

Oversight of Security Resources: The Role of Parliamentarians and Civil Society in Promoting Transparency and Accountability

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Importance of Oversight of the Security Sector

It is important because it contributes to building a vibrant democratic state.

It presupposes the 'active' engagement of democratic institutions, mainly the parliament and its relevant committees, civil society, the media, the other arms of government and the security sector itself.

Security sector resource management (budgeting, allocation or financial management) is embedded in the overall resource management of a country.

It ensures optimal management of resources

Security Sector Budgeting Process

Budget Planning

Execution

Reporting

Auditing



Opportunities to be explored by Parliament

- Conduct Periodic Safety and Security Assessment of your constituency / district / state / country
- Coordinate with other committees for example public service, health, justice etc
- Take an interest in the 'how' the defence, security and law enforcement agencies are performing
 - Recruitment of personnel
 - Mandates of the organisations
 - Tools for delivery

Opportunities to be explored by Parliament

- Ask questions - How many peace keeping missions are we involved in? How many officers do we have on peace keeping missions? How many police officers do we have? How many are women? How many fall within the youth bracket?
- Ask questions - What's the health or Insurance package for our personnel?
- Ask questions - Looking at the budget being presented, I notice you are requesting for 200 computers for the Administrative department. If I remember correctly, we approved the purchase of 200 computers last year for the same department?
- Task the legislative aids

How can Civil Society Assist?

Disseminating independent analysis and information on the security sector to the parliament, media and the public

Monitoring and encouraging respect for the rule of law and human rights within the security sector

Tracking budget process of government spending

Collaboration between Parliament and Civil Society

- Parliament needs broad access to information, technical expertise and the **POLITICAL WILL** to do thier job.
 - Innovation
 - Collaboration (Bi Partisan Caucus Building)
 - Postive use of constituencies
- Promoting accountability = Promoting Security
 - Community Policing Roll Out Plan (Federal and State)
 - Rapid Assessment of the NPF Budgetary / Financial Process
 - Management Accountability Policing Providers in the North East (Borno State)
 - PCRC Audit of Police Infrastructure

Summary

The control of the budget and procurement is at the heart of parliamentary control.

The key to proper budgeting and procurement is transparency and accountability

THANK YOU