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# ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECT OF GOVERNORS' TERM ON MONETARY POLICY: A CROSS-SECTIONAL ANALYSIS OF SELECTED SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN CENTRAL BANKS

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## ABSTRACT

*The objective of the study was to investigate the effect of term of the governors on monetary policy objective. The research was conducted through a cross-sectional analysis. A sample was obtained from the selected 16 Sub-Saharan African central banks websites. The target populations were 52 Sub-Saharan African countries where only 16 countries were selected for the study because of the data constraints. The websites of central banks from 1996 to 2011 were used which the researcher a maximum of 288 observations. The selected countries were reached through convenience sampling procedure for the study. The study used reports from central banks to gather pertinent data. The researcher also used previous studies on the same to compare them with existing data in order to provide conclusions and competent recommendations. Data Analysis was analyzed through the use of qualitative and quantitative analysis and presented in tabular form. Data analysis was facilitated by the use of SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Scientist) and spreadsheet. The Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient was conducted to estimate the strength of the linear relationship between two random variables. Regression models were estimated using the random effects methods and tested by the Hausman random effects. ANOVA was used to test for differences among the means of the populations by examining the amount of variations between each of the samples, relative to the amount of variation between the samples. It was also used to analyze the hypothesis of the study. The study concluded that, Central Bank Independence (CBI) has long been a topic of interest given the association that has been found between central bank independence and low inflation. The study recommends Central banks to, have an independent board of directors that can serve fully their term for transparency practice, openness, honesty and trustworthiness, which is vital for an independent institution like central banks to engineer the confidence of the public domain because of its independence.*

## KEYWORDS

term of governors, monetary policies.

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The idea that an independent central bank is associated with lower inflation was supported by an important empirical literature which suggests that average inflation is negatively related to the central bank independence degree. Cukierman, Webb and Neyapti (1992) argue that "the legal status of a central bank is only one of several elements that determine its actual independence. Many central banks laws are highly incomplete and leave a lot of room of interpretation. As a result, factors such as tradition or the personalities of the governor and other high officials of the bank at least partially shape the actual level of central bank independence. Even when the law is quite explicit, reality may be very different". Thus, according to Fuhrer (1997), "legal central bank independence could be very different from actual central bank independence in countries where the practice of monetary policy deviates from the letter of the law. Measures of legal central bank independence should thus be viewed as (possibly noisy) indicators of underlying central bank independence".

According to Cukierman, Webb, and Neyapti index is based on four legal characteristics as described in a central bank's charter. First, a bank is viewed as more independent if the chief-executive is appointed by the central bank board rather than by the prime minister or minister of finance, is not subject to dismissal, and has a long term of office. These aspects help insulate the central bank from political pressures. Second, independence is higher the greater the extent to which policy decisions are made independently of government involvement. Third, a central bank is more independent if its charter states that price stability is the sole or primary goal of monetary policy. Fourth, independence is greater if there are limitations on the government's ability to borrow from the central bank. Cukierman, Webb, and Neyapti combine these four aspects into a single measure of legal independence. Based on data from the 1980s, they found Switzerland to have the highest degree of central bank independence at the time, closely followed by Germany. At the other end of the scale, the central banks of Poland and the former Yugoslavia were found to have the least independence.

Conventional wisdom holds that while fiscal policy should be made directly by democratically-elected legislators, monetary policy should be made by technocrats nominated by the democratically-elected president, and confirmed by democratically-elected legislators. The rationale for this conventional wisdom is that democratically-elected leaders inherently are given to inflation proclivities, giving to the citizenry more than it is willing to tax the citizenry and running perpetual budget deficits that would be monetized, if such leaders kept monetary policy decisions to themselves. Thus, it is argued, democratically-elected leaders are doing the citizenry a huge benefit by bestowing operational political independence to the Federal Reserve, essentially protecting themselves – and, thus, the citizenry – from their inflationary selves.

One of the solutions to this problem is to appoint a conservative central bank governor, who can place greater weight on price stability than the government does (Rogoff, 1985). In practice, Central Bank Independence could be a manner of appointing a conservative central banker. Furthermore, concerning this time-inconsistency problem, recent studies have suggested that Central Bank Independence could allow the protection of monetary policy against partisan electoral cycles (Alesina, 1988; Alesina et al., 1997) and therefore not to divert the monetary policy from its primary objective. The principal message of these arguments is



that the government suffers from inflationary bias and that, it is necessary to depoliticize monetary policy (i.e. increase the Central Bank Independence) in order to fight more efficiently against inflation.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To analyze the effect of the term of the governors (tenure) on monetary policies objectives.

## METHODOLOGY

**RESEARCH DESIGN:** According to Kothari (2005), research design is the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. It sought to observe, explain, and describe phenomena of interest without manipulating the variables or the respondents. The study was appropriate to provide secondary information.

The research was conducted through a cross-sectional analysis. A sample was obtained from the selected 16 Sub-Saharan African central banks websites. These methods were suitable as non-experimental and were only concerned mainly with explanation, descriptions and explorations of opinions, attitudes, preferences and perception, as it exists at the time of the study and to describe present conditions, events or policy based on the impressions or reactions of the respondents of the research (Creswell, 1994). The researcher opted to use this kind of research considering the desire of the researcher to obtain data from the sample so as to formulate rational, sound conclusions and recommendations for the study

**TARGET POPULATION:** According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) target population is the population targeted for the study. It refers to all the units of whatever nature that a researcher intends to study. The population refers to the group of people or study subjects who are similar in one or more ways and which forms the subject of the study. The target populations were 52 Sub-Saharan African countries where only 16 countries were selected for the study because of the data constraints. In these countries, economic attributes were observed over a period of 15 years. These were done in order to come up with a realistic information bearing in and how these economic attributes contributions to the economical development of a country.

**SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES:** The data for our sample of 16 African countries was retrieved from various sources including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Financial Statistics, Central Statistical Offices, the worldwide governance indicators (WGI) and the websites of each sixteen central banks from 1996 to 2011 which gives the researcher a maximum of 288 observations. The selected countries were reached through convenience sampling procedure for the study. The stratification of the sample allowed for diversity of views and analysis. This is possible because of the following reasons. First, sampling is undertaken due to limitation of resources and availability of the data in some other countries. Secondly is a limitation of time, finances and research personnel. Finally, it is no longer possible to use the entire population. A clearly selected sample is therefore assumed to be representative of the entire population as it enables detailed data collection and analysis.

**DATA COLLECTION METHODS:** According to Kothari (2005); there are several methods of collecting data, particularly survey and descriptive research. The data for our sample of 16 African countries was retrieved and obtained from various sources including the World Bank, IMF Financial Statistics, Central Statistical Offices and the websites of central bank.

**DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES:** The researcher then visited the respective websites banks to download the data in person. Equality data was gathered from World Bank, IMF Financial Statistics data and the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) bank for analysis.

**DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS:** The study used reports from central banks to gather pertinent data. The researcher also used previous studies on the same to compare them with existing data in order to provide conclusions and competent recommendations. Acquiring secondary data was more convenient to use because they were already condensed, organized and readily available. This was done by the researcher personally retrieving the data.

**VALIDITY:** According to Mugenda et al (1999) validity refers to the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences, which are based on the research results. Validity therefore, has to do with how accurately the data obtained in the study represents the variables of the study. If such data is a true reflection of the variables, then inferences based on such data was accurate and meaningful. The content validity of the research instrument was determined by the researcher through accuracy of the same data obtained from IMF and World Bank which provided the same data.

**RELIABILITY:** Kothari (2005) defines reliability of the research tools as the ability of that test to consistently yield the same results when repeated measurements are taken for the same individual economic factors under the same conditions. According to the study reliability therefore implies the extent to which consistent results can be achieved through the use of the same instruments with the same respondents at different intervals. This was tested by the Hausman test.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

Data Analysis was analyzed through the use of qualitative and quantitative analysis and presented in tabular form. Data analysis was facilitated by the use of SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Scientist) and spreadsheet Computer package using the following models as follows.

### DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

Measures of central tendency include the mean, median and mode, while measures of variability include the standard deviation (or variance), the minimum and maximum variables, kurtosis and skewness.

Descriptive statistics provide a useful summary of variability when performing empirical and analytical analysis, as they provide a historical account of tenure behavior. Although past information is useful in any analysis, one should always consider the expectations of future events.

### PEARSON PRODUCT-MOMENT CORRELATIONS (PMMC)

The Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient (PMCC) is a quantity between -1.0 and 1.0 that estimates the strength of the linear relationship between two random variables. It is to be noted that correlation simply describes the relationship between the two variables and does not explain why they are related. Therefore, a correlation should not be interpreted as a proof of a cause-and-effect relationship between the variables X and Y. Similar results was provided by Spearman rank-order correlation coefficient.

$$r_{xy} = \frac{n(\sum xy) - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{\{n(\sum x^2) - (\sum x)^2\}\{n(\sum y^2) - (\sum y)^2\}}}$$

Where:

$n$  = number of paired observations

$\sum XY$  = sum of cross of products

$\sum X$  and  $\sum Y$  are sum of X and Y respectively

$\sum x^2$  = sum of all the squares values of the X scores

$\sum y^2$  = sum of all the squares values of the Y scores

$(\sum X)^2$  = sum of all the X scores, this sum squared

$(\sum Y)^2$  = sum of all the Y Scores, this sum squared

### THE REGRESSION ANALYSIS

The four regression models of the structure provided below were estimated using the random effects methods where these equations are tested by the Hausman random effects. The dependent variable is regressed with the CBI indexes excluding one at a time to check the change of  $R^2$  as well the assumption made is that the depend on one another as follows:

$$M2 = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EXCH_t + \beta_2 INF_t + \beta_3 GDP_t + \beta_4 TERM_t + U_{it}$$

$$EXCH = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EM2_t + \beta_2 INF_t + \beta_3 GDP_t + \beta_4 TERM_t + U_{it}$$

$$INF = \beta_0 + \beta_1 M2_t + \beta_2 EXCH_t + \beta_3 GDP_t + \beta_4 TERM_t + U_{it}$$

$$GDP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 M2_t + \beta_2 EXCH_t + \beta_3 INF_t + \beta_4 TERM_t + U_{it}$$

Where:

GDP = Gross Domestic Product, M2 = Money Supply EXH = Foreign Exchange Rate and INF = Inflation

*TERM* = Term of governor in office.

$U_{it}$  = error term &  $t$  = time (years)

#### ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE (ONE-WAY ANOVA)

The basic principle of ANOVA is to test for differences among the means of the populations by examining the amount of variations between each of the samples, relative to the amount of variation between the samples. In this case the researcher's concern is to analyze the performance of various monetary policies in order to know whether their performances differ significantly and investigate any number of factors (CBI) which are hypothesized or said to influence the dependent variable. The ANOVA technique is important in this context because the researcher wanted to compare more than two populations such as the CBI on monetary policy outcomes and investigated the differences among the means of the population's simultaneously.

The hypothesis of the study is similarly analyzed through the use of ANOVA due to insignificance results observed by the regressed models. ANOVA gave a more explanatory power of the independent variables than regression thus more preferred. The tests of the hypothesis using ANOVA therefore provides the yeast of this study which would have been insignificant due to dummy results of regression model making it significant.

#### THE ANOVA MODEL

$$Y_{ij} = \mu + \tau_i + \epsilon_{ij}$$

Where

$\mu$  = grand mean

$\tau_i$  =  $i^{\text{th}}$  treatment effect.

$\epsilon_{ij}$  = random error term.

$Y_{ij}$  = dependent variable.

i.e the response of the  $ij^{\text{th}}$  experimental units that receive the  $i^{\text{th}}$  treatment.

The researcher tested;

$$H_0: \mu_1 = \mu_2 = \mu_3 = \dots = \mu_t$$

$$H_1: \mu_1 \neq \mu_2 \neq \mu_3 \neq \dots \neq \mu_t$$

Or at least one  $\mu_o$  is different.

#### ANOVA Theorem

Total Sum of squares (TSS)

TSS = (Square of square due to treatment) + (sum of squares of due to error)

TSS = SStr + SSE

$$\sum (Y_{ij} - \bar{Y})^2 = \sum (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2 + \sum (Y_{ij} - \bar{Y})^2$$

$$\text{Correlation factor CF} = \left[ \sum \sum Y_{ij} \right]^2$$

Total sum of squares

$$TSS = \sum \sum Y_{ij}^2 - CF$$

$$\text{Sum of squares due to treatment SStr} = \sum_{i=1}^t \frac{t_i^2}{n}$$

$$SSE = TSS - SStr$$

$$\text{Mean sum of squares due to treatment (MSStr)} = \frac{SStr}{t-1 (\text{numerator})}$$

r)

$$\text{Mean sum of squares due to error (MSE)} = \frac{SSE}{(nt-1)(t-1) (\text{Denominator})}$$

$$= \frac{SSE}{Nt-t}$$

Test statistics;

$F = \frac{MSStr (\text{Estimate of population variance based on between samples variance})}{MSE (\text{Estimate of population variance based on within samples variance})}$

MSE (Estimate of population variance based on within samples variance)

Reject  $H_0$  if  $F > F_{\alpha} (t-1, nt-t)$

Accept otherwise.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

TABLE 1: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

	N	Range	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Variance	Skewness
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic
TERM	288	14.00	.00	14.00	4.2014	.19940	3.38387	11.451

Source: The researcher 2015.

The output produced shown above in table 1. The first line tells us about the data set for which descriptive statistics have been calculated. The first column in the group output table, labelled N gives the number of cases in that data set followed by range. In the next two columns, that minimum and the maximum values of the variables selected for the study is given. In the last three columns, the mean, standard deviation and the variance are given while the last column gives tells us where the data selected is skewed to.

It can be seen that the *TERM* of the monetary outcomes vary from .00 to 14.00 with a mean of 4.2014, standard deviation of 3.38387, variance of 11.451 and skewed to the positive at .603. Therefore, the longer the tenure of the governor in office, the higher the degree of central bank independence to formulate and implement monetary policies that will result highest price stability.

TABLE 2: CORRELATIONS

Correlations						
		EXCH	INFL	M2	GDP	TERM
EXCH	Pearson Correlation	1	-.151	-.378	.163*	.103*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	-	.010	.000	.006	.080
	N	-	288	288	288	288
INFL	Pearson Correlation	-	1	-.146	.094*	-.031
	Sig. (2-tailed)	-	-	.013	.112	.601
	N	-	-	288	288	288
M2	Pearson Correlation	-	-	1	-.283	-.069
	Sig. (2-tailed)	-	-	-	.000	.246
	N	-	-	-	288	288
GDP	Pearson Correlation	-	-	-	1	.090*
	Sig. (2-tailed)	-	-	-	-	.128
	N	-	-	-	-	288

Source: The researcher 2015

The output produced is shown in the table 1 above, the output gives correlation for the variable and each correlation is produced twice in the matrix. The term of the governor is much more significance in the regulation of foreign exchange rates and the gross domestic production.

In the correlation matrix, the researcher gets Pearson's correlation coefficient, P-value for two-tailed test for significance and the sample size. From this table the researcher can conclude that there is a positive correlation between monetary objectives outcomes and the governors term hence the correlations is significant at the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$  (which was given at \*significance 5%). Results for correlation between other set of variables can be interpreted similarly. The same results were generated though the non-parametric correlations.

TABLE 3: REGRESSION RESULTS RANDOM EFFECTS

Independent Variables	Exchange Rate		Money Supply		Inflation		Gross Domestic Product	
	t	Beta	t	Beta	T	Beta	T	Beta
Term	1.879**	0.099**	-.574v	-.030v	-.511v	-0.030v	0.543**	.066*
(Std error)	(7.244)		(0.354)		(.189)		(.036)	
Constants	5.660***		19.509***		7.832***		8.386***	
	(79.353)		(2.652)		(1.970)		(.679)	
R-Square	.2433		.247		0.089		0.129	
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	.227		.231		0.069		.111	
N	288		288		288		288	

Sources: Researcher (2015)

**Note:** Note: The dependent variable is the transformed inflation rate INF, TERM is the period a central bank governor in office, EXCH is the annual percentage change in exchange rate, GDP is the log of real GDP and M2 is the summation of money supply as a percentage. The significance levels are given by \*\*significant at 5%; V insignificant; Standard errors in brackets.

The Wooldridge test for autocorrelation in panel data is used to test for autocorrelation and the researcher also test for panel level heteroskedasticity. The results suggest that the researcher's model does not suffer from these problems. (The test is derived by Wooldridge (2002) to test for autocorrelation in panel data models. Drukker (2003) affirms that the test is reasonably good in plausibly sized samples) The Hausman test indicates that the random effects technique is most appropriate to use. The Hausman test indicates again that the random effects technique is more appropriate to use. The variable in the model is correctly signed and significant. The R<sup>2</sup> obtained under random effects is 0.243 for exchange rate, 0.247 for money supply, 0.089 inflation and 0.129 GDP meaning that the researcher's models are able to explain about 24% exchange rate, 24.7% money supply 8.9% inflation and 12.9% GDP. Once more, the Wooldridge test for autocorrelation and the test of heteroskedasticity were performed indicating that there is no such problem in our model.

#### OUTPUT OF ANOVA

ANOVA provides us the results of the inferential statistics as requested. One-way ANOVA gives the results of the analysis for omnibus hypothesis. The results are gives in three rows in collaboration with the regression results. The first row labelled regression gives the variability due to the monetary policy factor (between-groups variability), the second row labelled residual gives variability due to the random error term and the third row gives the total variability as summarized in the table below. Equally, as one CBI is omitted from the regression equation the R<sup>2</sup> decreases while the F-value increase as summarized below.

TABLE 4: ANOVA RESULTS

Independent Variables	Exchange Rate		Money Supply		Inflation		Gross Domestic Product	
	t	Beta	T	Beta	T	Beta	T	Beta
Term	1.879**	0.099**	-.574v	-.030v	-.511v	-0.030v	0.543**	.066*
Constants	5.660***		19.509***		7.832***		8.386***	
	(79.353)		(2.652)		(1.970)		(.679)	
F	15.030		15.352		4.564		6.943	
N	288		288		288		288	

(Source: the researcher, 2015)

#### ANOVA RESULTS

The results obtained indicate that CBI is a relatively good means to combat inflation in Africa. However, even though it is a necessary instrument it is not a sufficient measure. As can be seen from this model, the R-squared is not sufficiently high to explain all the variation in the inflation rate. There are other sources which generate inflation in Africa. This is why other accompanying measures are needed to bring back the inflation rate to a satisfying level. The adoption of a responsible balance budget combined with an efficient application of price control can help restrain inflationary pressures. However, if price controls are done improperly, then this could encourage the development of parallel markets as is the case in certain African countries like Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia and Angola. If this happens, then the economic activity would shift to the hidden economy which in turn will negatively affect economic growth in Africa.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Central Bank Independence (CBI) has long been a topic of interest given the association that has been found between central bank independence and low inflation. Recently, a number of countries in Africa have tried to improve central bank independence and transparency in their monetary policy making. However, in Africa research on the issue of CBI this has been quite problematic given the lack of data especially on unemployment. In this paper, the research examines the relationship of some the monetary policies on inflation, exchange rate, gross domestic production, money supply and central bank independence using data for 16 countries over the period 1996-2011, and it attempts to investigate whether central bank independence can help achieve price stability in African countries where monetary policy is always a serious problem. The research uses governors term in office as the main proxy measure of central bank independence on monetary policies formulation.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Central banks should, have an independent board of director's composition of all genders because research carried out else on financial institutions depicts that a BOD consist of more women tends to be more transparent, openness, honesty and trustworthy, which is vital for an independent institution like central banks to engineer the confidence of the public domain because of its independence. Independence constrains the government borrowing, which leads to no interest rate manipulations hence price stability a key goal for monetary policies; where government involvement (politicians) is insulated from technocrat's interferences.

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