

THE ROLE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT

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Governance has to do with the manner in which responsibility is discharged. Such a responsibility may be acquired through election, appointment, or delegation in the public domain, or in the area of commerce (i.e., corporate governance) (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Therefore, good governance is taken here to mean condition whereby such responsibility is discharged in an effective, transparent, and accountable manner, while bad governance is associated with maladministration in the discharge of responsibility (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Good governance entails the existence of efficient and accountable institutions—political, judicial, administrative, economic, corporate and entrenched rules that promote development, protect human rights, respect the rule of law, and ensure that people are free to participate in, and be heard on, decisions that affect their lives (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008).

Through good governance, a new generation of enlightened leaders is aiming to reverse that trend (Ranz, 2009). Respect for human rights and democratic principles, honest and good quality administration, and protecting the rights and freedoms under the rule of law are concerned with values that apply equally to every state and citizen (World development report, 2011).

Democracy, for example, is a universally recognized ideal, based on values common to people everywhere regardless of cultural, political, social, or economic differences (IPU). These transcend the functional importance of aspects of good governance, such as for sustainable development (Mbaku & Smith, 2012).

Quite clearly, growth and development cannot be achieved in the absence of good governance (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008). Among other things, good governance ensures the most efficient utilization of already scarce resources in the promotion of development; enhances participation, responsibility, and accountability; and has the potential to emancipate people from poverty as state legitimacy is recognized and entrenched (Ngware & Kironde, 2010). In fact, any effort to reduce poverty and sustain development must start with, and build upon good governance (Mbaku & Smith, 2012). Good governance can therefore be also regarded as governance on behalf of development-oriented policy (World development report, 2011).

According to Ngware & Kironde, (2010), the government's role to sustainable development is by ensuring that its legitimacy and credibility are intimately tied to a transparent and representative process of policy making by a council of democratically elected community leaders that enjoys legal recognition as an established corporate entity. According to the author, if this is achieved, leaders are likely to be respected and trusted and this can help to bridge divergent interests and ideas which are fundamental for peace building.

Mbaku & Smith, (2012) pointed out that sustainable peace building can be achieved by governments if they develop ability to touch the daily lives of citizens through improved delivery of services. The authors believe that an important characteristic of effective local government is its proximity to the recipients of the basic services it provides. Thus, if government is well-recognized for its role in providing basic infrastructure such as drinking water, waste management, construction of latrines and public convenience facilities, recreational facilities and parks, and local roads, it is likely to unite people to work together for peace (Brandi & Clara, 2008).

Mbaku & Smith, (2012), noted that the government can also ensure peace by strengthening public participation for peace building. Good governance is related to a set of values such as participation, accountability, responsiveness, transparency and transparency by (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008). Governance is measured using the following attributes;

• Participation

Participation approaches may be adopted to foster and institutionalize elements of good governance (EC, 2013). In this situation, inclusive participation and representation, transparency and accountability, and capacity for local dispute resolution are seen not as simply means to fulfill immediate needs but also as ends in themselves. There is some evidence to support links between community-based interventions and progress in governance (World Bank, 2006). Government should be able to allow participation of all the citizens in all the activities.

• Accountability

Accountability is the process whereby public sector entities, and the individuals within them, are responsible for their decisions and actions, including their stewardship of public funds and all aspects of performance and submit themselves to appropriate external scrutiny. It is achieved by all parties having a clear understanding of those responsibilities, and having clearly defined roles in a robust structure. Both internal and external accountability and reporting structures are attributes of sound financial management (Ranz, 2009). King, (2002) made a distinction between accountability and responsibility by stating that one is liable to render an account when one is accountable and one is liable to be called to account when one is responsible. Accountability, therefore, is enforced by law, policy or statute and responsibility by conduct and a positive relationship with its stakeholders. King 2002 also referred to the latter as Social Responsibility.

- **Responsiveness**

This refers to the willingness to help the public and provide prompt service (Mbaku& Smith, 2012). Responsiveness is a core value of the transformed public service. Its application in practice will have a profound effect on the way national departments and provincial administrations operate (Ranz, 2009). The key to implementing the responsiveness principle lies in being able to identify quickly and accurately when services are falling below the promised standard and having procedures in place to remedy the situation (Mbaku& Smith, 2012).

- **Rule of law**

Rule of law is an approach that brings together the police, civil society and local communities to jointly take responsibility for and develop solutions to local safety and security (World development report, 2011). The country's laws have to be adopted and respected for de-mining and weapons collection. De-mobilised combatants have to be involved in de-mining as a way to facilitate local reintegration (USAID, 2007). This approach articulates peace building in post conflict transitioning societies.

Drawing on Mbaku& Smith, (2012), on the relationship between Governance, Capacity development and Sustainable, it can be noted that good governance, in all its facets, has been demonstrated to be positively correlated with the achievement of better growth rates, particularly through the building of institutions in support of markets. Recent empirical analysis suggests a positive correlation between democratic governance and levels of income, investment, human capital, economic liberalization, and distributive income growth in society (Brinkerhoff & Derick, 2008).

Indeed, some analysts, such as Alfred Zack-Williams, have successfully argued that good governance, particularly its aspects of democratic consolidation, is a sine qua non for development. Consequently, the new maxim for Africa in the twenty-first century should be "no democracy, no development" (Mbaku& Smith, 2012). Similarly, United Nations (U.N.) Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said that "good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development" (Ranz, 2009). Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said that "good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development" (Ranz, 2009).

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