to show **recently posted stories, politician information and own account information.**

### 3.3.2 Non-Functional Requirements

These describe how the system works. The definition for a non-functional requirement is that it essentially specifies **how the system should behave** and that it is a constraint upon the systems behaviour. (https://reqtest.com/requirements-blog/functional-vs-non-functional-requirements/, “Functional Requirements vs Non Functional Requirements,” 2012). One could also think of non-functional requirements as quality attributes of a system. They specify criteria that judge the operation of a system, rather than specific behaviours. For example, the project website will have the following non-functional requirements: **Availability (System and database will be online), Portability, Operational, Secure, Reliability and Usability.**

### 3.3.3 System Narrative

The Citizen-Politician Website will have a homepage. The homepage will be a page with a little bit of information about the system and hyperlinks for registering, login, and navigating to other pages like report a bug page, ask a question page or contact us page. A user will be allowed to login after successfully creating an account in the system. The user will then be redirected to the start page. The start page will have recent stories and a navigation bar to navigate to other pages. One of the pages will be the politicians’ page. This page will allow the user to search or sort politicians and view their information. It will also allow a user to post information about a politician in terms of critiques, achievements and comments. Another page will be my profile page which will have information about the current logged in user. There will also exist a settings page which will allow the user to select various settings like change profile details. Information available about the politician will be personal, political or educational. There will also exist a page where users will be able to see various rankings of politicians vying for the same seat in the same or all counties in the upcoming elections. The rankings will be a percentage score of popularity to the citizens and viability/efficiency of the candidate to the seat they are taking. All information available on the site will either come from the citizen’s module or the politician’s module but will have to be verified for accuracy by the admin module.

## 3.4: System Design

## 3.5: System Development Tools and Techniques

## 3.6: Deliverables

# References

# Appendix