Feedback Tutorial Letter

Governance and Politics in Africa

(GPA621S)

Assignment 2
Course Name: GOVERNANCE AND POLITICS IN AFRICA
Course Code: GPA621S
Department: SOCIAL SCIENCES
Course Duration: ONE SEMESTER
NQF Level and Credit: LEVEL 7; 15 CREDITS

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Mrs N.N. Puleinge would like to use this opportunity to thank all Governance and Politics in Africa students for submitting Assignment 2. The overall performance is satisfactory.

The following are common mistakes identified during marking:

- A number of students did not use neither the American Psychological Association (APA) nor Harvard referencing style, in text citation is not done correctly. Please all students must acquire the APA referencing manual
- Some assignments papers do not contain headings, sub-headings, table of contents, introduction, Conclusion or Reference page.
- Practical and relevant examples are not provided
- High similarity percentage remains a concern; whereby most student’s present general information from the web based sources without acknowledging other authors.

ASSIGNMENT 2

African socialism

It is a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community? African socialism is a belief in sharing economic resources in a traditional African way, as distinct from classical socialism. Many African politicians of the 1950s and 1960s professed their support for African socialism, although definitions and interpretations of this term varied considerably. These politicians include Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, and Modibo Keita of Mali, among others.

African socialism is a belief in sharing economic resources in a traditional African way, as distinct from classical socialism. Many African politicians of the 1950s and 1960s professed their support for African socialism, although definitions and interpretations of this term varied considerably. African socialism, socialist doctrines adopted by several African leaders at the close of French and British colonial rule during the 1950s and ‘60s. As African countries gained independence, anticolonial nationalism could no longer play the unifying and mobilizing role that it had in the early 1950s. African socialism became a mobilizing slogan to unite Africans around the challenge of economic development in their postcolonial societies.
The communal basis of most African precolonial societies and the absence of a tradition of private property appeared to justify the existence of an indigenous African path to socialism, one that seemingly offered a third way between Western capitalism and Soviet communism. The emergence and development of socialism in Africa came because of finding a new rallying point to foster economic growth in Africa. African nationalism had already united people together for the independence cause and African socialism stood as the new ideology for economic prosperity. It was a middle ground between Western capitalism and Soviet communism (the latter which adopted socialism for the administration of the whole Soviet Union). But as time progressed, the inefficiencies and loopholes of socialism in Africa got apparent and it was clear that the intended purposes of the ideology had failed to usher in comprehensive economic success for the continent.

Some of the main proponents of the socialist principle in Africa included Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Leopold Senghor of Senegal, Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, among others. For these leaders, African socialism promoted the ideals of togetherness as one community, as opposed to the individualistic nature of capitalism. African societies place emphasis on the role of the community, and as such, socialism was deemed a natural alignment with this. On the other hand, socialism provided an excuse for these leaders to trample on any dissenting opinions, effectively muzzling the opposition. The liberal ideals of democracy, which were an offshoot of capitalism were eschewed.

_Students must discuss the rationale behind African Socialism and provide practical examples._