

National Security Leadership in Africa:

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National Security Threats in Africa

- These threats include dangers to countries strategic interest, values, and welfare.
- They can be endogenous, exogenous, or transnational in nature.
- These threats may embody uncertainties with varying degrees of objectives and end states.
 - Low intensity threat levels -> Highly violent and dangerous dimensions
 - Ex: Uncertainty of human development, youth unemployment, and land distribution and ownership rights are all characterized as low intensity threats, if left neglected can escalate into violent threats.
 - Violent threats have the capabilities to transcend national borders and affect the stability of neighboring countries.
 - MAJOR HEALTH PANDEMIC

Key Attributes of Security Sector Leaders

- Realistic awareness of internal and external threats
- Understand the socio-political dynamics in the region.
- VISION:
- TRUST:
- LEGITIMACY:
- ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY:
- Technical and Tactical acumen:
- Honesty and Integrity

Leadership Challenges

- The multiplicity of military and security forces under variety of command elements.
- Governance, transparency and due process.
- Lack of coordination between or among security agencies competing for attention and resources.
 - Lack of financial and logistical support
 - Very limited tactical and technical capabilities
 - Political uncertainties and ambiguous Commander's intent.

“Good intentions, clear objectives and mission accomplishment do not ascend into victory without timely financial and logistical supports.”

OVERCOMING THESE CHALLENGES

- Clear political direction and intentions
- Effective coordination
- Legal parameters of authority and operations
- Regimentation and clear command authority
- Gain the trust and respect of Parliament

ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN CREATING CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING NSS

- National ownership
- Broad based consultation and inclusiveness
- Legislative/Parliamentary oversight
- Leaders are meant to lead by example
- Flexibility and adaptability based on resources
- Strategic understanding of issues and situations
- Know your strategic limitations
- Leverage Partnership

The Liberian case of NSS Development

- Leadership by Her Excellency

 - 150 Action Plan

 - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

 - National Security Assessment across the country

 - Comprehensive Inclusive consultation

 - All National Stakeholders and organizations

 - National Legislature and Judiciary

 - International partners

 - Strategic Partner/s

 - Governance Commission as lead agency

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR AS GENERAL COORDINATOR

CONCLUSION

- National ownership an imperative
- Local leadership a supporting pillar
- Leveraging partnership for resources and capacity gaps
- Leaders are meant to lead
- Take responsibility for your actions and inactions
- Broad base consultation thru listening and engagement
- Be bold and strategic with your interventions
- “...Just add another chair as a strategic intervention...”

Thank You

Any Questions?