



**AFRICA CENTER**  
**FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES**

# **Case Studies: National Security Strategy Lessons for Africa**

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# TOPIC

## **National Security Strategy Lessons for Africa**

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## AIM

To provoke discussion on National Security Strategy  
Lessons for Africa

## SCOPE

- **Evolution:** National Security Orientation/Strategies
  - Post Independence Era
  - Era of Military Rule
  - Democratic Governance -Paradigm shift
- Lessons learnt
- Opportunities
- Key messages

## Post Independence Era

- Context: Wesphalian State model
- Strong Leaders: Founder & Father of the Nation
- Focus: Sovereignty, National Unity & Nation Building - Non-Interference
- Abhorred: “Opposition for opposition sake.”  
Crackdown on opposition & control of Media - One Party /De facto One Party State
- National Security: A tool for Foreign policy design and dealing with Opposition elements.
- **Legislative oversight ? Human Rights?**

# Era of Military Rule

- Context: Removal of Dictatorships - Liberators, Redeemers Revolutionary Council etc.
- Focus: Changing the dictatorship status quo
- Authoritarianism: Rule by Decree, **Culture of silence**
- Abhorred: Counter coups and Early Elections
- Pressure: Post Cold War – Democratic governance
- National Security: Foreign Policy design, Preventing Counter Coups, Suppressing Public Dissent.
- **Poor Human Rights records, Corruption, Military Tribunals, Excesses – Firing squad, left a legacy of citizenry mistrust of the Security Agencies.**

# **MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

- **Context:** Multi Party Constitutional Rule
- **Practice Fallout:** Ethnic and Tribal politics for votes.
  - Media, Money, Intimidation & Corruptible Judiciary.
  - Weak Institutions, Nepotism in Appointments
  - Impunity and Corruption - “Wait for your turn”
  - Political Parties dominate local community space.
  - System semblance “Elite Captured States”
- **Focus:** Keeping the ruling party in power.
- **National Security:** Shaped for a Regime Security role.
  - Not people-centric.
  - Non Inclusive: Legislature not involved in NS Strategy design.

# MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

- ❖ **Evolving Context:** Public effort across the continent to enforce Social Contract between Government & Citizenry
- Evolving strong Civil Society and Non-State actor groups
- Social Media & Internet taking space of traditional local media & promoting Freedom of Expression
- Rise in Non-Violent & Violent Extremism
- Demand for People-Centric Governance and National Security
- ❖ **Paradigm Shift:** Growing dominance of the challenge to Westphalian Non-interference principle by *Neo-Liberal Institutionalists* political thinking.
- **Sovereignty:** As a responsibility – Human Rights taken centre stage in Intl politics. **Call: People-centric policies**

## MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE Contd.

- ❖ Paradigm Shift: Contd..... Growing number of actors in national and international Political and Security discourse.
- Human Security: Persistent call by Practitioners, International & State actors for the Individual & Community to be referent object for National Security strategy design
- Hybrid: Call for a hybrid of Traditional National Security and Human Security in National Security Strategy design and implementation.
- Globalization: Impact of Global Interconnectedness, Technological Advancement & Communication explosion – Human Rights and issue.



# ELITE-CAPTURED STATE

- Political Elite: Ethnic, Cultural, Religious, Political, Economic group. Not representative.
- Other Groups: Often no fair treatment/access.
- *Often does not enjoy public legitimacy*
- State security forces: Repress civil society demands for Human Rights, Transparency, Accountability, Democracy & Freedom. **Impunity**
- Response: Non-violent social movements and Violent Extremist groups often develop in response to elite-captured governments.

# CITIZEN-ORIENTED STATE

Normally: Enjoys public legitimacy.

- Power and Resources: Oriented to needs and interests of its population.
- Respects Human Rights and Rule of law
- Civil Society: Active partners - Holds Govt accountable and seeks equal access to government services for all people.
- Local Authorities: Empowers local Communities through Decentralization
- Human Security: Integrates Human Security with Traditional National Security

## LESSONS LEARNT

- Policy Design: NSS not solely for foreign policy design also a tool for Domestic policy design.
- Whole-of-Society Approach: NSS requires multi-sectorial approach **involving all stake holders - other arms of Govt & the people in a transparent manner.**
- Political Parties: Empowering Political Parties at the expense of Local Communities breeds an environment of corruption, impunity and a **'US'** vrs **'THEM'** relationship which could lead to the development of Extremist tendencies within sections of the population & create national instability.
- Regime Security: Undermines Govt legitimacy

# OPPORTUNITIES

- **Mutual Trust**: Use NSS as tool to enhance mutual trust & good State-Citizen relations across the political divide.
- **Good Working Relations**: Create good working relations with other arms/sectors of Govt for the development, financing and implementation of the NSS.
- **National Budget**: Endeavour to integrate NSS goals into the National Budget, all Sectoral policies and implementation plans.
- **Participatory Governance**: Make Decentralization and empowerment of Local Govt structures and Institutions a NSS priority to enable them effectively participate in the governance effort at the district, county, borough or equivalent levels. Involvement of Women and Youth groups.
- **Social Media**: Use Social Media to advantage - Collection effort.
- **Flexibility**: Regularly review NSS Objectives as the situation unfolds.

# KEY MESSAGES

- **State-Citizens relations**: National Security is a cross cutting tool for both domestic & foreign policy design. Should involve all stake holders. Helps build trust and good State-Citizens relations.
- **Human Vulnerabilities**: Reducing human vulnerabilities within the context of trust building between State, local communities and the people could be the best pathway to enhancing State Security.
- **Intervention**: A NS apparatus may require capacity for rapid mobilization and intervention in emergencies /deplorable conditions –Helps build trust and legitimacy.
- **Why in Power**: “The only reason we are in power is to improve the living standards of our people”

**Thank you**

**Institutions** – *“Persistent and connected sets of rules (formal or informal) that prescribe behavioral roles, constrain activity and shape expectations.”*



**WHEN THE POOR  
RUN OUT OF FOOD  
THEY WILL EAT  
THE POLITICIANS**

STOP  
THE  
TRUCK  
PROTEST



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