APRM CSO SUBMISSIONS COMPILATION REPORT

Tasneem Vania

SAIIA-KAS Scholar

3-4 June 2024

Democracy and Political Governance

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Democracy & Political Governance in Africa

Key Themes from CSO Submissions (APRM)

- **Democracy in Context**: Not a one-size-fits-all — rooted in Western ideals, but African realities differ.
- **Post-colonial Challenges**: Borders, identity, and state formation remain unresolved.
- **Governance Matters**: Affects 1+ billion people and shapes the broader Global South.
- **Case Study: Tanzania & Malawi**
  - Tanzania: Legacy of single-party dominance, union tensions
  - Malawi: Tribalism, nepotism, weak transparency.

  ➤ *Multi-party democracy does not guarantee good governance*

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Governance & Political Stability

Lessons from Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Botswana, SA, Namibia

- **Lesotho & Zimbabwe**
  - Military influence undermines civilian authority.
  - Monarchical and military capture threaten democratic ideals.
- **Botswana, Namibia, South Africa**
  - Stronger on rule of law, but still face:
    - Executive dominance
    - Low youth engagement (SA)
- **Overall Trend**:
  - *Democracy on paper vs. democracy in practice*
  - Representative governance & civic accountability are stabilising forces

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Separation of Powers – Theory vs. Practice

Institutional Imbalances Across Case Studies

- **Common Issues**
  - Executive dominance over legislature & judiciary.
  - Fused branches (e.g. Lesotho, Botswana).
  - **Undermined courts (e.g. Tanzania, Malawi).**
- **Structural Flaws**
  - Weak parliamentary oversight = fragile accountability.
  - Reforms needed at foundational/institutional levels.
- **Key Insight**
  - Upholding separation of powers + civic agency = resilient democracy.

"People should not be afraid of their government. Governments should be afraid of their people."
– V for Vendetta

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Economic and Corporate Governance

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Economic and Corporate Governance in Africa: APRM CSO Submission Highlights

Focus of Chapter

Public & private economic governance and national development.

Reviewed countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Key Cross-Cutting Issue: Corruption

Undermines public trust and institutional legitimacy.

Manifests at the government–private sector interface.

Implementation Gaps

Lesotho & Botswana: Institutions exist but lack independence.

Zimbabwe: Corruption during COVID-19 pandemic illustrates systemic failures.

Structural Barriers to Economic Empowerment

Defining Economic Empowerment (OECD via South Africa):
Participation, dignity, equitable benefit from growth.
Barriers:
South Africa: Dual economy, inequality, criticism of BBBEE.
Namibia & Malawi: Geographic and systemic inequalities.
Zimbabwe: A case of state failure, unemployment, hunger crisis — "man-made" per UN Rapporteur.
Pathways Forward:
Practical policy solutions (Tanzania): Social services, infrastructure, inclusive laws.

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Corporate Accountability & Africa's Future

- **Corporate Governance Defined** *(Namibia, King IV)*:
  - Ethical leadership, performance, legitimacy.
- **Challenges:**
  - South Africa: Gold export mis-invoicing: $113.6bn discrepancy.
  - Malawi: Environmental sustainability & private sector duty.
- **Conclusions:**
  - Good governance is **non-negotiable** for development.
  - Africa's youth & resources offer real potential.
  - Requires synergy between state and private sector with **strong frameworks & political will**.

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

State Resilience, Sustainable Development, and the Environment

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Climate Change and State Vulnerability in Africa

Africa is the most climate-vulnerable continent despite contributing least to global emissions. State resilience is essential for adaptation.

“We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it.” — Barack Obama, 2014

- **Impacts**:
  - Malawi: 19+ floods, 5 droughts in 50 years
  - Tanzania: 2% annual GDP loss expected
  - Botswana, Namibia, SA: water scarcity intensifying
- **Systemic Risk**: Cross-border consequences & compounding effects on poverty, agriculture, and development
- **Environmental Governance**: Vital for disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and resilience-building

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Governance Gaps and Sustainable Development

Weak environmental governance and policy misalignment hinder sustainable development despite high-level commitments.

- **Sustainable Development Needs**:
  - Botswana & SA: Policy incoherence despite rhetoric on green economy
  - Namibia & Tanzania: Regulatory fragmentation, poor stakeholder coordination
- **Youth as Agents of Change**:
  - 43% of population under 15 in Malawi
  - Tanzanian youth believe in their influence but lack climate knowledge (UNICEF)
- **Call to Action**:
  - Strengthen institutional capacity
  - Invest in youth-led environmental innovation
  - Reframe governance for both **climate** and **environmental** crises (not interchangeable)

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Environmental Practices and Socioeconomic Resilience

Environmental mismanagement threatens livelihoods and exacerbates socioeconomic challenges—yet solutions exist.

- **Examples of Mismanagement**:
  - Namibia: Illegal logging, mining contamination
  - Botswana: 46% of purified water unaccounted for (2010)
  - Lesotho: Arable land lost to settlement encroachment
- **Socioeconomic Impacts**:
  - Tanzania & Malawi: Food insecurity from drought, deforestation, monoculture farming
  - Botswana: Resource governance has avoided "resource curse" but limited local benefits
- **Way Forward**:
  - Climate education in curricula
  - Diversified agriculture & taxation reform
  - Cross-border cooperation (Agenda 2063 alignment)

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934

Thank you

SAIIA 90 YEARS EST.1934