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| Journal Name: | | [**Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting**](https://journalajeba.com/index.php/AJEBA) | | |
| Manuscript Number: | | **Ms\_AJEBA\_133061** | | |
| Title of the Manuscript: | | **Analyzing the Implications of Public Debt on Budget Implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Public Choice Theory Perspective** | | |
| Type of the Article | |  | | |
| **PART 1: Comments** | | | |
|  | | **Reviewer’s comment**  **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** *(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | | **“Analyzing the Implications of Public Debt on Budget Implementation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Public Choice Theory Perspective”** is a 19-page article that addresses a crucial issue for sub-Saharan African countries, especially in the current context of high levels of public debt, sometimes close to over-indebtedness, even as they are constrained in their fiscal policies. Such an analysis will help us to better understand the origins of these countries' budgetary and financial vulnerabilities, and to find ways of promoting development projects more  effectively. |  |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | | The article title is appropriate |  |
| **Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.** | | The abstract of the article is not summarized. The author should simply restate the object, method and results in a precise manner, without any explanation. For example, the author does not need to mention the variables and the various tests carried out. |  |
| **Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here.** | | The manuscript is scientifically correct, since it follows scientific procedure. The article consists of an introduction, a literature review, a methodology using econometric tools, a discussion of the results and recommendations, and a conclusion. |  |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have**  **suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | | References are insufficient. We believe the author should explore related literatures such as Alesina and Perotti (1999), Heller (2005), Gosh and al. (2O13), Ergen and al. (2022). |  |
| **Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?** | | Yes |  |
| **Optional/General** comments | | Right from the introduction, we notice the absence of the theoretical debates that would have hinged on the subject in order to support the problematic. In fact, the author is much more concerned with description than with demonstration, which should have originated in theoretical debates and controversies. For example, the author would have highlighted the issue of state size, and thus distinguished between low and high state size. Such a distinction would lead to more interesting results. Another relevant debate is that of membership of a monetary union. The author ignores this debate, even though debt constraints are different, which may have a different influence on budget execution. To this end, it would also have been interesting to distinguish between countries belonging to a monetary union and countries outside one. The other, even more relevant debate is that of natural resource endowment. It is well known that countries with abundant natural resources do not have the same debt and budgeting constraints.  The article's theoretical framework is inconsistent and needs updating. At a time when debates on “fiscal space” and “fiscal fatigue” (Heller, 2005; Ostry et al., 2010; Gosh et al., 2013) have renewed the question of public debt sustainability, relying solely on Buchanan and Tullock's (1962) public choice theory reduces the quality of the work.  The methodology used is basic and lacks rigor. Firstly, it is not clear on whom the author's model is based (reference article). Secondly, given that there may be dependencies between countries (especially for those in a monetary union), an inter-individual dependency test could have been carried out to guide the analysis towards second-generation tests or not. Thirdly and finally, a discussion of the explained variable should be made in order  to better explain its relevance. |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |

**Reviewer details:**

**Scott Regifere Mouandat, Omar Bongo University, Gabon**