

Party system characteristics:

a) Number of parties

b) Relative size of parties

c) Policy distance between parties

d) Interaction pattern between parties

Table 1 Registered parties: 1994-2009				
	Before May 1994	Before May 1999	Before May 2004	Before May 2009
	AFORD, UDF,UF MD, MDP, MNDP, MCP, MDU, CSR	CDP (later changed to SDP), NPF, NUP, MFP, PDP, LP, UP (cancelled in 08.02.2002), SNDP, FP, MMY, NSM, CoNU,	NIP, MAFUNDE, PFP, PETRA,NDA, (cancelled on 09.08.04) New Dawn for Africa, PPM, PPF, MGODE, Mtendere Ufulu Party, The RP, NCD	UDP, DPP, NRP, MPP, NARC, CODE,
Parties registering	8	12	13	6
Total registered as of this period	8	20	32	37

Table 4. Percentage of seats for the major party alternatives and independents

	MCP	UDF	Aford	Ind.	Others	DPP
1994	31.6	48.0	20.3	0		
1999	34.2	48.7	15.0	2.1		
2004	31.5	26.7	3.2	20.9	14,3*	
2009	14.0	9.0	0.5	16.6	1.0**	58.5

***RP, PPM, NDA, Mgode, PETRA, CONU**

**** MPP, Mafunde**

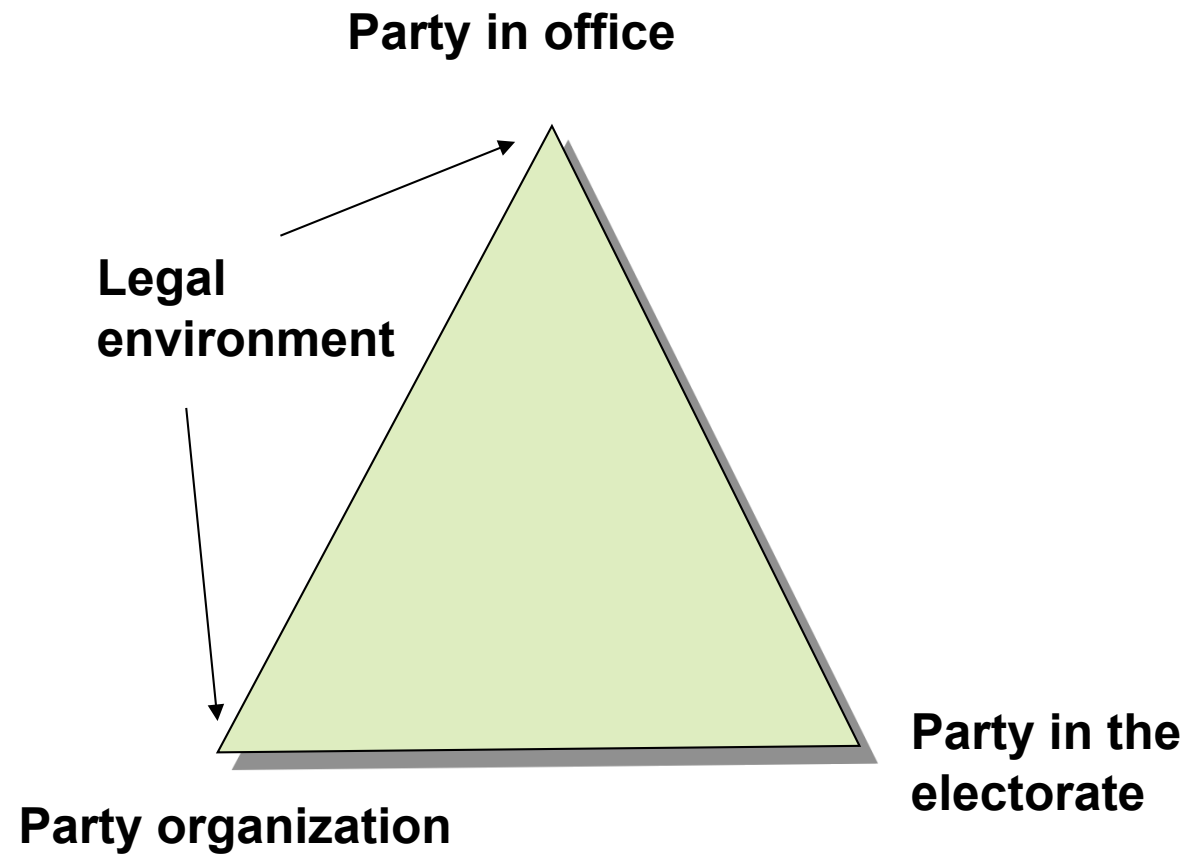


Table 2 Registered parties, contest capacity and electoral success

	1994	1999	2004	2009
Total Registered	8	20	32	37
Contesting in Parliamentary and Presidential Elections	5	8	15	16
Winning at least one seat in Parliament	3	3	10	6

-Political parties' participation in elections

Only 16 of the 37 registered took part in elections
6 of the 16 fielded presidential candidate

Election campaigns

Political parties abilities/capacity to carryout an election campaign varied

Two factors were decisive: *access to resources and geo-political considerations*

Access to resources- generally difficult to assess- no disclosure

BUT: the DPP appears to have had a competitive edge vis-à-vis the other political parties as it exploited its incumbency advantage inordinately

With no legal reforms use of public resources by the incumbents will remains an issue.

- *Geopolitical considerations*
- Concentration in what would be regarded as their strongholds (esp for the MCP and UDF).
- Even in the case of the DPP, their presidential candidate frequented more the southern region as compared to the centre and north.

Political party manifestos and the 2009 elections

- Developed by those parties that were fielding presidential candidates-
- Launched very late in the electoral process
 - Irrelevance of manifestoes to political parties?- limited copies/ language/circulation
 - The culture of secrecy and mistrust among political parties?
 - The last minute MCP-UDF alliance led to the MCP-UDF presidential candidate approaching the electorate with two un-reconciled electoral manifestos
 - (the MoU was only signed on the eve of the polling day).
- Great deal of similarity- only differed in emphasis
- Manifestoes and party ideologies