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(Devolution of Power in Sri Lanka and Good Governance: A Study on the Contribution of Provincial Councils with Reference to Uwa and Western Provincial Councils)

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කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ දේශපාලන විද්‍යාව පිළිබඳ දර්ශනපති උපාධිය සඳහා ඉදිරිපත් කරන ලද ස්වාධීන නිබන්ධිකාවකි.

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## Abstract

Democratic republic of Sri Lanka is a country that has a democratic and unilateral governing system. In 1987, nine provincial councils were introduced under the unilateral ruling system and its ambition was devolution of power among provinces. It was a main political reform after the independence of Sri Lanka in 1948. Provincial councils were established for several purposes. Its main purpose was to satisfy armed groups who were struggling for a separate country in north and east areas and grant the political power and constitutional order. The aspects of the good governance were to join the all groups for the decision making process. But it can be easy for strengthening the provincial units rather than central governments. The main ambition of the provincial council system was also gathering all ethnic groups into the governing process. For that purpose, provincial level governing system was introduced. In this case, the accountability of this governing system is analyzed. The study, has generally reviewed the performance of the provincial councils. In this case especially questionnaires were given and collected data from the clients of the Uwa and Western provincial councils. In additionally several interviews have been conducted with the selected authorities under representing several fields of the provincial council. In additionally literature review is also main part of collecting data. When analyzing above data, simple statistic methods and for qualitative data and information, detailed Comparisons methods have been used. For the study only Uwa and Western provincial councils have been focused, about the information of other provincial councils have been referred. In this study power and functions of the provincial councils were reviewed. The implementation of the good governing principles in provincial council's role was specially focused. When reviewing the activities of the provincial councils, so many obstacles can be identified. Existence of limitations in implementing financial powers and functions, existence of limitations in administration, the problems in the granted power, always highlights the role of the central government, indifference of some politicians, delays of the officials who providing the services of the provincial council, problems in transparency and feedback in the duties of the provincial councils, lack of accountability of the politicians can be highlighted as such. In additionally, provincial council system has given the opportunity of representing Sinhala people as well as Muslim and Tamil ethnicities. Especially with in the northern and eastern provincial councils, Tamil and Muslim majority have been granted the power. In additionally in other provincial councils there are Muslim and Tamil representation and some Tamil and Muslim representatives have been received minister positions also. According to above facts it is proved that minority has obtained the opportunity to participate the governing process. It is a golden mark of the provincial council system which was introduced as a solution for the ethnic problem. The research has focused on above facts. Moreover this research will guide who would attained in the independent researches, policy makers and scholars.

Key Words- Devolution of power, Good governance, Provincial councils, Representatives, Financial activities