National Security Leadership in Africa:

Former Minister of National Defense in Liberia
April 8, 2019
Gaborone, Botswana
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 CONDUCIVE 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?