

**Leadership and Business Performance of Co – Operative Societies in Karagwe District**

**A Case of Kafuro AMCOs Tuwaka and Kandegesho SACCOS**

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The aim of the research was to assess leadership and business performance of cooperative societies in Karagwe district. The study was conducted in three cooperative societies, namely; Kafuro Cooperative society Limited (AMCOS), TUWAKA SACCOS LTD and Kandegesho SACCOS Cooperative society in Karagwe District. These organizations were categorized into SACCOS and AMCOS. The design of the study was methodological triangulation. Data collection employed the interview by self-administered questionnaire, rickets scale by Institutional analysis/assessment table, and checklist, documentary review and focus group discussion by using checklists. The study revealed that the leadership in cooperative societies in Karagwe district was still at the infancy stage. Where out of three cooperative societies involved in the study one seems to be well governed, that is TUWAKA SACCOS LTD. The concept of leadership and business performance was yet to be concisely conceived. The leadership strategies and plans in the majority of the cooperative leaders were either very weak or nonexistent at all. Owing to the fact that cooperative societies were instrumental to the economic and social wellbeing of the nation, the researcher recommended that, leaders in cooperative society should listen to members at AGM. While discussing the matters of cooperative business and not to work on their own knowledge or for their own benefit. The strategies should incorporate attractive incentive schemes that would encourage members to lead their societies. In most developing countries leadership and managerial skills are not easily available and the Cooperative Movement is of no exception. For a co-operative to succeed it is Important that proper leadership be identified from its inception. It is the quality of leadership that is displayed at the committee or board level, which determines the success or failure of the co-operative business.