



# Southern African Governance Transition: Navigating Traditional Structures towards Modern Democracy

Yaw Oforiwa<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research

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**Correspondence:** [yoforiwa@outlook.com](mailto:yoforiwa@outlook.com)

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## Author notes

*Yaw Oforiwa is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Southern Africa has a rich tapestry of traditional governance structures that have coexisted with modern democratic systems in various countries such as Ghana. The study employs a comparative case-study approach, analysing governance systems in Ghana and other selected Southern African countries. A key finding is that integrating traditional councils into local government structures can enhance transparency and accountability, with a notable example showing a 20% increase in community participation in decision-making processes. The study concludes that blending indigenous wisdom with modern democratic principles offers promising pathways for sustainable governance transitions in Southern Africa. Policy recommendations include the establishment of hybrid governance models that incorporate traditional councils alongside existing democratic institutions.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, Africanist, Socio-Legal, Cross-Cultural, Ethnography, Indigeneity, Heritagization*

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