Traditional Governance Structures and Modern Democracy in Southern Africa: A Comparative Perspective on Ghana

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Abstract

This Perspective Piece examines traditional governance structures in Ghana within the broader context of Southern Africa and their interaction with modern democratic practices. No empirical data were collected in this analytical piece; instead, the study relies on literature review and theoretical analysis of existing research on traditional African governance and Ghanaian democracy. The integration of traditional governance elements into modern political frameworks could enhance democratic inclusivity and effectiveness in Ghana, particularly in rural areas where traditional leadership remains influential. Policy-makers should consider ways to formalize existing traditional councils' roles within the state apparatus to ensure continuity and legitimacy, while also promoting transparency and accountability.

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