Case Studies: National Security Strategy Lessons for Africa

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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 Fallouts**: 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.

ELITE-CAPTURED STATE


**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.
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 stakeholders - 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 stakeholders. 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