DECLARATION

I, Davis Sado, hereby declare that this mini-dissertation submitted to the University of Fort Hare for the Degree of Master of Public Administration has not previously been submitted by myself for any degree at this or any other University. I declare further that this mini-dissertation is my own work in design and execution and that all material contained therein has been dully acknowledged.

Signed...........................................

Date..............................................
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ABSTRACT

The research analyses local participation as it is implemented within the Lilongwe District Council. The study explores decentralisation in the council by examining important facets that contribute to good local governance with a special interest in local participation. The study finds that while local participation is a recognized feature in the decentralisation policy, lack of proper involvement and integration has limited the efficacy of local participation. The neglect of government in conducting local government elections to have ward councillors in place is brought to the fore as a major setback to the implementation of decentralisation reforms. The study therefore notes that decentralisation must not be seen as just a policy goal, with the aim of shifting development to the communities, but as a policy instrument which aims to improve local democracy, efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of social services. In order to achieve this, the study proposes five key recommendations and a proposed model for the attainment of good governance in the Council.
ABBREVIATIONS

ADC    Area Development Committee
AEC    Area Executive Committee
DAT    District Advisory Team
DC     District Commissioner
DDF    District Development Fund
DDP    District Development Plan
DDPF   District Development Planning Framework
DDPS   District Development Planning System
DEC    District Executive Committee
DPD    Director of Planning and Development
GVH    Group Village Headman
LDC    Lilongwe District Council
MASAF  Malawi Social Action Fund
MGDS   Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MLGDA  Ministry of Local Government and District Administration
MPRSP  Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSO</td>
<td>National Statistics Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>SADCC</td>
<td>Southern Africa Development Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEP</td>
<td>Social Economic Profile</td>
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<td>UNCDF</td>
<td>United Nations Capital Development Fund</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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