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## Democracy in public political system through interest approach towards sustainable development

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### Abstract

Democracy in public political system plays vital role in order to achieve sustainable development through interest approach. Interest approach, which concerns with costs and benefits would lead for national co-operations. The used of the interest approach to the area of democracy in public political system, largely in response to the necessity of every each individual public to protect their rights and interests in order to safeguard the nation. Therefore, this paper examines the used of the interest approach, which concerns with costs and benefits, in relation to the democracy in public political system from the legal perspectives; identify actions, which deal with the protection for the nation as well as a tool for the achievement in sustainable development.

**Key words:** Democracy, public, interest approach, sustainable development.

### Introduction

Every each government has three main types of power<sup>6</sup>. These three main types of power include the executive power (implemented by the executive to manage the nation), the legislative power (held by a representative body of the people also known as parliament), and the judiciary power (held by the court of the law)<sup>6</sup>. The ideas of democracy based on this separation of powers theory which in line with public political system. According to the above mentioned discussion, Mahfud<sup>8</sup> has highlighted two great philosophers Montesquieu and John Locke each from France and Britain, have contributed to the ideas of democracy in building a nation based on public political system. Etymologically based on the word of democracy, demos meaning people (public), and crate in which means government. So, generally, democracy can be considered as government of the people, or better known as government for the people, of the people and by the people (public)<sup>23</sup>.

### Democracy in Public Political System

Democracy was originally derived from the idea on the relationship between the nation and law in ancient Greece. This idea had been practiced through out the nation between the 4th century BC to the 6th century AD. It seem to be practiced the direct democracy. Direct democracy as understood as from the root of the people which means public to make political decisions directly by all citizens who according to the procedure of majority<sup>8</sup>. In addition direct democracy is an institutional planning to a level political decisions in which individuals acquire the power to decide by means of a competitive struggle on the popular vote<sup>25</sup>. Direct democracy is also a process to form up a government of a nation

where decisions of the government directly based on the agreement that is given freely from the majority of people in that nation<sup>25</sup>. In a way direct democracy is also a system of government where the government held responsible for their actions the public realm by people in that nation<sup>25</sup>, acting directly through the competition and co-operation with their representatives.

Meanwhile from the point of organization, direct democracy as understood as the organizing country carried out by the people in that nation themselves or with the approval of the people in that nation for the sovereignty rests with the people in that nation<sup>8</sup>. From the above definition can be concluded that direct democracy is a public political system in which people participate in political decision-making and the decision of the people in that nation (public) participate in supervising and ensuring the political freedom to all the people in that nation whether conducted directly by the people or their representatives through representative institutions. Direct democracy has an important meaning for the people in that nation (public) who use it because the direct democratic right of people in that nation (public) to determine their own course of that nation administration is sustainable<sup>8</sup>.

### Democracy in Public Political System through Interest Approach

When talk about democracy, interest approach is one of the elements that influence in democracy, which include public political system to achieve sustainable development<sup>2,5</sup>. This interest approach helps people around the nation to realise the



common interests in terms of democracy in public political system. This approach can be divided into two groups<sup>2, 5</sup>, namely; the first group that focus on the institutions in public political system and the second group which is less using the institutions in public political system.

The first group is focusing on the institutions in public political system effort to bring together people around the nation to realise the common interests that balance with benefits and costs associated with the building nation co-operations<sup>5</sup>. The institutions in public political system always make certain that people will be benefited with the co-operation that being generated in order to attain joint gains and to reduce potential costs. nonetheless, the institutions in public political system are capable of building people that are involved to notice the common interest in that particular co-operations even when the elements that brought them in the first place being no longer efficient<sup>8</sup>. This situation is known as "utilitarian" approach<sup>5</sup>. In addition, this situation also known as a game theory. Other views, such as Keohane<sup>7</sup> and Oye<sup>10</sup> argued that the institutions in public political system will not be able to fulfil the best result of the people, for instance, in the position of the prisoner's dilemma<sup>11</sup>. However, the institutions in public political system may smooth the progress of gaining common benefits by heartening reciprocity in the negotiation, which treated others as you would like to be take care of with upgrading level of information and communication. Therefore, the institutions in public political system will able to convince people answer in order to scheme outcomes in the nation co-operations.

Meanwhile, the second group is less using institutions in public political system and the game-theory as medium to obtain the interest approach in the nation co-operations<sup>3</sup>. Interest in nation co-operations must be come from individual capacity and needs<sup>2</sup>. Each individual of the public will estimate it own benefits and recognized costs that will be acquired. Interest of the people begun, when a particular issue that is being raised has shown a lot of benefits to the people<sup>2, 21, 22</sup>. Finally, it is very important to bring in the interest approach in the negotiations of building of the nation co-operations, regardless, if the interest approach is using the first group ideas or the second group theory. The main purpose to create the nation co-operations is to undertake problems of the people<sup>2, 21, 22</sup> and subsequently able to achieve sustainable development.

### Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development has been defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development as 'development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs'<sup>1, 24</sup>. The above-said concept covers two essential scopes, i.e. environment and social aspects. This concept of sustainable development has been highlighted in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, as the results, Agenda 21 and Rio Declaration has been established. According to Sands<sup>20</sup>, Agenda 21 emphasises the following matters, which include sustainable human settlement, population, consumption pattern, poverty and human health. On the other hand, Mensah<sup>9</sup> stated that the Rio Declaration addresses on mankind entitlements and rights<sup>3, 17</sup>, which include health and productive life<sup>11, 13, 14</sup>.

Basically this concept of sustainable development has been an element in the international legal framework<sup>14-16</sup> since early as 1893. According to the case of United States of America v Great Britain [1893] 1 Moore's Int. Arb. Awards 755, well known as Pacific Fur Seals Arbitration, where in this case the United States of America has stated that a right to make sure the appropriate and lawful use of seals and to protect them, for the benefit of human beings, from meaningless destruction<sup>4, 17-19</sup>.

Sands<sup>20</sup> indicated that this concept of sustainable development is perhaps the greatest contemporary expression of environmental policy, commanding support and presented as a fundamental at the Rio Summit, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in year 1992. According to Article 33 of the Lome Convention 1989 states that 'in the framework of this Convention, the protection and the enhancement of the environment and natural resources, the halting of deterioration of land and forests, the restoration of ecological balances, the preservation of natural resources and their rational exploitation are basic objectives that the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) states concerned shall strive to achieve with Community support with a view to bring an immediate improvement in the living conditions of their populations and to safeguarding those of future generations'<sup>3, 12, 18</sup>. The above-mentioned Article 33 introduces into legal framework the concept of sustainable development with one of the approach under the precautionary principle.

### Conclusions

The legal standing of the interest approach on costs and benefits to the area of sustainability and democracy in public political system, largely in response to the necessity of every each individual to protect their rights and interests in order to safeguard the environment and surrounding in order to achieve sustainable development is still developing, at least, nevertheless, there is sufficient proof of practices by member public around the globe to give good reason for the wrapping up that the above-said interest approach as highlighted in those above-mentioned treaties have recently acknowledged the satisfactorily extensive support to permit an excellent argument to be created which it reflects the legal standing to ensure for sustainability and democracy in public political system through the interest approach on costs and benefits in as well as a tool for the achievement in sustainable development.

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