

## **Propositions**

Attached to this thesis

### **LIMITS TO DECENTRALIZATION IN MOZAMBIQUE: Leadership, Politics and Local Government Capacities for Service Delivery**

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1-Mayors in Mozambique are given extensive powers by the current Local Government Act, but still cannot respond effectively to local community needs (Chapter 2 and 4).

2-By concentrating their attention on the management of their own funds in the Municipality of Dondo, donors implicitly ratified the mismanagement of local funds as a way to reinforce the façade of good financial management of their more visible donor funds (Chapter 5).

3-Fear of the unknown and the preservation by the Central Government of the *status quo* constitute serious impediments to effective decentralization in Mozambique (Chapter 6).

4-With Central Government commitment and mayoral leadership, Mozambican municipalities can achieve improvements in service delivery coverage (Chapter 6).

5-Due to the lack of an effective central coordinating body, municipal capacity building initiatives in Mozambique are disorganized and suffer from considerable duplication of efforts (Chapter 4)

6-For lack of effective central auditing strategies and of downward local accountability, the financial autonomy of Municipal Councils in Mozambique in effect became decentralization of corruption.

7-Decentralisation reform in Mozambique is a good illustration of the dictum: a new local government law is not the conclusion of the reform process but merely marks its beginning.

8-Clientelism may not be harmful as long as the elected party lives up to its electoral promises to the constituencies it claims to represent.

9-Community involvement in planning and decision-making is a means to respond more effectively to local needs.

10-Dependency on grant aid may not be bad for a country's development as long as human and infrastructure development are given priority.

11-The problem of weak democracies with strong parties in power is that they are in the wrong starting point for democratic reform and consolidation.