

*Challenges of good
governance and corruption in
post colonial states. Is South
Africa experiencing the same
problem?*

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Introduction

- Overview of “good governance”;
- Definition(s) of corruption;
- The post-colonial state and the basis of the challenges of “good governance” and corruption;
- The South African situation: “good governance” and corruption;
- Is South Africa winning the fight against corruption?
- Conclusion: What is to be done.

Good Governance

- Numerous definitions and disagreements – not just in academic, but also in practitioner, literature;
- Focus on key elements:
 - Participation;
 - Decentralisation;
 - Procedure;
 - Compliance;
 - Accountability;
 - Transparency;
 - Ethics.

Corruption

- Common Definition: “Use of public office for private gain”;
- Implies corruption takes place only in public institutions;
- Important to add that for every corruptee there is a corruptor;
- Corruption occurs at the interface of public and private interests;
- Need to clarify this definition a bit:

Corruption contd.

- Formulaic presentation of corruption;
- Identify that factors that make corruption possible;

- $C = M + D - Acc - Trans$

- $C = \underline{M + D - Acc - Trans}$

Ethics

The Post-Colonial State

- Institutional legacy of colonialism;
 - Extractive economic activity;
 - Weak private sector;
 - Weak public institutions;
 - Strong repressive apparatuses;
 - Question of institutional quality.
- Institutional legacy of Independence;
 - Politics of survival and politics of administration:
 - Weak institutions = Discretion!
 - Control of state = control of resources (weak / small private sector);
 - Incentivises use of public position for private gain.

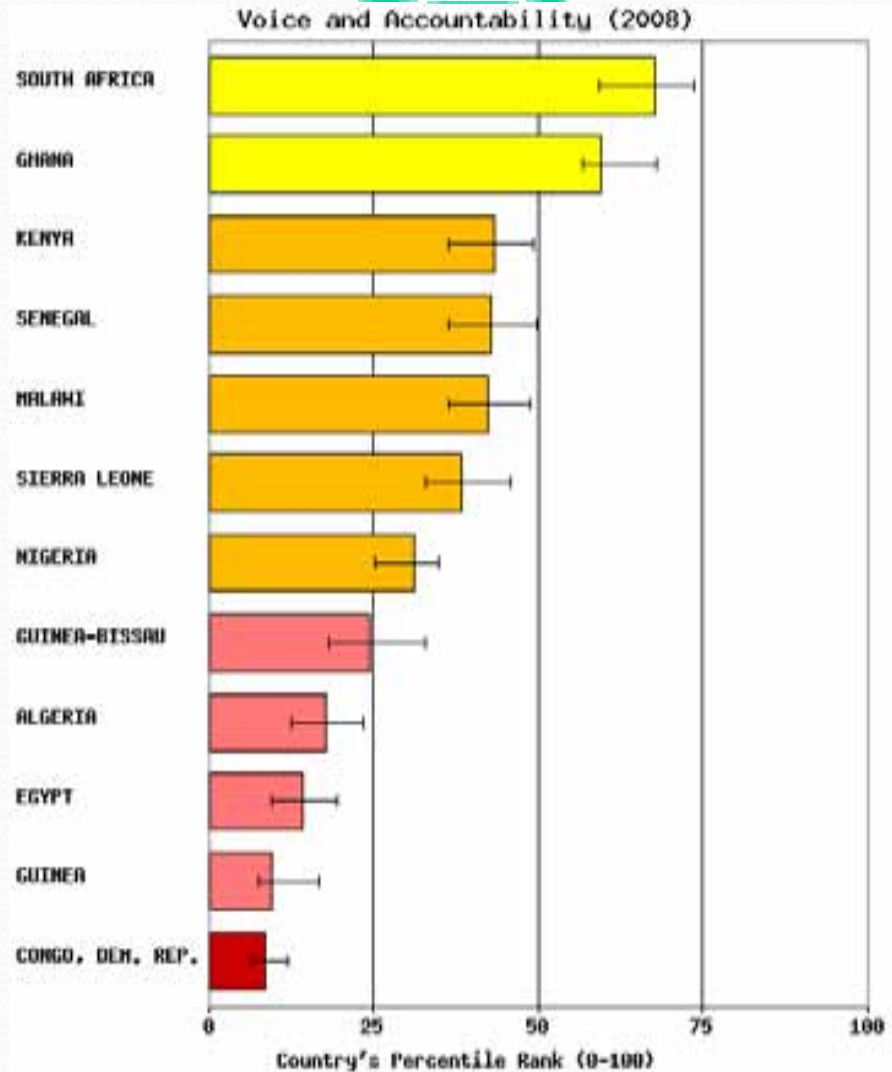
The Post-Colonial State contd.

- Key issue: Interplay of elites within and outside of state to access resources;
- Possible due to weak institutions;
- Vulnerability and discretion of officials;
- Poor conditions of public service employment;
- Result: Enables use of public office for private gain!

The South African situation: “good governance” and corruption

- With key concepts in place, can set out the SA case;
- No need to go into enormous detail:
 - Constitutional democracy;
 - Public Service Commission;
 - Auditor General;
 - Parliamentary oversight;
 - APRM.
- SA quite different from sketch of post-colonial state.

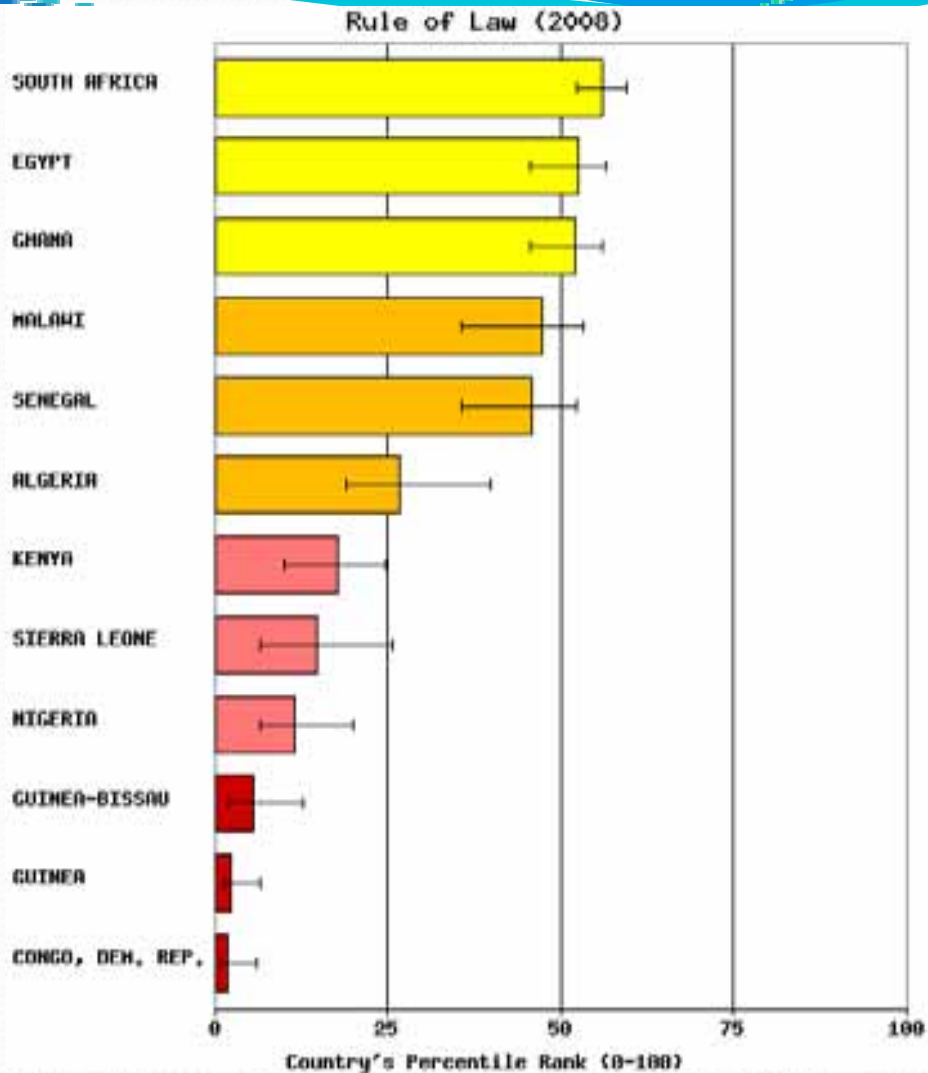
Graph 1



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2009: Governance Matters VIII: Governance Indicators for 1996-2008

Note: The governance indicators presented here aggregate the views on the quality of governance provided by a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. These data are gathered from a number of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations. The WGI do not reflect the official views of the World Bank, its Executive Directors, or the countries they represent. The WGI are not used by the World Bank Group to allocate resources.

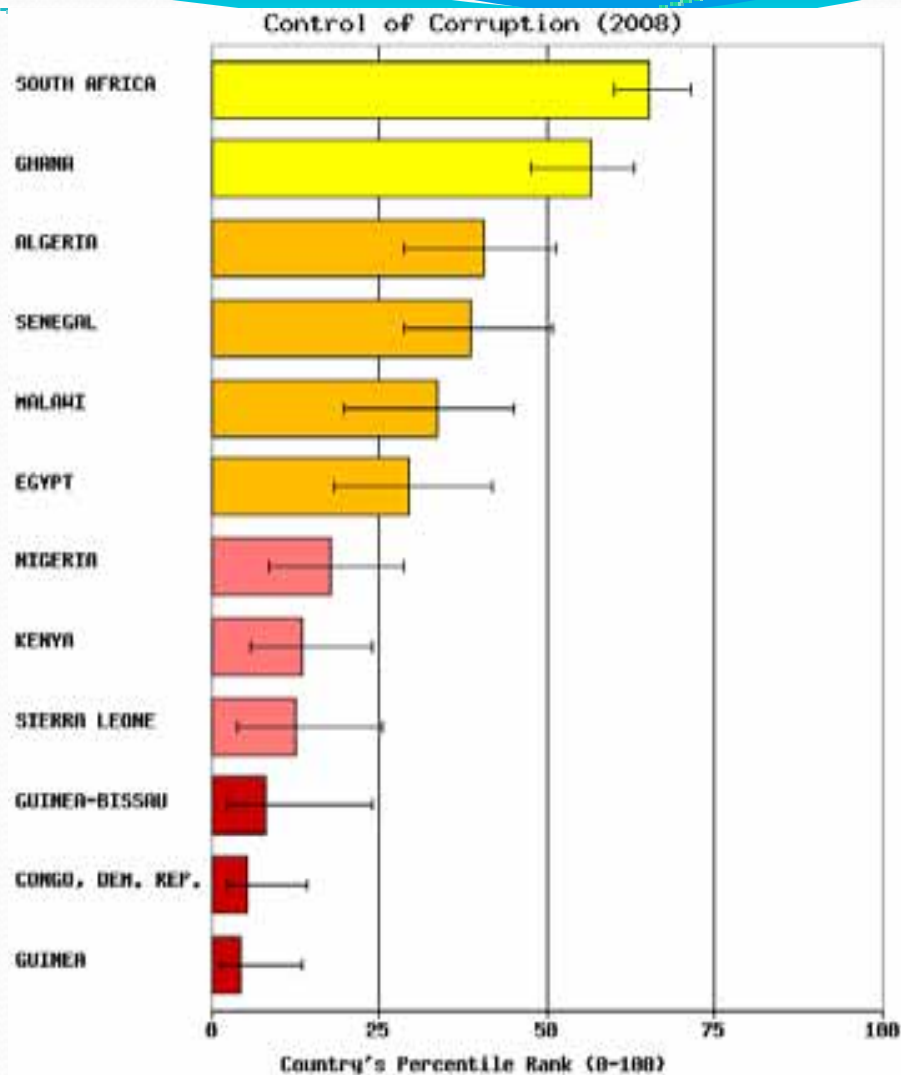
Graph 2



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2009: Governance Matters VIII: Governance Indicators for 1996-2008

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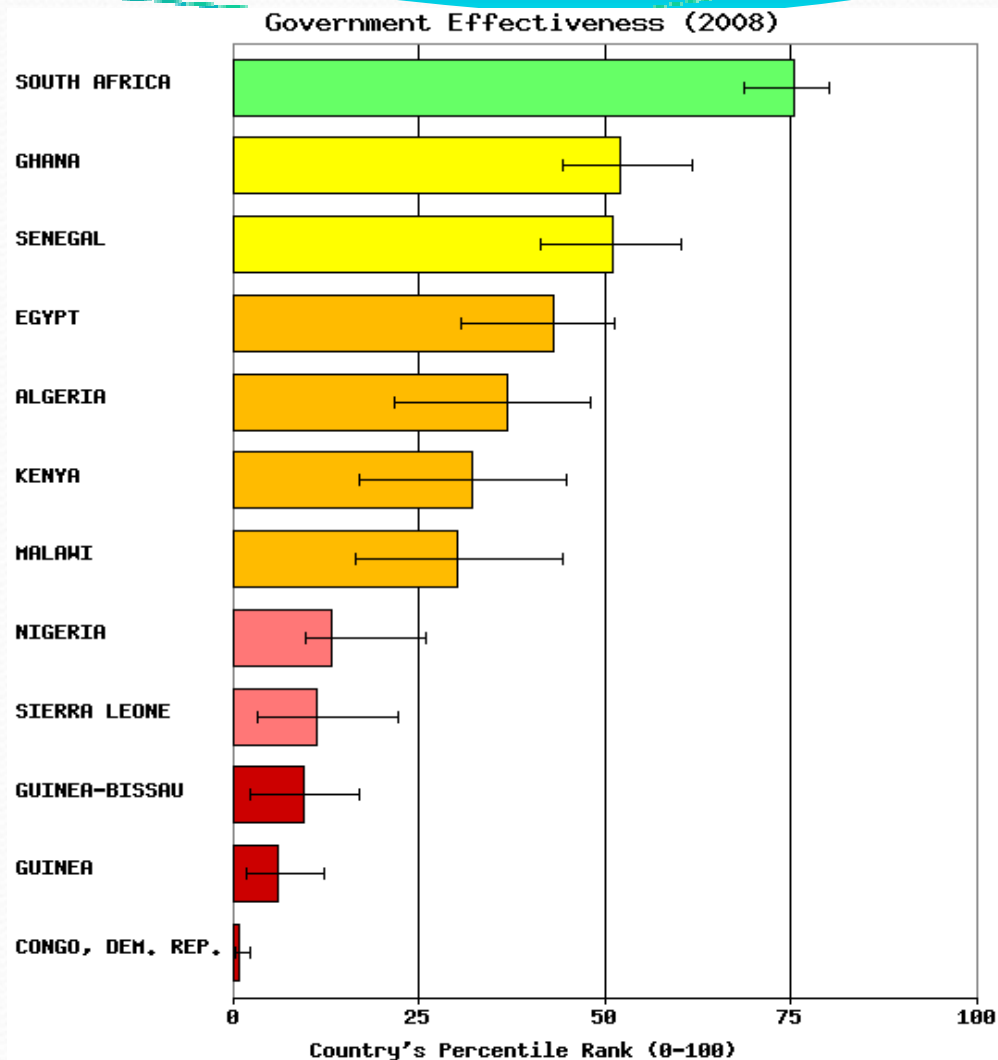
Graph 3



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2009: Governance Matters VIII: Governance Indicators for 1996-2008

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Graph 4



Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi 2009: Governance Matters VIII: Governance Indicators for 1996-2008

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Is South Africa winning the fight against corruption?

- Question of public perception vs reality;
- Newspaper headlines = reality?
- SA – public institutions more cohesive and robust than other post-colonial states;
- Still appear to be too many incidents of malpractice in the public sector:

$$C = \underline{M + D - Acc - Trans}$$

Ethics (is this the key variable?)

Conclusion: What is to be done

- Love Me Tender: Elvis Presley

Love me tender,
Love me sweet,
Never let me go.
You have made my life complete,
And I love you so.

Conclusion contd.

- Reappraising state procurement processes is a matter of urgency;
- Operationalising the special task team in the DPSA to speed up internal disciplinary hearings is a matter of urgency;
- Building investigative and prosecutorial capacity in empowered anti-corruption agencies;
- More effective monitoring of disciplinary processes and outcomes to build a data base is urgent:
 - Disincentivise corrupt activity by ensuring that the risks are high, tangible and evident;
- Less rhetoric and more action and tangible evidence of progress.

Conclusion contd.

- In post-colonial states, anti-corruption is often rhetorical and sometimes used to tarnish political opponents;
- SA not yet exhibiting institutional, ethical, procedure and compliance decay;
 - **However, approaching the point of no return...**
 - **Bold steps are needed ...**