

Title: The Military in Uganda's Political Space, 1962 -2021

Candidate's Name: Katusiime Elizabeth

Registration No: 2019/HD03/29588

Supervisors: (I) Dr. Charlotte Mafumbo

(2) Assoc. Prof. Asiimwe Godfrey (Ph.D.)

Abstract

The study examined the role of the military in Uganda's political space across the period 1962-2021. It assessed the nature of the military and how it has positioned itself in the different political leadership regimes. Employing a historical research design and particularly using archival records, documentary review and key informant interviews, the study reveals the synergies in civil-military relations. It also highlights their collaboration and strategies for political stability in the country. Drawing on the Concordance theory, and debunking Huntington's Traditional Control Theory of the apolitical military, the study established that Uganda's politics is inextricably tied with the military structures through power acquisition, control, retention, sustenance, and transition in all governments. The study also revealed that the military and civilian authorities are so fused making the distinction between political elites and the military within the political space particularly complex. It is concluded that contrary to the widely held view that military involvement in politics jeopardizes political security and constitutional stability, the case of Uganda shows that this is not the case. The military performs security and non-security roles ranging from its core role to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state to participating in legislation, engaging in development activities and collaborating with civilian authorities to promote peace and harmony.

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