

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY IN AFRICA: LESSONS FROM THE APRM EVALUATION METHODOLOGIES

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Dr Mataywa Busieka & Ms Gcino Mlaba

Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)



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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Theoretical Framework**
- 3. Contextual Orientation - The APRM and Governance in Africa**
- 4. Institutional Frameworks for Accountability**
- 5. Insights and challenges from APRM Country Reviews**
- 6. Reflections and Recommendations from APRM Reviews**
- 7. Conclusions**



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1. INTRODUCTION:

- Accountability and Integrity Mechanisms /Frameworks are fundamental pillars of good governance ensuring public officials act in citizens' best interests
- **Purpose:**
 - ✓ Maintain rule of law
 - ✓ Prevent corruption
 - ✓ Ensure effective and transparent management of public resources
- **Outcomes:** Build public trust, enhance transparency, and create a responsive governance environment



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2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK:

PRINCIPAL-AGENT THEORY & GOOD GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

- **Principal-Agent Theory:**
 - Examines the relationship between citizens (principals) and government officials (agents)
 - Highlights challenges in ensuring officials act ethically and serve public interest
 - APRM applies this theory by evaluating the effectiveness of anti-corruption bodies, the judiciary, and public financial management to reduce agency challenges
- **Good Governance Framework:**
 - Emphasizes transparency, accountability, and participation as key governance principles (World Bank, 1992).
 - APRM methodologies assess and provide recommendations on anti-corruption frameworks, judicial independence, and other governance challenges

Goal: Align public officials' actions with citizens' interests, fostering ethical and effective governance (Ellett, 2015).

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH:

- Desktop Research Methodology
- Documentary Evaluation focused on APRM Country Review Reports for Kenya, Ghana, South Africa, and Nigeria



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3. CONTEXT: THE APRM AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

- **African-owned and African-led** platform for self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in democracy and good governance, in full respect for democratic principles, human rights, rule of law, the acceleration of political, social and economic integration in Africa
- To foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to **political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration**
- With codes and standards contained in the **2003 Abuja Declaration** on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance
- The reviews are under **five areas of governance**:
 - ✓ **Democratic and Political Governance**
 - ✓ **Economic Management and Governance**
 - ✓ **Corporate Governance**
 - ✓ **Socio-economic Development**
 - ✓ **State Resilience** (2021 APRM approved a revised Questionnaire that includes State Resilience as a thematic area)



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4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

- Independent Oversight Bodies
- Judicial Independence
- Legislative Oversight Mechanisms
- Electoral Bodies, Civil Society, and Media



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5. INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES FROM APRM COUNTRY REVIEWS:

1. Strengthening Kenya's Anti-Corruption Framework: Insights and Challenges

- **APRM Review Focus:**
 - **Entities Reviewed:** Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), judiciary, and other institutions.
 - **Key Issues Identified:**
 - Political interference and resource constraints.
 - Inefficiencies in judicial processes (Daud, 2024).
- **Recommendations and Outcomes:**
 - **Enhance EACC Independence:** Insulation from political pressures; increased budget and resources (EACC, 2020).
 - **Judicial Reforms:** Specialized anti-corruption courts established, though inefficiencies persist (Ngugi et al, 2022).
 - **Public Engagement:** Educational campaigns to foster a culture of integrity and accountability.
- **Current Challenges:**
 - **EACC's Independence:** Continues to face political influence and leadership changes (Maina, 2019).
 - **Judicial Delays and Pressures:** Persistent case backlogs and susceptibility to external influences (Ochieng, 2021; Omondi, 2021).
- **Conclusion:**
 - **Mixed Impact:** While awareness and operational capacity have improved, structural and political issues remain significant hurdles.
 - **Way Forward:** Addressing political and institutional barriers is crucial for substantial anti-corruption progress (Transparency International, 2021).



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INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES: GHANA

Enhancing Judicial Independence and Effectiveness: Lessons from Ghana

- **APRM Review Focus:**
 - **Objective:** Assess judiciary's independence, capacity to handle corruption and governance cases, and effectiveness of reforms (APRM, 2005; Crook, 2010).
 - **Key Insights:** Importance of insulating judiciary from political interference and adopting transparent, merit-based judicial appointments (Gruzd & Turianskyi, 2013).
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Merit-Based Appointments:** Transparent processes for judicial appointments and promotions.
 - **Judicial Training:** Specialized programs for judges to handle complex cases.
 - **Case Management:** Streamline processes to reduce backlogs and improve efficiency.
- **Post-Review Progress:**
 - **Improvements:**
 - Transparent and merit-based judicial appointments.
 - Establishment of the Judicial Council to oversee processes, reducing political influence (Appiagyei-Atua, 2023).
 - **Challenges:**
 - Persistent case backlogs and slow trials, especially for corruption cases (Appiagyei-Atua, 2017).
 - Limited implementation of training programs and modern case management systems due to resource constraints (Ghana APRM Report, 2020; Ministry of Finance, 2021).
- **Conclusion:**
 - Continued investments in judicial capacity, infrastructure, and reforms needed to enhance independence, efficiency, and uphold governance principles.



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INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES: SOUTH AFRICA

Strengthening Public Financial Management Systems in South Africa

- **APRM Review Focus:**
 - **Objective:** Evaluate transparency and accountability roles of the Auditor-General (AGSA) and National Treasury (APRM Report, RSA, 2007).
 - **Key Issues Identified:**
 - AGSA's need for independence and enhanced capacity (AGSA Report, 2020).
 - Improvements needed in financial oversight mechanisms (National Treasury, 2018).
- **Recommendations:**
 - **Strengthen AGSA:** Provide greater autonomy, resources, and protection from political influence (Gruzd & Turianskyi, 2013).
 - **Financial Oversight:** Implement rigorous controls, enhance training for oversight bodies, and strengthen parliamentary scrutiny (National Treasury, 2005).
 - **Transparency:** Foster participatory budget processes for greater public access and engagement (Sabinet African Journals, 2023; UN-Habitat, 2021).



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INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES: SA (ctd)

- **Post-Review Advancements:**
 - **AGSA Improvements:** Enhanced independence and more comprehensive audits (AGSA Report, 2023).
 - **Challenges:** Continued political pressures, limited resources, and capacity constraints (PMG, 2023; Dubrow, 2020).
- **Budget Transparency:**
 - **Efforts:** Public engagement initiatives through participatory budgeting.
 - **Challenges:** Complexity of budget documents and limited public awareness (Government News SA, 2024).
- **Conclusion:**
 - Notable progress achieved, but ongoing reforms needed to strengthen fiscal discipline and accountability.



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INSIGHTS AND CHALLENGES: NIGERIA

Reforming Electoral Processes and Institutions: The Nigeria Review

- **APRM Review Focus:**
 - **Objective:** Evaluate the independence and effectiveness of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and other electoral bodies (APRM, 2008; UNDP, 2008).
 - **Key Issues:** Political interference, integrity of electoral rolls, and transparency in election financing (Jinadu, 2008; Khalil-Babatunde, 2012).
- **Recommendations:**
 - **INEC Autonomy:** Insulate from political pressures; provide security of tenure and independent budget (APRM, 2008).
 - **Electoral Roll Integrity:** Implement rigorous voter registration and regular updates (APRM, 2008).
 - **Campaign Finance Transparency:** Stricter regulations on donations, expenditures, and reporting (Adetula, 2008).
- **Post-Review Progress:**
 - **INEC Independence:** Improved tenure security and budget autonomy (Aikins et al, 2023).
 - **Challenges:**
 - **Electoral Rolls:** Persistent inaccuracies despite updates (The Conversation, 2021).
 - **Campaign Finance:** Limited regulation enforcement; influence of money in politics remains (Adetula, 2008).
- **Conclusion:**
 - **Outcome:** Progress made, but significant work needed to fully implement reforms for credible and transparent elections (Science Education and Social Issues Blog, 2022).



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6. REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM APRM REVIEWS

❑ Common Challenges Identified:

Institutional Independence: key oversight bodies need insulation from political interference and adequate resources

- Kenya- strengthen EACC's autonomy and resources
- Ghana- judicial independence and enhanced training for judicial officers

❑ Tailored Recommendations:

- South Africa- enhance AGSA's capacity: legal mandate and resources for financial oversight
- Transparency: open government initiatives and participatory budgeting for public engagement



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REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ctd.

□ Electoral Processes in Nigeria:

- Key Findings: Persistent political interference in INEC and need for electoral roll integrity
- Recommendations: Comprehensive reforms to ensure transparency, credibility, and public confidence in elections across Nigeria and Africa

□ Role of CSOs and Media:

- Uganda: Create an enabling environment by revising restrictive laws and protecting journalists and activists
- Collaboration: Establish mechanisms for regular consultations between CSOs, media, and government officials for participatory governance



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6. CONCLUSION:

Comprehensive APRM Review Methodologies:

- **Purpose:** Identify and address gaps in institutional accountability mechanisms
- **Focus Areas:** Anti-corruption strategies, judicial independence, public financial management, and electoral integrity
- **Tailored Recommendations:** Enhance independence and capacity of oversight bodies to safeguard from political interference and build public trust

Role of Civil Society and Media:

- **Advocacy:** APRM promotes an enabling environment for CSOs and media
- **Collaboration:** Encourages active citizen participation and government engagement for effective governance oversight

Impact and Broader Implications:

- **Insights and Practical Recommendations:** Offer adaptable good governance practices for member countries
- **Outcome:** Strengthened institutional mechanisms, improved accountability, and more transparent, efficient, and responsive governance across Africa



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