



**UNDERSTANDING  
GOOD GOVERNANCE  
AND DEMOCRACY**

## **What is Governance?**

A process to consolidate power, authority and influence and enact policies and decisions concerning public life and social upliftment

## **Good governance**

is an approach to government or to running institutions that is committed to creating a system founded in justice and peace that protects individual's human rights and civil liberties.



## Origin of the word “Democracy”?:

It originated from Greek words:  
*demos*, meaning “*the people*”, and  
*kratos*, meaning “*authority*”.

Directly translated, Democracy therefore means  
“*rule by the people*” In a democracy power is in the  
hands of the people.

## **Difference between Governance and Democracy?**

While Governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions, democracy focuses more on advancing sustainable human development.



## Benefits of good governance

- ✓ Respect of divergent views
- ✓ Inclusive decision making by the people; that is, people participation at all levels of decision making
- ✓ Respect of people's rights and upholding of people's rights.



# PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

*For one to tell that there is good governance, these  
are the characteristics that it should have*



## Participation

This simply implies that people freely participate in decision making processes.





## Consensus Oriented

Good governance requires mediation of the different interests in the society to reach a broad consensus on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved.







## Accountability

Government is responsible for all the decisions it makes on behalf of its citizens. Therefore, public officials elected and appointed have an obligation to explain their decisions and actions to the citizens.





## Transparency

Citizens can easily access information and the public can scrutinize the leaders in regards to the information.





## **Responsiveness**

the processes and policies put in place  
serve interests of all the people





## **Effective & efficient**

People's needs are met and with proper utilization of resources.





## **Equitable & inclusive**

All citizens are equal before the law and all have equal access to opportunities.





## Rule of law

refers to the principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to the law of the land that is fairly applied and enforced. This restricts impunity as everyone is equal before the law.



A graphic on the left side of the slide consists of three stylized hands in shades of blue. The top hand is a bright blue silhouette. Below it is a darker blue silhouette of a hand, and at the bottom is a very dark blue silhouette of a hand. The hands are positioned as if they are reaching towards the center of the slide.

# **PARTICIPATION**

*Participation is a key principle of good governance*



## Participation

is a key principle of good governance, people can participate through established structures.


*e.g. an adopted democracy and or through alternative ways such as civil associations.*

## Citizen participation

a process which gives private individuals opportunity to influence public decisions and to be a component of the democratic decision-making process.



## Ways in which citizens can participate

- 
- ✓ Voting in local, state, and national elections
  - ✓ Participating in a political discussion
  - ✓ Signing petitions
  - ✓ Writing letters to elected representatives
  - ✓ Running for office
  - ✓ Attending meetings to gain information, discuss issues, or lend support
  - ✓ Lobbying for laws that are of special interest
  - ✓ Demonstrating through marches, boycotts, sit-ins, or other forms of protest



## Importance of Citizen Participation

- Ability to demand for accountability
- Citizens will be informed of public issues and be able to easily monitor government performance



**GOVERNANCE  
IN AFRICA**



## Constitution

The supreme law of the land for a single sovereign democratic state where governance is effected through the three separate and independent arms of government; Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary.



## Executive

The executive arm of government comprises the President and the Ministers. It provides political leadership for the country and for implementing laws and policies.



## Judiciary

To interpret the Constitution and other laws passed by parliament, settle disputes by handling both civil and criminal cases.



## Legislature

The assembly of the citizens' elected representatives (Parliament), its responsible for making laws (legislation), exercise oversight on the executive and facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative process.



## Other actors in governance

### Political parties

a group of people with similar political goals and opinions. In a democracy, different political parties should be tolerated. The purpose of the political party is to get candidates elected to public office.

### Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

Non-State, not-for-profit, voluntary entities formed by people in the social sphere that are separate from the State. CSOs represent a wide range of interests and ties.





## Other actors in governance

### Media

Independent and diverse media who provide the citizens with crucial information and means of communication.

### The opposition

...acts as a “government in waiting” which offers political alternatives and scrutinizes government.

# Types of Governments in Africa

*Africa contains only four different types of government:*



## Presidential system

This is the most widespread form of government in Africa. In this system, a President is elected and operates independent of the legislature as the executive authority. Twenty-six African nations, including Zambia, Sudan, Kenya, Chad, Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe, have presidential republic governments.

## Types of Governments in Africa



### Parliamentary system

In this system, the executive authority resides in cabinet of ministers, rather than the president. These ministers come from the elected legislature, which provides popular oversight to the cabinet's power.

Seven African nations possess parliamentary governments among which is Ethiopia, Somalia, Botswana, Mauritius and recently Libya.

## Types of Governments in Africa



### Semi-presidential Republics

A semi-presidential government combines elements of presidential and parliamentary systems. These governments have popularly elected presidents that serve as heads of state, and also cabinets beholden to the legislature. 17 countries in Africa practice these systems among which are, Algeria, Madagascar, Niger, Mali, Rwanda, Tunisia, Djibouti, Uganda and Equatorial Guinea all function as semi-presidential republics.

## Types of Governments in Africa



### Traditional Monarchies

These functions as a constitutional monarchy, with the king as the head of state and a prime minister as head of government. They exist in only three countries in Africa that is Lesotho, Morocco and Swaziland



**ROLE OF  
CIVIL SOCIETY  
IN PROMOTING  
GOOD GOVERNANCE**



## Civic Engagement

Civic engagement refers to citizen's actions in contributing to community efforts in addressing issues of public concern. Active citizenship allows participation in the community by empowering people to influence the decisions, which affect their lives.



## Civil society

Civil society has an important role to play in consolidating democracy. Civil-society organizations are mostly active in stimulating the political awareness of the public and encouraging their political participation to protect their own interests. This is only possible when freedom of speech and right of free assembly are guaranteed.





## **Social accountability**

Social accountability mechanisms can contribute to improved governance, increased development effectiveness through better service delivery, and empowerment.



## Civic education

CSOs can help to inform citizens, educate them about democracy and remind them of their rights and responsibilities.



## Participatory policy, budget analysis and tracking

Civil Society Organizations have a role to champion participation in formulating public policy and champion review of budgets in order to assess whether allocations match the government's announced social commitments.



## **Participatory performance monitoring and evaluation**

This entails citizen groups or communities monitoring the implementation and performance of public services or projects and evaluating their impact, often according to indicators they themselves have selected.



## Role of Citizens in Good governance

### Participation

(Choosing leaders):

The main role of a citizen in a democracy is to participate in choosing leaders. This provides a process that gives private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and to be a component of the democratic decision-making process.

### Accountability:

This is core accountability concerns the relationship between the elected leaders and citizens where the citizens are able to demand that the state justifies its actions. It calls for utmost transparency by the leaders.

### Civic engagement:

Refers to citizen's actions in contributing to community efforts to address issues of public concern. Active citizenship allows participation in the community by empowering people to influence the decisions that affect their lives.