

Social Order and Citizen Engagement in Promoting Good Governance

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Introduction

■ Social Order

- ❖ The way in which a state is organized and the rules and standards required to maintain cohesion within the state itself
- ❖ The state in which social life can be conducted without major disruptions
- ❖ Securing social order through the formation of any government invariably requires the direct consent of those who are to be governed
- ❖ Social order entails Social control of the citizenry
- ❖ Africa suffers from social disorder most. This has undermined economic development

Nature of Social Control

- ❖ The control of society over individuals
- ❖ Social control denotes some kind of influence (leadership)
- ❖ Social control is exercised for promoting the welfare of all the individuals or the group as a whole.
- ❖ The influence of social control is universal. Where there is society, there is social control (Government)
- ❖ Government maintains social order by enforcing Rule of Law

Citizen Engagement

- ❖ It also means public participation
- ❖ The right of citizens to have an informed say in the decisions that affect their lives
- ❖ Emphasizes the sharing of power, information, and a mutual respect between government and citizens
- ❖ MDGs cannot be achieved without the participation of citizens

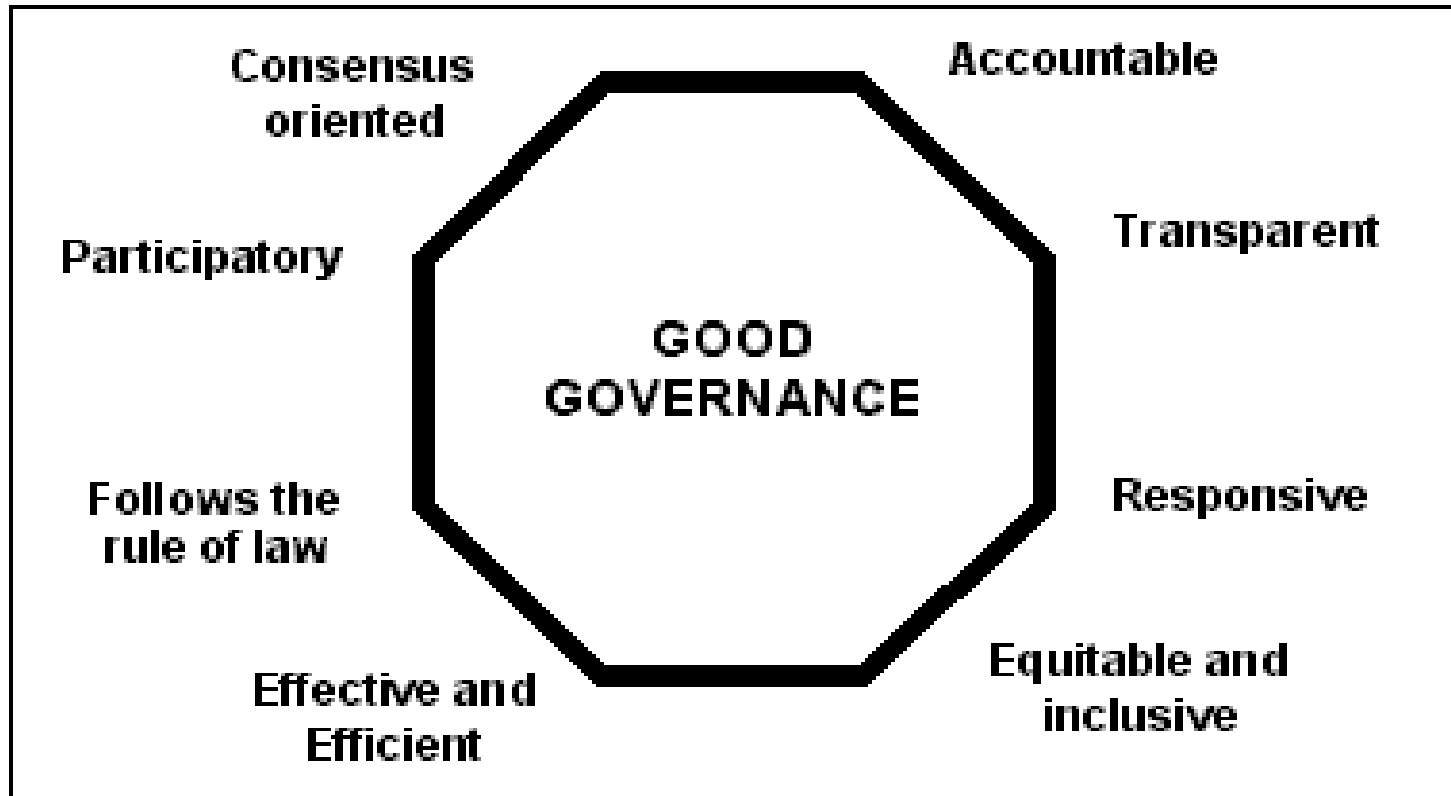
Why Citizen's Engagement?

- ❖ Increases transparency in government ensuring better control of corruption
- ❖ Enables decision-makers to make better decisions
- ❖ Politicians and Citizens share ownership for a controversial public decisions
- ❖ Enhances the legitimacy of public decisions
- ❖ Engagement in the policy process can bring political efficacy and citizens satisfaction

Good Governance

- ❖ The framework of social and economic systems, legal and political structures within which humanity organizes itself (UNED 2002)
- ❖ Government a major actor in governance

Pillars of Good Governance



Obstacles to Good Governance in Africa

- ❖ Negative Ethnicity
- ❖ Poverty
- ❖ Corruption
- ❖ Politicization of Administration
- ❖ Weak democratic Institutions (Legislatures, Judiciary)
- ❖ Absence of the Rule of Law
- ❖ Absence of Meritocracy

Implications of Good Governance

- ❖ Equity and Sustainable Development
- ❖ Social Cohesion (No civil wars, Political upheavals)
- ❖ Efficient Public Sector Management
- ❖ Improved Policy Presentation and Communication
- ❖ Respect for Human Rights

Conclusion

- ❖ Citizen participation necessary for promotion of social order and Rule of Law
- ❖ Citizen participation results in better Representative Democracy
- ❖ Citizens consumers of government services and goods. They **MUST** be involved in policy making and implementation
- ❖ Getting policies right is of crucial importance be they for preserving the status quo or reform
- ❖ Diversification of Regional Economies
- ❖ Governments in the region **MUST** enforce The Rule of Law



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