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**Organizing for Change: Global Initiatives and the Growth of
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PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION: EXAMPLES FROM KENYA AND GHANA

EDWARD NKETIAH-AMPONSAH & JOB KIHARA MAGUTA*

Abstract

Natural resources have been continuously degraded or depleted despite several initiatives by governments and development partners to redress it. One explanation for the continued degradation of the natural resource base and the increased poverty levels is because public institutions responsible for natural resource conservation do not play their role effectively. The role of public institutions and the reasons behind their ineffective performance are what this paper sought to answer. The paper reviews the performance of public institutions in natural resource management with special reference to Kenya and Ghana. The paper identifies roles that public institutions should play including provision of national and international guidelines and conducting research inter alia, and gives a critique of their performance. The review concludes that public institutions are influenced by political regimes and characterized by workforce who seeks their own interest at the expense of the state. Institutional review, appropriate coordination, partnerships, change in economic frameworks, pricing policies, facilitation and education are proposed as ways through which public institutions can become more effective in conservation and poverty alleviation. For effective management outcome, local actors and communities should be considered as partners in management.



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MAKING INTERNATIONAL POLICY: A STERN LOOK AT GHANA'S POLICIES ON MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

RAYMOND A. ATUGUBA*

Abstract

The relationship between migration, remittances and national development has been a hot topic amongst development thinkers, scholars and practitioners since the close of the last century. Better late than never, the topic made its debut in Ghana in the last five years, rising to a crescendo in the last few years. Ghana's premier University has sustained the note by establishing in 2006, a Centre for Migration Studies.

Drawing on the experiences of some Asian countries, some scholars are calling for a national agenda that focuses on the use of migration and remittances as a tool for national development. The silent argument being made is that, despite the many dangers inherent in a reliance on remittances, no developing country can afford to neglect remittances when they are much bigger and more stable than Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and have been increasing more than proportionately compared to GDP and export earnings.

In this article, I underline the growing importance of migration and remittances to the Ghanaian economy. I then discuss some formal and informal international policy making processes in Ghana, drawing out a critical disconnect between the patent, intuitive and rational international policy path that Ghana should be beating on migration and remittances and the actual distorted policy outcomes. I conclude by reflecting on what I consider to be attacks on Ghana's national policy space which account for the brazen policy distortions and hint at what forebodes the evolution of national policy in a country that assumes that it is independent.

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CONTEMPORARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND VIOLENT CONFLICTS: A PROGNOSIS

KEN AHORSU*

Abstract

African states have made significant socio-economic and political progress since the meltdown and apocalyptic predictions of the early 1990s. The region's progress is most perceptible in the reduction in the number and scale of prevailing violent conflicts. The performances of the region's states are, however, mixed with some surviving perilously, while others have made dramatic gains. The paper posits that despite the lull in violent conflicts, the region's troubled colonial heritage serves as a self-reinforcing fault-line that makes the region susceptible to violent civil and regional strife; largely, as a result of the failure of African elites to transform the historically imposed constraints. As a result, even the most impressive gains have to be qualified and tempered with caution since the conditions that served as antecedents to the crises of the early 1990s are still prevalent. Thus the gains made notwithstanding, it is most probable that the region will experience intermittent violent civil strife of varying intensity and magnitude.

Introduction

At the end of the Cold War, especially in the early 1990s, a wave of violent intra-state (and 'regional') conflicts swept across Sub-Saharan Africa leaving in its trail colossal destruction of life and property, and complex humanitarian emergencies that questioned the long-term survival of many African states. Although, post-Cold War intra-state conflicts were ubiquitous, Sub Saharan Africa was one of the main theatres, where the

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ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE: GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND THE GROWTH OF WOMEN INTEREST GROUPS IN NIGERIA

R. I. AKO-NAI¹

Abstract

This article borrows from the Marxist paradigm that civil societies organize the state and addresses the issue of the growth of women interest groups in Nigeria and how the global agenda has impacted positively in the growth. Nigerian women have always challenged the state for not adequately protecting their interests. This has been demonstrated by the various uprising mounted against British rule. However, Nigeria, like many parts of the world, is going through organizational changes as a result of the transition from autocratic military rule to liberal democracy with autonomous and associational activities within civil society. Nigeria, than before is witnessing the growth and active participation of civil society in national and global issues. This growth has benefited from internal situation as the militarization of the polity produced interest groups that challenged the obnoxious rule of the despots. Similarly, the external environment of which the contemporary feminist movement, democratization and globalization have great impact has been an immense advantage. There have emerged non-political and political women interest groups determined to work for the entrenchment of justice, peace and respect for human rights, of which women's rights are very important. These new styled women's groups, encouraged, sponsored and funded mainly by international organizations and agencies are focusing on power relations as gender relations is characterized by inequality and subordination of the female gender.

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THE GHANAIAN CITIZEN AND FOREIGN POLICY: AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

AFUA BOATEMAA YAKOHENE*

Abstract

Foreign policy is said to be as ancient as the human society since States have always had to take decisions in their relations with other States in the best interest of their citizenry. The guiding principle of foreign policy is usually based on the national interest of a State, purposefully designed to protect the security, ideological goals and economic prosperity of its citizenry in relation to other States. Yet, interpretations of what the national interest is, is often controversial. In Ghana, the guiding principle is enshrined in the 1992 Constitution. Its mandate can be executed by the President or other accredited representatives such as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration. Most Ghanaians seem to be ignorant about the formulation of foreign policy and are alienated in its conduct as well. Thus, they are unaware of the extent to which the policies formulated and implemented on their behalf affect their everyday lives in general. If the formulation and conduct of foreign policies are done by a selected few, must it remain knowledge limited to these 'selection' of the populace? The least expected of any well-organised and forward looking State such as Ghana is participation of its citizens in the evolution or development of all policies, including foreign policy. The citizens must therefore be consulted and kept fully in the picture from the design of any policy through formulation to implementation and revision.

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THE AFRICAN UNION, MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFRICA

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Abstract

Since its formation in 2001, the African Union has been concerned with promoting political and economic development on the African continent. This article presents a categorization of governance pivoted around multi-level governance, which embraces the intervention of different levels of political and economic actors, including actors beyond individual African states, to address political, social, and economic problems. In this framework, the article contends that multi-level governance offers invaluable opportunities for the African Union and its member states to address the economic and political ills that have become the bane of development in Africa. In an effort to involve the African Union in some of the domestic issues of member states, the paper makes the argument that this involvement can spur the convergence of policies and policy learning among member countries. Specifically, this categorization, in moving beyond a pessimistic worldview, seeks to provide solutions for the failure of governance and accountability in the management of the public sector in Africa and, consequently, promote democratic governance and accountability.

Introduction

The African Union (AU) was formed in 2001 following concerns by various African leaders for a more 'perfect union.' Admittedly, the formation of the AU marked a deep desire on the part of some African leaders and supporters of the poorest continent in the world to see a transformed continent based on responsible governance. As a replacement for two

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