**Integrity in Public Office**

**Mark Philp**

**University of Warrick**

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**Core components of public office**: the need to set aside one owns interest

*The appearance standard*; not just to act impartial but to also be seen as impartial. That is the standard that is expected of an individual holding public office.

Offices carry authority by virtue of being an office. In some cases, people try not to be bigger than the office they have created

**Tensions in relation to integrity in public office**

There is a difference between Personal Integrity and Role Integrity

Role integrity is compliance with responsibilities of the office. But even in a perfect world, no office is going to tell you how to perform your role. That is something that requires judgment.

**How universal is the understanding of the office?**

To understand this, a distinction between what the person is and what the office is has to be understood.

The office is also procedures and outcomes. Procedures need the following standard:

* Impartiality
* Transparency
* Determinacy

There is a difference between administrative and political office. Mostly, administrative office is classified by rules of convention. Political office is created through political process and accountable through politics.

**Differentiating political office and public office**

Impartial vs Partisan.

Applying a rule or norm vs decision

**Committee on Standards in Public Life**

Selflessness

At times, selflessness is unattainable for example when it comes to companies, the interests of the shareholders are meant to be considered and of importance.

**Afternoon Session**

**Dr. Dominic Burbidge**

**The John Mustapha case discussion**

He should have given a manifesto where he indicates to the people what he intends to do for them once he gets into office. There is also a foreseeable instance where someone may have it written down in their manifesto but then both become competing interests.

A balance between the people doing irrigation and the sparsely populated area. Build dams, therefore, there will be enough water for irrigation and the community.

How do you convince those financers that want to support your manifesto?

Those who offer such support in Kenya, are driven by their own interests (profit-driven) and hence might even be less tolerant of the fact that this is to help the people. As a governor, they should have this in mind and structure the ideas that are required for the achievement of this in a business-like manner.

Mustapha should have a manifesto and if he does, he should fulfill that manifesto. There are instances where boreholes were dug, but strategically dug at the wrong places without issues of public participation put in mind.

There are three things that Mustapha needs to be taken into consideration:

That the issue of providing irrigation water and that of providing clean drinking water are two different problems that cannot be solved in the same way and should therefore not be viewed in the same way just because the needs involve water.

Communication: The governor needs to communicate to his people and help them realize and understand what the plan is and the process that is needed to solve their problem.

The governor should also realize that with these two needs, there is none that outranks the other. Therefore in helping his people, he should extend help without neglecting one of those two communities.

**Public participation**

There are several factors that need to be taken into consideration:

* Gender issue; In some cultures, women are not allowed to speak in the presence of men.
* Age groups: Even if it is a forum of people of the same gender, young people are unlikely to be open about some issues while mixed with their elders
* Education: In some communities, the girls are not taken to school.

Integrity must be tied to social justice. It doesn’t matter whether one was elected to an office or not.