A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL IN
PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER
OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

APRIL 2014
DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATION

Déclaration

This research proposal is my original work and has not been presented for examination in any other university.

Name: Yattani Isacko Diba
C50/ CE/ 11974/ 2007

Signature:  
Date: 08.04.2014

Recommendation

This proposal has been submitted for examination with my approval as the University supervisor:

Dr. Felistus Kinyanjui

Signature:  
Date: 14/11/14

Dr. Lazarus Ngari

Signature:  
Date: 14/11/14
ABSTRACT

This proposed study intends to analyse the causes and effects of ethnic conflict among the communities of Marsabit County with special emphasis on Gabra and Dassanetch communities of Marsabit North Sub-County. The researcher will study Inter-ethnic conflicts between the Gabra and Dassanetch under the period 1960 to 2011. This research will look at the effects of conflicts on access to resources such as pasture and water, livestock raids, market access by warring communities, alternative livelihoods and socio-economic expenditure and how they all combine to impact on the communities under the study. The study will be guided by Edward E. Azar’s protracted social conflict theory which emphasizes reasons why protracted social conflicts occur in developing countries by singling out deprivation of basic needs, communal identity, role of the state and the pattern of international linkages. It also identifies factors such as colonial legacy, domestic historical setting, and the multi-communal nature of the society and how they play important roles in shaping the genesis of protracted social conflict. The study will be based on three main objectives: It will examine the causes of the frequent conflicts between the Gabra and Dassanetch communities, determine the effects of economic and social dynamics of the conflict and investigate any earlier attempts at conflict resolution in order to devise more concrete conflict resolution mechanisms. In methodology, the study will adopt a descriptive survey design which will involve carrying out a survey on the way things happened. It will involve collection of data from members of a population in order to determine the current status of that population with respect to one or more variables. Descriptive survey design is appropriate for the investigation of all aspects surrounding the community conflicts in Marsabit North Sub-County since the information will be gathered directly from primary sources, summarize, present and interpret them. Purposive sampling technique will also be employed in this study to get the location or district in which the units of observation have the required characteristics, along with snowball sampling which is useful when the population that possess the characteristics under the study is not well known and therefore need to find subjects. Also the research will be obtained from the secondary information that will include the review of the previous document that included books, journal and news papers. This will provide essential procedure for the data analysis where the data analyzed will be presented in form of tables, charts and graphs. The premises of the study, several factors combined contributes to frequent conflicts between two warring communities, economic and social dynamics always influence conflict in Marsabit County and various attempts have been made to try and resolve the conflicts. Marsabit County which is home to a number of diverse ethnic communities namely; the Borana, Burji, Gabra, Rendille, Samburu, Turkana, Dassanetch and El-Molo. This diversity has made the County to experience some of the highest incidences of inter-ethnic conflict. This research is justified on the basis that many studies done on inter-ethnic conflicts have tended to neglect the Gabra and Dassanetch communities of Marsabit County. Many researches done on conflict in Somali have tended to emphasize the role of political leaders and neglect by the national government of the situation on the periphery, the proliferation of weapons but little covered with emphasis on specific conflict between the Gabra and the Dassanetch.