Session 13: Professionalism in Africa’s security sector

Dr. Emile Ouédraogo
OUTLINE

- Defining professionalism in the african context.
- Trends of security sector professionalism in Africa.
- Lessons learnt and good practices of professionalism of the security sector in Africa.
PRINCIPLES OF MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM

- Subordination of Defense and Security Forces to democratic civilian authority
- Allegiance to the state
- Commitment to political neutrality
- Ethical institutional culture
- Know how and competencies (skills)
VALUES OF A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER

- Discipline
- Integrity
- Honor
- Commitment
- Selfless service
- Spirit of sacrifice and duty
“Soundjata, son of Sogolon. From now on I will take my kingdom from you, for I recognize you as my sovereign. My tribe and I are getting back into your hands. I greet you Supreme Leader, I greet you Fama (chief) of the Fama, I greet you Mansa” (King)
GRAPH: NUMBER OF SUCCESSFUL OR FAILED COUPS SINCE 1960
MILITARY COUPS SINCE 1952

Source: Jonathan Powell, Université de Floride centrale et Clayton Thyne, Université du Kentucky
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>COUP DATE</th>
<th>TYPE OF COUP</th>
<th>LEADER/S</th>
<th>TARGETED GOV’T</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GUINEA-BISSAU</td>
<td>February 1, 2022</td>
<td>Failed</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
<td>Pres. Umaro Embalo</td>
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<tr>
<td>BURKINA FASO</td>
<td>January 24, 2022</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Lt-Col Paul-Henri Damiba, Capt</td>
<td>Pres. Roch Kaboré, Lt-Col Paul</td>
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<td></td>
<td>October 30, 2023</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Ibrahim Traoré</td>
<td>Henri Damiba</td>
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<tr>
<td>GUINEA</td>
<td>September 5, 2021</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Col. Mamady Doumbouya</td>
<td>Pres. Alpha Conde</td>
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<td>NIGER</td>
<td>March 31, 2021</td>
<td>Failed</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
<td>Pres-Elect Mohamed Bazoum</td>
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<td>MALI</td>
<td>August 19, 2020</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Assimi Goita</td>
<td>Pres Ibrahim Keita</td>
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<td>May 24, 2021</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Assimi Goita</td>
<td>Pres. Bah Ndaw</td>
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<td>TCHAD</td>
<td>April 20, 2021</td>
<td>Successful</td>
<td>Mahamat Deby</td>
<td>Pres. Idriss Deby</td>
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ADVANCING PROFESSIONALISM IN THE SECURITY SECTOR

1. Depoliticizing the security sector environment
2. Institutionalizing ethics and accountability
3. Establishing independent oversight mechanisms
4. Strengthening Parliamentary oversight and external audits
5. Strengthening discipline and the sens of duty
6. Strengthening training and professional education