



THE EPOCH OF COALITION GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN INDEPTH ANALYSIS ON GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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Abstract

This conceptual paper seeks to give an analysis in terms of what constitute failure in a coalition government and to determine the importance of coalition government on good governance and service delivery. The phenomenon is not foreign in the South African democracy. Thus, its emergence in the metropolitan stirred a tag of war among political parties. Its practicality remains turmoil citing the issues of management and thorny governance. In August 2023 coalition charter was launched which stirred debate from the public perspective reflecting at the current state of coalition government that exacerbated poor governance in metropolitans. Multiparty system in metropolitan appears unstable; this is demonstrated through constant motion of no confident votes within a blink of an eye. With the growing number of political parties in the country, prophetically coalition government is new epoch to drive local government. Building a delicate political art remains a key in ensuring that citizens enjoy stable government and democracy. South Africa cannot escape the era of coalition. This paper uses a qualitative approach to conceptually analyse the role of coalition government, good governance, and service delivery. The culture of coalition in local government could enhance political diversity. The study reveals that pragmatism leadership constituted by political and policy differences affects the stability of coalition. The paper recommends that substitution of public good from self-interests bear acceleration of consistent governance.

Keywords: *Coalition government, Governance, South Africa, Local government, Service delivery*

1. INTRODUCTION

Osei-Kojo, Ingold, and Weible (2022), opine that Coalition government is a global phenomenon. Therefore, it cannot be perceived outside the context of power imbalance in South African local government (Knowles, 2021). The phenomenon is not foreign in the South African democracy. The country expressed its first coalition during Government of National Unity (GNU) under leadership of African National Congress (Khumalo & Netswera, 2020). The GNU was an instrument for socio-economic restructuring (Habib, 1997). Emerging shortly after the ANC secured a substantial majority in the first democratic election of 1994, delivering the country from apartheid exploitation. However, the ruling party was thrown with various harsh criticism characterised by lack of socio-economic transformation. The desire for better lives and opportunities has compelled millions of South Africans to utilize the electoral tool of power to challenge the ANC, casting their votes for new emerging parties, thereby abandoning and weakening the ruling party, the ANC. 'Matimba ya Ngwenya i mati,' The Xitsonga proverb that suggests that the strength of a crocodile lies in the water, just as the strength of the ANC lies in its voters. This strength was tested through election outcomes that shocked the entire country, consequently having a significant impact on metropolitan. Thus, resulted in a severe decline in both national and local government elections over the years ((kariuku, Reddy & Wissink, 2022).

The 2016 and 2021 local government elections were electrifying period with surge contestation of emerging political parties (Law, 2018). Leading opposition parties including Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom fighters and other smaller parties such as the freedom

font plus, Inkata freedom party emerged as more competitive, changing the voting pattern in South Africa (Ndou, 2022). The shaming results received by the ruling party drastically changed the political and governance dynamics in metropolitan (Knowles, 2021). The failure to accumulate overall majority, coerced formation of coalitions government. According to Independent Electoral Commission (2016), the ANC saw a declining of 8% in support in 2016 local government election. The 2021 local government election outcome were severe, it perpetuated to disarm its control from its stronghold metros, including Johannesburg, Nelson Mandela Bay, Ekurhuleni, and Tshwane (Beukes & DE Visser, 2021). The arrival of a coalition government in local government was intended to reflect the diversity of the South African people. however, contrarily, as highlighted by Thusi and Selepe, (2023), it has inconvenienced and worsened the delivery of services and good governance. A coalition government serves as a crucial instrument in delivering equality, as it advances a social compact in local communities. It provides political parties with the opportunity to collaborate and comprehend each other's mandates. It further conveys and strengthens constitutional democracy.

Metropolitan has been characterized by a lot of scrabbles since the coalition government. The country continues to face identical serious challenges in its administrative, economic, and social aspects. Over the last three decades, the political leadership has struggled to respond effectively, mainly due to internal party conflicts and/or ongoing struggles with political opponents (Joshua, James, & Titos, 2022). The emergence of coalition in the metropolitan stirred tag of war among political parties (Kariuki, Reddy, & Wissink, 2023). Its practicality remains turmoil citing the issues of management and thorny governance. In August 2023, the introduction of the coalition charter sparked discussions from the public viewpoint, shedding light on the existing condition of coalition governance that has intensified issues related to ineffective administration and the provision of services in metropolitan areas. municipalities have been at the forefront of service backlog, and unable to control the climbing graph of unemployment. The assension is supported by the speech delivered by the former mayor of city of Joburg Geof Makhubo emphasising that “the city of Joburg has witnessed several ongoing collapses of government entities since the commencement of coalition in 2016 (SABC, 2020). With the growing number of political parties in the country, a prophetic shift towards a coalition government marks a new epoch for local governance. Thus, South Africa cannot escape the era of coalitions. However, mastering the delicate art of politics remains crucial to ensuring that citizens enjoy stable government and democracy (Kariuki, Reddy, & Wissink, 2023).

THE CONCEPT OF COALITION GOVERNMENT

According to Makgale (2020), the idea of coalition has been implemented on a global scale. Thus, its application takes on diverse forms depending on the specific context. In South African, local communities for example, a coalition is structured as a compact organization, such as a stokvel, wherein participants can engage irrespective of their cultural backgrounds, The primary objective is to collectively fulfill needs and mutually benefit one another. Encapsulating the essence of the phenomenon in the African political context, Zimbabwe and Lesotho established power sharing government facilitated by different political factors, when the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in Zimbabwe contested the three-decade dominance of the ZANU-PF and President Robert Mugabe, it resulted in the establishment of a Government of National Unity, this arrangement involved President Robert Mugabe sharing governance responsibilities with MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai (Idasa, 2008) as cited by (Sekatle & Sebola, 2020). Still in Southern African region, from 2012 to 2020, Lesotho underwent a series of coalition governments with the objective of tackling political instability, enhancing economic conditions, and addressing issues related to corruption (Pherudi, 2021). This arrangement primarily necessitates from the absence of a single party securing a parliamentary majority and it can also be established when the country encounters national crisis, such as war.

As stated by Jordi (2021), a coalition government occurs when elected political parties engage in negotiations and form a coalition agreement in the absence of a clear majority. It typically arises when a political party falls short of attaining a two-thirds majority Prompting two



or more parties to unite their votes and reach a consensus on power distribution. In the view of Mokgosi, Shai, and Ogunnubi (2017), a coalition is defined as the collaboration of at least two political parties that work collectively in Parliament and/or government depending on the election's outcome. In this case, the reigning political party muscles are crippled, leading to a dilution of power by the opposing factions. The term has been recently become popular in South African municipalities, where the ANC has experienced a loss of influence due to power neutralization facilitated by a multi-party system. Nonetheless, this development has caused frustration for the long-time-serving unopposed, power-dominant party, evoking a sense of having their privileges revoked. The discontent is evident in their reluctance to feast with certain political parties at the same table.

The system of coalition is decentralized in nature and advocates for the inclusion of representatives from a varied cross-section of society. Consequently, it fosters a brand of politics concentrated on accommodation and compromise. The coalition approach ensures that even smaller and less powerful political parties have the opportunity to articulate their perspective both within the government and during the development of public policies (Sekatle & Sebola, 2020). In the South African setting, At the local government level, the formation of coalitions has led to the rise of smaller political parties wielding significant influence, commonly known as 'kingmakers,' these minor parties have the authority to either break the coalition or transfer power to the predominant political entity at their discretion (Mnguni, 2023). The AL Jam-ah is the smallest political party in South Africa yet managed to secure the mayoral chain in the city of Johannesburg (Aljazeera, 2023 & News 24, 2023). Political parties often charm the masses through their decorated manifestos. People on the ground require an improvement in their overall living conditions through proper policy development, not fancy political campaigns, and endless promises. Thus, it is necessary for the smallest party to seize the opportune way to the mayoral throne to prove its capabilities in ensuring that they can execute the promises presented to its constituency and improve good governance. Achieving this goal is possible through the implementation of coalition governance.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

“When a spider unites, they can tie down a lion”, An Ethiopian proverb that suggest that, with teamwork, even less resources can solve big problems. This paper applied the cooperate game theory as a theoretical framework to give an analysis in terms of what constitute failure in a coalition government and to determine the importance of coalition government on good governance and service delivery. Boyu and Shan (2021), assert that the utilization of game theory has been extensive in elucidating the development of cooperation, providing a robust mathematical framework for the examination of social conduct. Members of a coalition analyse the optimal strategies for accomplishing their objectives and adjust their actions after taking into account various pertinent factors, including the potential responses of other participants (Motseme, 2017). Supporting this perspective, Ndou (2022) asserts that political actors possess distinct resources, objectives, and well-defined sets of rules when making the decision to engage in a coalition. When parties contemplate participation in a coalition, their focus is on assessing the attainable advantages or gains within that coalition. Collaborative efforts within a coalition are seen as a means to strengthen cooperation, ensuring that the involved parties derive mutual benefits from their joint endeavours. As articulated by Peters (2018), coordination entails efforts to prevent conflicts among the decisions made by various governmental entities, while also harmonizing these decisions and actions to generate outcomes that mutually benefit all parties involved.

Cooperative game theory examines scenarios in which entities can gain advantages through collaboration (Chalkiadakis & Wooldridge, 2012). This inquiry is crucial, given that the primary objective of government is typically to provide services to the public. Consequently, the attainment of effective and efficient service delivery relies on engaging community participation. This approach ensures the empowerment of all group members, as emphasized in Section 152 of the 1996 Constitution. Section 154(1) of the Constitution stipulates that national and provincial governments are obligated, through legislative and alternative measures, to enhance and reinforce the capabilities of municipalities in administering their internal affairs, exercising their authority,

and fulfilling their designated functions. According to Section 1.3 of the 1998 White Paper on Local Government, municipal councils are granted authority to actively contribute to the advancement of local democracy. Furthermore, the same section emphasizes the obligation of municipal councils to encourage the participation of citizens in both the planning and implementation of municipal services (White Paper, 1998). The establishment of South African local government is architect on politicised system to support democracy and strengthen the constitution. The Potential of opposition political parties exist to demonstrate and advocate for a culture of good governance (Kipron, 2020).

According to Makoti and Odeku (2021), Co-operative governance involves the coordination of efforts among all spheres of government to promote the overall well-being of the country, citizens and the broader community. In the South African context Section 40(1) of the Constitution envisages legislation that regulates co-operation between spheres of government (Constitution of South Africa, 1996). Trench (2014) contends that the effective functioning of decentralized systems of government relies heavily on the proficient administration of inter-coordination. The effective realisation of service delivery obligations in municipalities necessitates the involvement of coalition from all the three spheres (national, provincial and local) of government. Additionally, it requires active engagement from diverse stakeholders and role players, working together to achieve the goals of good governance. The application of cooperative game theory facilitates the achievement of efficient service delivery by distributing powers and responsibilities among the involved parties. Additionally, it enhances social cohesion by fostering coordination, which facilitates essential dialogue and consensus. This, in turn, enables the group to collectively commit to specific rules or objectives (Ghymsers, 2005). Lack of coordination can result in resource wastage; therefore, coordination promotes the sharing of resources, personnel, and knowledge within the group (Peters, 2018). The adoption of cooperative game theory within local government has the potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services. This approach can also help alleviate political and bureaucratic conflicts, fostering a more collaborative environment. Moreover, it encourages a comprehensive perspective that extends beyond the limited sectoral viewpoint often associated with coalition governments.

According to Angus and Newton (2020), Coordination can be examined either through the lens of cooperation as a means of handling conflict, whether intentional or inadvertent, or through the perspective of collaboration. As outlined by Angus and Newton (2020), collaboration refers to a form of decision-making characterized by voluntary and peaceful actions, where entities modify their strategies for mutual advantage. The turmoil experienced in local government due to the coalition system indicates that the application of the theory has not been carefully implemented. Municipalities involved in coalitions continue to suffer inevitable challenges in terms of identifying and avoiding problems in addressing their political differences. This is demonstrated through constant motion of 'no-confidence' votes within a blink of an eye. The coalition government in South African local government has been characterized as non-cooperative; it appears weak and unstable in most municipalities. The endeavour of finding solution to collective challenges occurs in a collaborative setting (Herrera-Medina and Riera, 2023). The fostering of a coalition culture within local government has the capacity to enrich political diversity potentially resulting in improved service delivery by incorporating principles from game theory.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Coalition government has been subject of discourse in South African local government, thus gained attention and yielded thrilling outcome in international context. However, the country's Multiparty system in metropolitan is not immune to series of instabilities (Kikasu & Pillay, 2024). This is established through political dynamics, involving policy differences and a pragmatic approach, leading to frequent votes of no confidence raising inevitable debate on good governance. 'In the battle of political power, the real losers are the citizens, leaving communities without the solution they desperately need' (Mbalula, 2024). Therefore, the configuration put in place in a coalition setting is a problem that threaten democracy. The mayors of the city of Johannesburg and Nelson Mandela Bay elected in 2016 have not completed their terms due to coalition challenges



(Pieterse, 2020). The non prevalence of political dichotomy coerce political leaders to utilise the political platform for political games rather than public gain. The coalition government in the city of Johannesburg has put Al Jama-ha at the forefront, with only one seat (Al Jazeera, 2023). Nevertheless, prominent political parties such as the ANC, DA and EFF persist in holding the majority of influential positions, this continues to leave voters in a confusing situation, as they are uncertain about who exactly oversees the affairs of their jurisdiction. Ndou (2022), postulates that the concepts have brought mixed reaction to the citizen because they vote for party base not coalition's circumstances. Niang (2016) asserts that coalitions is a rare concept in South Africa. Thus, the reason for its crash due to lack of preparedness. The catastrophe of the coalition within the local government exacerbates the deterioration of service delivery issues. Due to the incapacity of political parties to find common ground. The AG has noted culture of poor commitment, unethical leadership and failure to implements recommendation as the factor that facilitate brink of collapse in local municipalities (AG, 2023). Local government is positioned closest to the community to serve as the bread of local communities. However, this has not been the case, as politicians are benefiting from the same resources that are supposed to feed the public. On whether the future of local government is bright, or dim become the bone of contention, as the fate of local governance remains in the hands of coalition.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To assess what constitutes the failure of coalition government.
2. To determine the importance of service delivery in a coalition government in South Africa
3. To formulate recommendations for good government in a coalition government

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

This paper relied solely on secondary data; secondary data means information that has already been collected by previous scholars who were attempting to solve a similar problem. The data is called secondary or desktop because the researchers do not have to go to the field to collect raw data. It is readily available for the researcher to use. However, the difference is that with primary data the researcher gathers data himself and analyze it. Postgraduate students can use secondary data in their thesis/dissertations or make use of existing information which is publicly available even if not already published. Secondary data can be analyzed or reanalyzed to illustrate real or possible connections among various variables (Clark, 2013, Malatji, 2021).

In their study titled "Data collection, primary versus Secondary" Hox and Boeije (2005) lamented that it is crucial to note that the materials created by the previous authors or scholars is made available for the sake of reuse by the emerging academics and other researchers who want to continue contributing into the body of knowledge through analysis, that's when it is called secondary data. Secondary data can serve various purposes, including (1) depicting contemporary and historical characteristics, (2) conducting comparative research or replicating the initial study, (3) reanalyzing or posing new questions not explored during the collection of primary data, (4) advancing research design and methodology, and (5) supporting teaching, learning, and information dissemination. According to (Mazhar, Anjum, Anwar and Khan (2021), using secondary data as a research method is an advantage to the researchers because it saves money and time. At times, researchers may utilize existing data stored in databases, eliminating the need to actively search for the information. Databases, whether computerized, in books, or paper filing systems, are structured compilations of data. For instance, a school's list of learners serves as a form of a database. This approach has a significant advantage as the data is pre-organized and readily accessible. When researchers know and understand the different types of research methods and techniques, this would make it easy for the researcher to conduct his research (Kamogelo & Lucky, 2022).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**Failure of coalition government in South African municipalities**

The advent of the coalition government has taken the ruling party by shock. Since its arrival, the coalition government has not been working so well; it has been attached to a mix of frustrations. This is because there was no preparedness for a multi-party system. However, South Africa cannot shy away from shift in political landscape, the era of coalition is inevitable in South African democracy. Many coalition governments in South African municipalities, such as those in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, Kannaland Local Municipality, Mogale Local Municipality, and Bitou Local Municipality, have been characterized as fragile and unstable in the past years, as extensively documented by Beukes (2021). According to Knowles (2022), Nelson Mandela Bay has experienced four changes in power since 2016, mainly attributed to ineffective management of coalitions. The lack of effective management has directly affected the stability of these coalitions leading to volatility, this volatility emanates from unmet expectations among coalition partners (Knowles, 2022). The coalition government has faced a succession of votes of no confidence that led to changes in leadership in a short space of time. The instability resulting from the failure to meet partnership expectations defiles the principles of political diversity, inclusivity, and achieving a social compact. The single party system polarizes society as it advances the needs of particular groups over those of another group. This practice is common in South Africa, where the challenge of achieving social cohesion is evident, with individuals seemingly pulling in divergent directions. Notably, social interconnectedness among South Africans appears prominent primarily during sporting events. The challenges in service delivery suggest the potential influence of racial dynamics. These challenges pose a significant obstacle to the well-being of local municipalities in South Africa, making it crucial to address them through fostering social cohesion. According to Mail & Guardian (2023), the failure of coalition government at the local government is attributed to factors such as ineffective leadership, the incapacity to establish common ground, and political interference in administrative matters. It appears that the opposition party is actively pursuing the ousting of the ANC from power, with less emphasis on collaboration and compromise to facilitate a seamlessly neutral form of governance. This is demonstrated in the political party's selectivity regarding whom to engage in power-sharing with, influenced by political dynamics and pragmatism styles. For example, the Democratic Alliance (DA) and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) will not engage in political relations, similarly, the EFF and Patriotic Alliances will avoid such interactions due to disparities in their political visions and commitment to transform the society and economy. The collapse of negotiations among political parties is attributed to divergent policies. Emphasis should be placed on careful consideration within the policy space, as the diversity of constituencies represented by different political parties in a coalition government may pose challenges in design of meaningful policies (Khambule, 2022). Furthermore, Mansbridge and Martin (2013) accurately point out that engaging in political brinkmanship, marked by a party employing threats in negotiations to advance specific sectarian interests through tough bargaining, can lead to a standstill and the failure of negotiation endeavours.

This view is supported by David Makhura, in his statement on coalitions, emphasized that when engaging in political relationships, a coalition should align with the objectives of the ANC (SABC, 2023). Politicians, however, have different interpretations of coalitions, from the notions of political cooperation to the dominance of power by a single party. This diversity in interpretation has contributed to misunderstandings and dissemination of inaccurate information about coalitions, causing increased mistrust of democracy among South Africans. These negative experiences have raised discomfort around issues of service delivery and good governance as it perpetuates to decline.

The importance of coalition government and good governance in service delivery

The principles of good governance offer citizens the chance to demand accountability from public administrators (Maramura, 2022). It enables the provision of crucial services to citizens and is crucial for socio-economic progress (Good Governance Africa, 2021). Service delivery cannot



happen in the absence of good governance. Hence the wrestling within coalition in local government impede the resolution of service delivery issues. The backlog in service delivery has been a distressing concern for citizens in local communities, as evidenced by unending protests for improved service delivery (Mamokhere, 2021). Cohesion effort is required in addressing service delivery concerned in south Africa. A seamless and effective coalition can be attained when political parties set aside their political differences and deal with the big elephant in the room. As Maserumule, Nkomo, and Mokate (2016), point out, Coalitions govern almost 66% of the member countries within the European Union (EU). In Europe, where coalitions are rife, it has been confirmed that they can yield positive outcomes.

South Africa can learn valuable insights on enhancing coalition effectiveness from nations that have successfully flourished with coalition governments. It is undoubtedly true that politicians have undermined the effectiveness of the coalition, however, focusing more on their political differences and protecting their party members' interests. As per the findings of Joshua, James, and Titos (2022), forming coalitions can act as a catalyst for societal change and transformation in both governance and diversity management. Additionally, it has the potential to enhance democratic processes and enhance public governance. Coalition is the opportunity for addressing political differences, improving service delivery and good governance. It provides the space for meshing the ideologies of political parties, enable them to leverage their strategic political positions to endorse democratic norms in line with their electoral mandates (Mokgosi, Shai, & Ogunnubi, 2017).

South African municipalities carry the duty of providing services to the communities under their jurisdiction and also play a role in development (Natalini, 2010; Mubangizi, 2016). According to Makole, Ntshangase, and Adewumi (2022), a coalition government has the potential to improve service delivery by establishing a governance model that enhances accountability mechanisms within the South African political system. This is achieved by reinforcing checks and balances in the electoral system. Hanabe and Milanzi (2019), argue that the framework of coalition government in municipalities can serve as tools for new government model that intend to enhance leadership, share government practices and service delivery to guide future national governance trajectory. Booyesen (2018) strongly asserts that coalition governance in South Africa can act as a countermeasure to the monopolization of power by a dominant party, such as the African National Congress. This party, according to Booyesen, has breached the trust of voters and compromised its commitments to liberation. The significance of coalition governance in South Africa lies in its indication of a maturing democracy, creating room for diverse political participation and empowering citizens in the governance and leadership of the country and municipalities, as highlighted by Makole, Ntshangase, and Adewumi (2022) in the works of Booyesen (2018), Hanabe & Malinzi (2019), and Jolobe (2007).

DIRECTION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The discourse on the subject of a coalition government is inevitable. The nexus between coalition government, local government as well as service delivery and good governance has thus attracted several academic scholarships over the world. The concept has recently become popular in South African local government. Many scholars have gained interest in the subject, wherein literature indicating that South African local government is not oiled to drive coalition, emphasizing at its instabilities and exacerbation of service provision to local communities. Nonetheless, the findings of this paper indicate that a coalition government represents an optimal mode of governance and is attainable. Consequently, the assertion remains subject to discussion. The paper has recognized the transition from the single-party system to the multiparty system, emphasizing the epoch of coalition undoubtedly. This paper is necessary for future reference for researchers interested in study of coalition government, service delivery and good governance, as South African local government has entered the battle of uncharted territory. It is crucial for researchers in the field of public administration to expand perspectives on new discoveries to contribute to academic research and public administration fraternity. Future researchers can expand further on the local government leadership in policymaking concerning coalition government and to address identifies gaps in good governance and service delivery. Researchers can also look on

enhancing the current Public Administration knowledge generation curriculum in South African tertiary institutions to cover issues related to coalition government through comprehensive local government training materials. Thus, investing in research on this subject could potentially alter the status quo of local government in delivering adequate services to the public and promoting good governance in South Africa.

RECOMENDATION

This paper recommends the implementation of a framework and regulatory measures to restrict political parties from arbitrarily withdrawing from coalition agreements within a designated timeframe. The coalition agreement ought to be legally enforceable to minimize the political tendency of replacing leaders whenever they deem it convenient. The framework would further ensure the effective application of collective culture and restore demoralised political moral. Establishment of coalition committee within local government is necessary to harness the functioning of programme of actions, enhance oversight, strengthen coalition vision, ensure effective delivery of services and promote good governance. These committees will also be used as instruments for the immediate implementation of consequences management against politicians who intend to collapse the coalition whenever their corrupt desires are not addressed. South Africa should take lesson to improve coalition functionality from those country who managed to survive under coalition. This paper associates with President Ramaphosa's position regarding the professionalization of the public sector. It advocates for politicians to undergo evaluation based on their academic qualifications to determine their capability to execute public policy and suitability for holding government office.

4. CONCLUSION

The future of coalition government in contemporary South Africa is inevitable and steady. It is premature to assert that coalitions have failed in South African municipalities since its introduction is relatively recent. The hindrance to success lies in the challenge of achieving a social compact, as the country has yet to overcome social polarization, particularly in politics. Policy differences and corruption is identified as a contributing factor leading to the breakdown of coalitions. In coalition settings, there is no room for corrupt practices since transparency prevails, and there is no shield from fellow political members. The cooperate group theory was adopted to facilitate collaboration, serving as a reminder to political parties that their role is not merely self-representation but rather advocating for the rights of the electorate, prioritizing the best interests of the public. This paper argues that a coalition is the best system to salvage local government from political decay and put an end to the support of unethical conduct by party members that has been tolerated for many years under the dominance of a single-party system. The adoption of a coalition system will guarantee accountability, inclusive government, reduce the negative impact of cadre deployment leading to service delivery decline and furthermore, improve transparency in public sector. Political parties must acknowledge and embrace the epoch of coalition government, undertaking efforts to address and reconcile their political divergences. The paper strongly contends that adoption of coalition government in South African local municipalities contains tangible qualities of building unified communities, improve service delivery and promote good governance.



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