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

- Consensus oriented
- Participatory
- Follows the rule of law
- Effective and efficient
- Accountable
- Transparent
- Responsive
- Equitable and inclusive
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