

## The Socio-Political Dynamic Import of Citizens Participation in Public Resource Management in Relation to Good Governance for South Africa

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**Abstract:** This article looks at the social fundamentals in Africa's political governance in relation to basic leadership and its system of administration regarding public office holders vis-a-vis political leaders. In an attempt to address the research question, it conceptualizes the dynamics of having a transparent government, in the changing pattern in leadership in relation to good administration of governance and the management of public goods and delivery of services to general public, a system for which the discourse changes in Africa's legislative issues. This article focuses on the structures of interaction from the national to local level it then brings up development of events that seem to be basic to all African politics, which may have been inciting the changes in the original patterns. It identifies socio-political and economic policies as bedrock that is central to a country's stability and development. Inevitably, a properly established economic policy is needed to ensure the sustainability, strength, development, and delivery, of public goods efficiently. This article contributes to the political discourse in Africa, which may have continued to this day and findings shows the obvious failures on the part of political leaders' and their inability to manage public resources, thereby making them deviate from their campaign manifestos or become detached from people-centred fundamental issues of governance. Qualitatively, this article is conducted and guided by Stewardship and Corporate Governance theory. It objectively looks at the keys of good governance as its objective in the post-independence African public sector in providing an enabling environment and effective regulatory framework.

**Keywords:** *Political processes, governance, interaction, accountability, economic performance.*

### 1. Introduction

The general understanding of the term 'governance', portrays the processes by which organizations are led, controlled and held to account for their actions. It comprises the authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, course, and control employed to manage public resources within the organization. Governance and public administration are two fundamental issues, which can be described as two sides of a coin. These two concepts are linked through to one and another – government (Hasan, 2019: 1). The traditional use of "governance" and its dictionary access defines it as a synonym for "government" that signifies the exercise of authority over territory or system, or in an institution, a state, or an organization (Stoker 1998: 21). While Badun (2004: 7), sees governance to be primary to government, and one of "the pillars of government is public administration." Hasan (2019:1), states that the growing work on governance comprises a variation in its use and construction. It would not be far from truth to say that in recent times "governance" has become a buzzword, thereby replacing commonplace "government". In the era of clamouring for change, fast-tracking globalization and growing uncertainty many countries are in search of a new form of governance.

That is well adapted to the modern era to advance in economic competitiveness and build substantial and sustainable social growth and public resource management having good governance in place helps to bring about performance in terms of the social, political, environmental and economic impact on the people and society the typical reactions to public sector resource management deficiencies in most underdeveloped Africa states have intensified to a great extent on a combination of specific productivity advancement reforms, dependent on neo-liberal models with the New Public Management (NPM) tools and standards. The predominant scholarly, strategy and scholars debates often show up locked up in an unlimited sphere, therefore repeating minor withdrawal from a similar issue, with will-powers and processes for improvement. However, in the public sector and the executive leadership in developing nations in the industrialized global world, given the obscured parameters between the "global North and South", it is under expanding strain to

achieve. According to Brinkerhoff and Brinkerhoff (2015), the reiteration of current problems is very much perceived in conveying quality administrations of good governance with less resource.

To different public users in banding together viably the private and non-profit spaces then reacting adaptably and quickly to shifts in demands and needs of the public, where guaranteeing citizens' wellbeing and security is an invigorating infinite but fair economic development opportunity. These are undeniably progressively hard to pinpoint (Brinkerhoff and Brinkerhoff, 2015). Adapting proactively to transnational dangers in these current challenges and difficulties in public management by the government and public office holders, calls for considerations beyond the traditional public sector with the management approaches and tools. As a political office holder, one has committed to take up a career in the public sector as a political leader or civil servant, in order to serve and represent the interests of the people. This means making ethical decisions in accordance with public sector values, otherwise known as principles and standards of the good administration of governance. The question is; what is the capacity of standards of good administration in the public sector? The appropriate response is not extensive as the standards of good administration urge public managers to rise above the impediments of reasoning in lawful terms.

The lawful ramifications of activities are basic to any choice of decision; they are likewise all, characterized or defined as simple to decide and easy to apply. Alternately, by scrutinizing an activity in connection to qualities and practices, a public administrator must almost certainly face the essential moral viewpoints. The standards of the good administration of governance serve to direct public office holders in their jurisdictions to act in the public interest consistently to accomplish developments. The World Bank defines governance as "how power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development" World Bank (1991: 1). The definition by the World Bank is further emphasised by Enaifoghe & Maramura (2018), who said that governance is "concerned with efficiency and the capacity of state institutions beyond the public sector to the rules and institutions that create a predictable and transparent framework for the conduct of public and private business, as well as accountability for economic and financial performance". However, in most African nations, people with power have figured out how to dissolve any similarity to responsibility, authenticity, democratic government, and equity.

Which has been a premise of significant disillusionment to the organizers, financial analysts, policy-makers, and economist who need African governments to present a sensible and aggregate attack on the quest to reduce poverty, and diseases like HIV/AIDS, improve education, and solve other problems to advance developments in the continent, these considerations, definite "frantically required the components of good administration of governance" (Olukoshi, 2018). The incorporation of mainstream investment in good administration of governance, responsibility, and straightforwardness, end corruption, increase security and access to information and respect for human rights, decentralization, improve infrastructure, and devolution of power. This article looks at how the government manages public resources. More so, what could form the poor decision making in governance, does it have some social link to environmental factors because most leaders step into government with promises of alleviating the people's suffering, but end up failing to fulfil their mandates and campaign promises. They neglect the fundamental social issues that brought them to power in the first place. Could this be regarded as power playing or corruption?

## **2. Methodology**

This paper adopted a content analysis method that allows researchers to study and basically consult and make sense of written materials or documents which may be available either in the public or private domain (Mogalakwe, 2006). The above definition recommends that researchers determine the relevance of the documents that they consult on the basis of their significance to the study. Furthermore, Dey (2005: 105) argues that in documentary analysis, the criteria for selecting documents, or for focusing on particular extracts, should reflect the issues on which the researcher is seeking evidence. It made it possible for the researchers to explore and address the research question on how well public resources are managed by the government for efficiency or deficiency through the changing patterns in leadership. It conceptualizes social dynamics in open administration in connection to good administration of governance and public management, a structure for the discourse with some examples of variations in African legislative issues. This article centres on the structures of good governance, the interaction and the administering of public goods

through political offices at the 'national to local' levels of government. This study recognizes the fact that economic policies are central to the bedrock of the country's stability and development.

Inevitably, a properly established economic policy is needed so as to ensure sustainability, strength, and development of a country. No wonder the lavish lifestyles lived by presidents and political leaders across the continent of Africa, despite having a plethora of natural resources the continent still wallows in abject poverty due to corruption, non-accountability, and recklessness of the political gatekeepers in Africa. This has caused backwardness, economic recessions, and infrastructural decay on the continent. Good Governance has assumed different definitions to fit into diverse situations. 'Good Governance' as an ideology gained popularity with the emergence of donor discourse at the end of the Cold War in 1990. The World Bank took the lead by becoming the 'numero uno' as a prominent donor agency and even adopted 'good governance' as a criterion to be fulfilled before developing countries could access loans (cited in Udo, 2004). The study objective explores the key to good administration of governance in the post-1994 South African public sector, in an effort to provide an enabling environment and effective regulatory policy framework. Thus, the study sought to plug the gap on bad governance in most of Africa's public sector in the direction of enabling public participation in political administration for good governance to be achieved.

### **3. Conceptual Literature Considerations**

The World Governance indicators place the majority of African countries in the bottom 50th percentile of their six dimensions of governance, with the inclusion of South Africa. Meaning that in terms of governance indicators, Africa is the least to achieve good governance (WB, 2012; McKinsey Global Institute, 2016). Likewise, the "Corruption Perceptions Index which is produced" by the "Transparency International in Africa", reveals that a total of 30 countries out of the 47 countries that were surveyed and were established to have extensive "corruption and only three countries, including Botswana, Cape Verde, and Mauritius, scored above the global average for corruption" (WB, 2012; McKinsey Global Institute. 2016: 2). In light of this background, Akonor (2013: 9), argues that "weak political leadership is often co-located with bad practices of governance" which are de-linked from the participatory dynamic of the citizens. This simply implies that the inclusion of citizens in the governance structures should actually be "co-located" with good practices of governance. One key component of good governance is that of participatory decision-making of citizens and all the relevant stakeholders within the government, that enjoy a sense of belonging through their participation in the procedures (Chigudu, 2018).

In the same manner, the social dynamics in public participation actually acknowledge that better participation in decision-making is an enabler for good governance. Hence, this study confirms that public participation enables citizens and every relevant stakeholder to actualize their right to demand "accountability and transparency" from the government, in respect of the Batho Pele principles. For the renewal of the continent, the practice of good governance in the public sector is essential. However, the current deficiencies and gaps located in the good governance structures of Africa is an indication to sort for help in Africa and to actually move forward socio-economically. This is crucial because, among other things, good governance contributes to macroeconomic stability and enhances the implementation of socio-economic development (Obeng-Odoom (2015; Gulrajani, 2015; Ayittey, 2004). Central to this component is the literature on good governance that is affirmed by Grindle (2007: 4). It opts for "feasible and best-fit solutions to core public management problems". The literature has had a robust stream of analysis and practice pointing out the importance of public participation predating to the pre-colonial era, in this context which dates this study to the apartheid era in South Africa (Brinkerhoff & Brinkerhoff, 2015).

The US Agency for International Development argues for attention to be given to the country's system and understanding how their structures and processes facilitate" for good governance (USAID, 2014; UN-Habitat, 2016). Brinkerhoff & Brinkerhoff (2015), advocate on how problem-driven public sector transformation and its related public management diagnostics glimmer an inward interest on the grassroots levels who engage in supportive, fulfilling and promoting public sector reforms. Within the South African public sphere, the new public management approach rationalizes the characterization of the "principal-agent" rapport which exists between the public sector and the citizens in commercial expressions in which the citizens are deemed basically as the customers who anticipate fulfilment from the government (Obeng-Odoom, 2015).

Correspondingly, in line with the Batho Pele principles, in facilitating for the provisions of public participation which are aligned with good governance, the government is meant to account to the electorate by ensuring, “value for money, transparency, accountability and redressing imbalances of the past” among other Public Sector ethos. However, in general, governance should not simply be about politics and governments as according to (Ayittey, 2004). Conversely, modern research tributaries have been encouraging the public sector and the citizens to distance its line of thinking away from the twofold, the primary proxy of philosophy which only envisions the supply-side and demand-side of governance. Instead redirect the line of thinking to focus on a collective accomplishment to any public sectoral challenges (Booth and Cammack, 2013; Booth, 2012). This line of thought is aimed at directing towards the idea that, any governance challenges in which the government succumbs to are not essentially two-fold or defined in binary terms, because unfortunately, any governance challenges affect both the electorate and the government in retrospect (Grindle, 2007). Thus, the social dynamics in public participation are actually about all the relevant stakeholders devising solid strategies as highlighted below.

**Stakeholder Involvement:** Stakeholder involvement in good governance is crucial and it is essential that which has a major impact on the local government as has been exemplified by the dynamics surrounding good governance and involvement of all relevant stakeholders involved (Castells & Himanen, 2014). Hence, it fundamentally begins with identification and acknowledgment of who the relevant stakeholders are to ensure efficient and effective public participation towards good governance. Besides, the “state (government) and the people (the governed) represent two actors identified within governance, as such, it is the responsibility of governments to inspire and propel the governed” for public participation (WB, 2012). Unfortunately, in practice, the South African government appears to have substantiated to be a bad example of such concern.

**Public Consultation:** Public consultation is a critical component in the social dynamics of public participation in relation to good governance because it helps to generate direct contact between the local governments as the grass-roots level closer to the people (Healey, 2004), thereby dissolving the element of South African citizens being isolated from the public participation progression. Roe (1993) asserts that public consultations are essential tools that actually enable the identification of problems within governance structures and they ultimately encourage citizens to be willing to partake in the solution-finding process. In retrospect, this paper confirms that the aim of public consultations is to place pressure on the service provider in creating a sense of responsibility to improve good governance according to the needs of the public.

**Transparency and Right to Information:** Chigudu (2018) espouses that, stakeholder involvement in policymaking and public consultation are essential components to ensuring transparency and the right to information in the public service provision cycle. Hence, this paper confirms that public participation ultimately results in the development of transparent platforms between the public who have the right to information from the service providers towards enabling good governance.

**Citizens’ Satisfaction:** Akonor (2013) highlights that the satisfaction of citizens by the level of service delivery and in this similitude good governance fundamentally culminates and ultimately escalates with a derivation from the three components aforementioned. This implies that citizenry satisfaction can be enabled through the improvement in rationalizing public service processes to be more integrative of the public as the service users and relevant stakeholders towards attaining good governance in South Africa (Kelsall, 2016). Citizen’s satisfaction goes beyond citizens and the government actually finding alternative and suitable ways of being able to act collectively in their own best interests (Booth, 2012). As a result, a collective action approach enables the identification of more creative and productive solutions to good governance which go beyond simple sources of customer demand. The Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance is regarded as the world’s most comprehensive ranking of African governance, by measuring 48 African sub-Saharan states on the basis of their quality of governance.

That is, based on “safety and security, transparency and corruption, human development”, participation and human rights (Booth, 2012, WB, 2012, Chigudu, 2018). Additionally, research places emphasis on good governance, which is hinged upon public participation, this makes it imperative for the integration of public participation into good governance. Unfortunately, in practice, the South African government appears to have

substantiated to be a bad example of such concern. Likewise, the "African Good Governance Network, Kelsall, (2016), notes that "governance in South Africa has been hinged mainly on governments and politics". Rather, it is incumbent upon the governed to be proactive and have the will to stay on the course through on-going consultations by building with key stakeholders during implementation processes by making use of available tools such as public participation. The hypothesis contends and takes a look at an alternate type of inspiration for supervisors drawn from authoritative hypothesis. Administrators are seen as faithful to the organization and keen on accomplishing superior.

#### 4. Theoretical Consideration of Stewardship and Corporate Governance

Much the same as the organization hypothesis, the stewardship hypothesis expects that public office managers are stewards whose practices are lined up with the goals of their principals. According to Al Bondigas (2019), "the dominant motive, which directs managers to accomplish their jobs, is their desire to perform excellently. Specifically, managers are conceived as being motivated by a need to achieve, to gain intrinsic satisfaction through successfully performing inherently challenging work, to exercise responsibility and authority, and thereby to gain recognition from peers and bosses". GLCRC (2011) stated that the "theory also argues that an organization requires a structure that allows harmonization to be achieved most efficiently between managers and owners. In the context of the firm's leadership, this situation is attained more readily if the CEO is also the chairman of the board". This initiative structure will help them to accomplish better execution than the degree that the CEO practices total experts over the organization and that their job is unambiguous and unchallenged. In this circumstance, power and expertise are moved in a solitary individual. "Most theories of corporate governance use personal self-interest as a starting point. Stewardship theory, however, rejects self-interest. Agency theory begins from self-interested behavior and rests on dealing with the cost inherent in separating ownership from control. Managers are assumed to work to improve their own position while the board seeks to control managers and hence, close the gap between the two structures"-Walter (2019).

Public office and stewardship hypotheses start from "two very different premises". Walter (2019) further elaborates the fact that the essential office issue spins around people viewing themselves as just as people with no other significant connections. The stewardship hypothesis holds that people in the executives' positions do not essentially think about themselves as secluded people. Rather, they view themselves as a feature of the firm. Public office managers, as indicated by stewardship hypothesis, should combine their inner self and feeling of worth with the notoriety of the firm. Accordingly, the stewardship hypothesis, supervisors should look for different closures other than money-related ones (Walter, 2019). These incorporate a feeling of worth, philanthropy, great notoriety, a vocation well done, a sentiment of fulfilment and a feeling of direction. The stewardship hypothesis holds that supervisors naturally look to work admirably, expand organization benefits and convey great outcomes to investors. They do not really do this for their very own monetary intrigue, but since they feel a solid obligation to the firm or the office they hold, and a sense of responsibility to the people they serve. Subsequently, the assumptions regarding corporate initiative will be clearer and progressively steady both for subordinate supervisors and for the individuals from the corporate board. Accordingly, there is no space for vulnerability concerning who has a specialist or duty over a specific issue. Carothers and Saskia (2014) argued that the association will appreciate the advantages of solidarity of course and of solid direction and control.

**The Agency Theory on Good Governance:** The organization's relationship is viewed as a legally binding connection between the principals that give mandate to the organization or institutions and the administration (operator) who runs the organization or public office. The principals draw in the specialist to play out certain administrations for their sake and would typically designate some basic leadership experts in terms of making decision (GLCRC, 2011). In any case, as the unpredictability of activities developed, the executives, who had the skill and basic information to work the organization, progressively increased compelling control and set them in a place where they were inclined to seek after their own advantages. The writing on organization hypothesis tends to three kinds of issues that could unfold from the partition of possession and the executives, which may thus influence the institution's value. They are the exertion issue, the advantages' utilization issue, and differential hazard inclinations issue.



The exertion issue concerns whether administrators apply legitimate exertion in overseeing organizations in order to expand participator's interest. Issues emerge on the grounds that principals are not ready to decide whether the administrators are playing out their work fittingly (Walter, 2019). Administrators may not apply similar high exertion levels required for firm esteem augmentation as they would in the event that they possessed the firm. Similarly, there could be "the use of assets problem concerned the insiders who control corporate assets" or control corporate resources. They may manhandle these benefits for purposes that are unsafe to the interests of investors, for example, redirecting corporate resources, guaranteeing over the general public, the top compensations and controlling exchange costs of advantages with different substances they control. Brinkerhoff and Brinkerhoff (2015) argued that the differential hazard inclinations issue emerges on the grounds that the main and directors or public office managers should have distinctive perspectives on hazard taking.

Chiefs may not act to the greatest advantage of investors and may have distinctive premiums and dangers inclinations. For instance, administrators have a more extensive scope of financial and mental needs, to expand pay, security, status, and to help their own notoriety, which might be unfavourably influenced by a venture that builds an association's all out hazard. This may result in public office holders being excessively careful in making decisions and therefore neglecting to expand and put the people into considerations. Hence, scholars of public office managers prescribed that corporate administration instruments are expected to diminish these organizations' clashes and to adjust the interests of the operator to those of the central. These systems incorporate motivation plans for directors which remunerate them monetarily to amplify investor premiums. Walter (2019) expressed that, such plans ordinarily incorporate procedures whereby senior officials procure shares, possibly at a deal value, along these lines adjusting budgetary interests of administrators to those of the general public. This shows itself in the manner in which it works together.

Different systems incorporate fixing official remuneration and dimensions of advantages to the public interest and having some portion of official pay conceded to the future to compensate long-run value expansion of the partnership. Essentially, Bondigas (2019), states that the stewardship hypothesis holds that proprietorship does not generally possess an organization; it's simply holding it in trust. The activity might be a vehicle for a higher calling or intended to respect a founder's initial or underlying vision, so making a benefit regularly takes "back seat" to fulfilling an organization. He further noted that the Stewardship models may incorporate ecological concerns, where an organization trusts it ought to work with a meagre effect as conceivable on the earth. Different organizations may support human or every living creature's common-sense entitlement, forgoing utilizing items that are made in sweatshops or tried on live subjects. Still others may respect the proprietor's religious convictions that show themselves as worker authority (Bondigas, 2019), argued that these models will, in general, become emotional, with the executives deciding the limit capacity between socially mindful or unreliable conduct.

**The African Political Landscape in Relation to Good Governance:** The evolutions which have occurred on the African political scene in the course of the recent time have been multidimensional. They happened as much at the dimension of formal governmental issues, in the field of the informal processes that support the political framework. They have also produced the components within the political framework and those outside to it, requiring a local introspection regarding the settings in which the developments are happening (Olukoshi, 2018). Besides, while residential, local and national-level contemplations are basic to the meaning of the procedure of progress, outer variables and universal actors likewise keep on playing an imperative, even, at certain conjunctures, determinant job in moulding results (Olukoshi, 2018). Naturally, a great part of the consideration which has been centred on political change in Africa has been focused on the formal organizations and methods of legislative issues in light of the fact that these are both progressively noticeable and quantifiable. However, as is the "case with politics elsewhere in the world, important as institutions and procedures are, they do not, in and of themselves, tell the whole story." Consequently, it is imperative that consideration is paid likewise to the procedures that support and shape/remould formal organizations and methodology, including particularly the actors and on-screen characters whose activities and inactions offer life to the political framework. And this can be done without a resort, as Chabal and Daloz (1999) do, "to stereotyping African politics almost as a domain of abracadabra where the more one sees, the more one gets mystified."

According to Holomisa (2017), who stated that with "a socio-political approach, puts context at the centre stage and it assumes that politics matter? It must be understood that policy choices, that are not rooted in a deep understanding of how societies work will not produce the desired results". It was further suggested that, "a socio-political approach which focuses on histories, social relationships, identities, capacities, power-dynamics, how resources are distributed and contested and it delves deeper into formal structures to expose underlying interests, incentives and institutions that determine how politicians act, how governments perform and how policy choices play out" (Holomisa, 2017). This is where the leader must understand the four key principles of; "accountability, transparency, participation, and inclusion—have in recent years become nearly universal features of the policy statements and programs of international development organizations" (Carothers and Saskia, 2014). However, this evidently widespread new consensus is deceptive or beguiling: behind the ringing affirmations lie fundamental gaps over the value, what's more, utilization of these ideas. Understanding and tending to these divisions is critical to guaranteeing that the four standards become completely inserted in global advancement work. The figure is also said to be six times the aid given by Americans to Europe after the war under the Marshall plan (Blair, 2005).

**Ethics on Corporate Governance and Human Governance:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) empowers government-connected organizations (GLCs) and privately-owned institutions to sign the corporate respectability vow with an end goal to stamp out debasement and corruption. Apparently, the move was set to make a business condition or institution free of debasement and corrupt practices. The GLCs and privately-owned businesses are therefore urged to do as such to mirror an accord among enterprises to fight corrupt practices and upgrade the certainty or "confidence among foreign investors that there is healthy competition among businesses in Malaysia" Chabal and Daloz (1999). It was pointed out that stiff competition among various organizations both private and public sectors had caused some to resort to corrupt practices. Nonetheless, companies with high ethics would use their actual capabilities to obtain a contract. But there are also those who take the easy way out by offering bribes. This move is seen as an enhancement of corporate governance in Africa's political leadership and framework for good governance (GLCRC, 2012a). Among the imperative components of the promise was the Corporate Integrity Pact, which would be marked by organizations associated with the acquisition of an undertaking, this study believes it is imperative to address the issue of corrupt practices in the public management sector, so as enhance to accountability, efficiency, and socio-political and economic development.

Africans have recognized that advancement must be redone by a vote-based methodology utilizing the strength and dedication of Africans—who alone can make improvements maintainable. The above acknowledgment came out of the Arusha Conference "Putting the People First" of February 1990, held by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and gone to by more than 500 appointments speaking to grassroots associations, non-governmental associations, United Nations offices, and various governments. The African Charter for democratic Participation in Development and Transformation, which was received by the plenary, holds that the non-appearance of the majority rule system of government is a key purpose behind the diligent improvement challenges confronting Africa. In this article we insist that countries cannot be built without the prominent help or support and full investment and participation of the general population, nor can the financial crisis be settled and the human and monetary conditions improved without the full and viable commitment, innovativeness, and well known eagerness of by far most of the general population. All things considered, it is to the general population that the very benefits of development should and must accumulate. We are convinced that neither can Africa's current interminable economic crisis survive, nor can a brilliant "future for Africa and its population see the light of day", except if the current structures, design, and political setting of the financial advancement process and development are properly modified.

Democratic political changes must be accentuated as key factors in the assurance of future financial support for Africa, in order to experience socio-political development through democratic practices. It was stated by the Development Advisory Committee for Economic Cooperation and Development put on record that in support of "participatory advancement," there is a need to consider following factors democratization, improved administration, and human rights (Olukoshi, 2018). The condition that political changes or reform have been attempted is currently joined at any rate logically to practically almost all Western support. France proposes more prominent freedom and majority rules system of democracy, Great Britain suggests great

administration of government, the United States centres around great administration, Japan discusses connecting support and helps to decrease in military uses (Brinkerhoff and Brinkerhoff, 2015). However, paying little respect to the approach, there is progressively concrete understanding among contributors that “political changes in Africa must outcome in decreased corruption and increased financial responsibility, better recognition of human rights”. Having autonomous media and a free legal executive, participatory governmental issues, and a “changed market economy so as to draw nearer to a definitive objective of important monetary development and advancement” (Brinkerhoff and Brinkerhoff, 2015).

**Good Governance and Governance: Clarifications:** The World Bank (1993) conceives governance as a system through which ‘power is exercised in the management of a country’s political, economic and social resources for development’. On this note, the World Bank hinges on the use of power to exercise control upon the political and economic endowments of a country. The main purpose of governance is to obtain political power so as to influence the economic prowess of a nation on the path to the attainment of growth. In other words, it places emphasis on utilizing a country’s wealth to the advantage of the country. This definition applies to the western world, but it is not in consonance with what is obtained in the less developed countries, mainly African states. The majority of leaders on the African continent hardly demarcate private government administration.

This category of leaders manages a country like sole trader and general wealth for private enrichment in collaboration with their cohorts. The IMF (2016) describes the role of governance as having the oversight on how the state is being governed in all facets, its economic strategies, and proper regulatory structures. It implies that governance is concerned with the entirety of government’s actions and activities specifically tailored with the aim of achieving and attaining economic policies. According to Kofi Annan former United Nations envoy, he conceptualizes ‘good governance’ as ‘the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development’ (Annan, cited in UN 1998). The absence of good governance will perpetuate hunger and underdevelopment. Good governance propels citizens to feel the effect of governance, especially with reference to economic growth and development. The UNDP (2002) submits that ‘good governance’ is concerned with contending for the rule of law, transparency, equity, effectiveness/efficiency, accountability, and strategic vision in the use of political, economic, and administrative authority. To date, over \$380 billion have been allegedly purloined by both Khaki and Camouflage-Boys and the political gatekeepers. This amount is equal to all the financial and technical assistance received by Africa from the West for about 40 years and also equivalent to 300 years of British aid released to the continent. Statistics have shown that from 1970 to 2000, the population of Nigerians living on less than one dollar a day (below the poverty line) rose sharply from 36% to over 70%, that is, from 19 million to a shocking 90 million (Watts, 2007).

**Nigeria and the Independence Governance:** Governance in Nigeria dates back to the period before independence. This was the era of the British colonial hegemonial administration. In the 59-year history of Nigeria, the military-ruled for 29 years while civil rule accounted for 30 years of stewardship (Makinde (2013). Simply put, good governance could be viewed as a process in which government sector workers and institutions execute public affairs, and control public resources efficiently through the aforementioned conditions. Over the years, the military has been blamed for maladministration and governance woes in Nigeria. Furthermore, it was alleged that the military prepared the grounds to fruition the culture of corruption in Nigeria. However, Omotoso (2008) posits that with the advent of democracy in Nigeria since 1999, studies have revealed that corruption cannot be tied to a specific regime type but it has been a typical feature in the Nigerian system. Political and bureaucratic corruption has been adduced as another proof and outcome of failure of governance in Nigeria. Corruption as an integral feature of poor governance can be simply defined as the misuse of public office for private gain. In Nigeria corruption has assumed alarming and ridiculous levels as Gunnar Myrdal labels the country as the “folklore of corruption” (Amuwo, 2005). This situation has abruptly left Nigeria in the quagmire of instability, economic challenges, Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism, kidnapping, crime rate, pervasive unemployment and fidgety state.



## 5. Conclusion

This paper set out to assess the management of public resources by African governments. The central argument of the paper lay in the fact that economic policy is central to a country's stability and development and the paper also argues that the progress of African governments is hinged on the full support and participation of its citizens. It is believed that Africa's interminable monetary crisis cannot survive; neither can a brilliant future for Africa and its population see the light of day, except if the structures, design, and political setting of the procedure of both economic and financial advancement and development are properly modified. Democratic political changes must be accentuated as key factors in the assurance of future financial support for Africa, in order to experience socio-political development through democratic practices this notwithstanding the fact that African governments are chronically besieged by high levels of corruption, violation of human rights restriction of media freedom.

These vices grossly affect the functioning of government and hence the adherence to good governance principles. This paper, therefore, emphasizes the need for increased and improved avenues of citizen participation in governance so as to ensure accountability and transparency, and a change in the market economy so as to achieve monetary development and advancement. Finally, the import of having the citizens participate in democratic governance cannot be overemphasized, as they play a key role in ensuring that the public office holders are held accountable to their office. Their participation helps to promote good governance through their involvement in policy implementation, and they also serve as checks and balances. This study recommends that economic policies are central to the bedrock of the country's stability and development. Inevitably, a properly established economic policy is needed so as to ensure sustainability, strength, and development of a country.

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