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MILITARIZING CIVIL SERVICE SPACE IN AFRICA

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Abstract

As African countries strive to strengthen their governance structures and improve service delivery, there has been a trend towards militarizing civil service space. This involves the appointment of retired military officers to senior civil service positions, as well as the deployment of military personnel to carry out civilian tasks. While proponents argue that this approach can bring discipline and efficiency to the civil service, critics argue that it undermines civilian oversight and accountability, and may lead to the violation of human rights. This paper provides an overview of the trend towards militarization of civil service space in Africa, examines the factors driving this trend, and assesses the implications for governance and democracy on the continent. The paper argues that while the militarization of civil service space may be appropriate in certain contexts, it should not be seen as a panacea for governance challenges, and should be accompanied by measures to ensure civilian oversight, transparency, and accountability.

Key words: Civil service, Militarism

Introduction:

The trend of militarizing civil service space in Africa is a growing concern, and it is often linked to political instability, weak institutions, and corruption. According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the practice of deploying military personnel to perform civilian functions is widespread in many African countries, including Angola, Chad, Congo, Mali, and Zimbabwe (UNDP, 2020). In some cases, the military takes control of key government institutions, such as the finance ministry or the national oil company, and uses these institutions to maintain political power and control resources (UNDP, 2020).

The practice of militarizing civil service space in Africa has been on the rise in recent years, and it is a growing concern for many African governments and citizens. This trend involves deploying military personnel to perform civilian functions, such as running government ministries and departments, managing public finances, and providing public services. This practice has become common in many African countries due to a range of factors, including weak institutions, corruption, political instability, and a lack of trained personnel. Militarizing civil service space in Africa refers to the practice of deploying military personnel to perform civilian functions within government institutions. This practice has become increasingly common in many African countries due to various factors, including weak institutions, corruption, and political instability.

The challenges of militarizing civil service space in Africa is that it undermines the principles of democratic governance and human rights. The deployment of military personnel to perform civilian functions erodes the separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, and it limits citizens' access to impartial and accountable public institutions. It also creates a culture of impunity, where military personnel are not held accountable

for their actions, and it can lead to human rights abuses and violations (Human Rights Watch, 2020).

African Perspectives

Angola

Militarization of civil service space refers to the use of military forces or tactics to control or influence civil service institutions or activities. In Angola, there have been instances where the government has used the military to intimidate civil servants and maintain control over civil service activities. According to the World Bank, Angola is a lower-middle-income country with a population of approximately 31.8 million people, and the country has been recovering from a civil war that lasted from 1975 to 2002 (World Bank, 2021). The country has made progress in developing its civil service, but there have been concerns about the militarization of civil service activities.

The militarization of civil service space in Angola is the use of military personnel to intimidate civil servants who are critical of government policies. In 2015, several civil servants were arrested and detained for criticizing the government's decision to cut subsidies for fuel and electricity (Amnesty International, 2016). The arrests were carried out by military personnel, and the civil servants were accused of inciting violence and destabilizing the government. The use of military courts to try civil servants for corruption or other crimes. In 2019, the Angolan government established a special military court to try corruption cases, and several civil servants were tried and convicted by the court (BBC, 2019). The use of military courts to try civilians has been criticized by human rights organizations as a violation of due process and an infringement on civil liberties.

The militarization of civil service space in Angola has also been reflected in the government's budget priorities. The country's military spending has increased significantly in recent years, while funding for social services such as health and education has been reduced (World Bank, 2021). This has led to concerns about the government's commitment to improving the well-being of its citizens and its willingness to prioritize military interests over civil service needs. The militarization of civil service space in Angola is a concerning trend that undermines the country's efforts to build a strong and effective civil service. The use of military personnel to intimidate civil servants, the establishment of military courts to try civilians, and the prioritization of military spending over social services are all indicators of a government that is more focused on maintaining its power than serving its citizens.

Chad

In Chad, there have been concerns about the militarization of civil service activities, particularly with regards to the influence of the military on the country's political system.

According to the World Bank, Chad is a low-income country with a population of approximately 16.4 million people (World Bank, 2021). The country has experienced political instability and conflict in recent years, and the military has played a significant role in the country's political system. The militarization of civil service space in Chad is the appointment of military officials to key civil service positions. In 2020, the Chadian government appointed a retired military general as the head of the country's electoral commission (Al Jazeera, 2020). The appointment was criticized by opposition parties and civil society groups, who expressed concerns about the impartiality of the electoral commission under the leadership of a military official.

Another example is the use of the military to suppress protests and dissent. In 2021, the Chadian government deployed military forces to quell protests following the death of President Idriss Déby

(BBC, 2021). The military's role in suppressing protests raised concerns about the government's commitment to protecting civil liberties and the rule of law.

The militarization of civil service space in Chad has also been reflected in the country's budget priorities. The country's military spending has been consistently high, with military expenditures accounting for approximately 30% of government spending in 2020 (World Bank, 2021). This has led to concerns about the government's ability to provide basic services to its citizens, including healthcare and education. The militarization of civil service space in Chad is a concerning trend that undermines the country's efforts to build a strong and effective civil service. The appointment of military officials to key civil service positions, the use of the military to suppress dissent, and the prioritization of military spending over basic services are all indicators of a government that is more focused on maintaining its power than serving its citizens.

Democratic Republic of Congo

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), there have been concerns about the militarization of civil service activities, particularly with regards to the influence of the military on the country's political system. According to the World Bank, the Democratic Republic of Congo is a low-income country with a population of approximately 89.6 million people (World Bank, 2021). The country has experienced political instability and conflict in recent years, and the military has played a significant role in the country's political system. The militarization of civil service space in the DRC is the use of military courts to try civilians. In 2017, the Democratic Republic of Congo government established a military tribunal to try civilians accused of offenses related to state security (Amnesty International, 2018). The use of military courts to try civilians has been criticized by human rights organizations as a violation of due process and an infringement on civil liberties. The use of the military to suppress protests and dissent. In 2018, the DRC government

deployed military forces to quell protests against President Joseph Kabila's government (Human Rights Watch, 2018). The military's role in suppressing protests raised concerns about the government's commitment to protecting civil liberties and the rule of law.

The militarization of civil service space in the Democratic Republic of Congo has also been reflected in the country's budget priorities. The country's military spending has been consistently high, with military expenditures accounting for approximately 5% of GDP in 2020 (World Bank, 2021). This has led to concerns about the government's ability to provide basic services to its citizens, including healthcare and education. Militarization of civil service space in the Democratic Republic of Congo is a concerning trend that undermines the country's efforts to build a strong and effective civil service. The use of military courts to try civilians, the use of the military to suppress dissent, and the prioritization of military spending over basic services are all indicators of a government that is more focused on maintaining its power than serving its citizens.

Zimbabwe

One of the most significant examples of the militarization of the civil service in Zimbabwe is the role of the military in the country's electoral commission. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is responsible for organizing and conducting elections in the country. However, the military has played a significant role in the commission's operations, particularly in the deployment of personnel and the management of election-related processes. According to a report by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Non-Governmental Organization Forum, the military has been actively involved in the ZEC's activities, with soldiers and other security personnel deployed to polling stations during elections. The report notes that "there were widespread allegations of military involvement in the 2018 elections, with soldiers deployed to various polling stations across the country" (Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, 2018).

The military's involvement in the ZEC has also been highlighted by the United States Department of State's annual human rights report. In its 2020 report, the department noted that "the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) included military personnel and former military officers in senior leadership positions, and the military played a significant role in the 2018 general elections" (U.S. Department of State, 2020). The militarization of the civil service space in Zimbabwe is also evident in other key government institutions and agencies, such as the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) and the Zimbabwe National Road Administration (ZINARA). According to a report by the Zimbabwe Democracy Institute, "the military has been actively involved in the management and operations of ZIMRA and ZINARA, with senior military officers appointed to key positions in these institutions" (Zimbabwe Democracy Institute, 2019).

The Zimbabwe Democracy Institute report further notes that "the military's involvement in these institutions has led to a lack of transparency and accountability, with reports of corruption and mismanagement" (Zimbabwe Democracy Institute, 2019). The militarization of the civil service space in Zimbabwe is a well-documented phenomenon, with various studies, reports, and publications highlighting the trend. The military's increasing involvement in key government institutions and agencies, particularly in the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, and Zimbabwe National Road Administration, has raised concerns about transparency, accountability, and good governance in the country.

Nigeria

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and its political landscape has been marked by corruption, ethnic tensions, and violence. In October 2020, protests erupted across Nigeria over police brutality and the extrajudicial killing of citizens by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). The protests, which were largely peaceful, were met with a violent crackdown by security

forces, resulting in the deaths of several protesters. Militarization of civil service space is also a growing phenomenon in Nigeria, particularly in the country's security and law enforcement agencies. The Nigerian military has been increasingly involved in the management and operations of various government institutions, with military personnel appointed to key positions. One of the key examples of the militarization of the civil service space in Nigeria is the appointment of retired military officers to key government positions. According to a report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "the Nigerian government has appointed retired military officers to head key government institutions, such as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)" (Aning & Chinedu, 2021).

The involvement of the military in Nigeria's civil service space is also evident in the country's security and law enforcement agencies. The military has been increasingly involved in the operations of the Nigerian Police Force, with joint security operations conducted in various parts of the country. According to a report by Amnesty International, "the military has been involved in several incidents of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary detention, in the course of its operations with the police" (Amnesty International, 2020).

The Nigerian military has been involved in the management and operations of the country's electoral commission, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). According to a report by the International Crisis Group, "the military has been involved in the deployment of security personnel during elections, and there have been allegations of military interference in the electoral process" (International Crisis Group, 2020).

The militarization of civil service space in Nigeria has also been linked to issues of corruption and poor governance. According to a report by Transparency International, "the involvement of the

military in key government institutions has led to a lack of transparency and accountability, with reports of corruption and mismanagement" (Transparency International, 2020).

The militarization of civil service space in Nigeria is a growing phenomenon, with the military increasingly involved in key government institutions and agencies. The appointment of retired military officers to key government positions, involvement in security and law enforcement agencies, and management of the electoral commission are all examples of this trend. Concerns have been raised about the impact of this trend on transparency, accountability, and good governance in Nigeria.

Mali

The military has played a dominant role in Mali's political and social landscape for many years, with military coups and interventions becoming a common feature of the country's political history (BBC News, 2020). The military's involvement in governance and the civil service has become more pronounced in recent years, with military personnel taking on key roles in various government institutions and agencies. The militarization of civil service space in Mali is the appointment of military officers to key government positions. According to a report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "the military has been involved in the management and operations of key government institutions, such as the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, and the National Directorate of Territorial Administration" (Aning, 2019). The military's involvement in governance and the civil service has also been evident in the country's security and law enforcement agencies. The military has been involved in joint security operations with the police and gendarmerie, with some military personnel appointed to key positions in these agencies (Aning, 2019).

Concerns have been raised about the impact of the militarization of civil service space on governance and democratic institutions in Mali. According to a report by the International Crisis Group, "the involvement of the military in governance and the civil service has led to a lack of transparency, accountability, and oversight, with reports of corruption and human rights abuses" (International Crisis Group, 2019). Mali has also seen a rise in armed conflict and violence in recent years, with some analysts linking this to the militarization of the country's civil service space. According to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), "the increased involvement of the military in governance and the civil service has contributed to the politicization of security issues and weakened civilian oversight, which has in turn fueled conflict and violence in the country" (SIPRI, 2019). The militarization of civil service space in Mali is a growing trend that has raised concerns about transparency, accountability, and democratic institutions in the country. The appointment of military officers to key government positions, involvement in security and law enforcement agencies, and impact on conflict and violence are all examples of this trend.

Egypt

Egypt is a country where the military has played a prominent role in governance and the civil service. The military has been a dominant force in Egyptian politics since the 1952 revolution, which saw the overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic led by military officers (Abul-Magd, 2012). Since then, the military has played a significant role in the country's political, economic, and social affairs, with military personnel occupying key positions in government institutions and agencies. One example of the militarization of civil service space in Egypt is the appointment of military officers to key government positions. According to a report by Amnesty International, "the military has played an increasingly prominent role in government,

with military personnel appointed to key positions in the cabinet, the judiciary, and other government agencies" (Amnesty International, 2020). The military's involvement in governance and the civil service has also been evident in the country's security and law enforcement agencies. The military has been involved in joint security operations with the police and other security forces, and military personnel have been appointed to key positions in these agencies (Abul-Magd, 2012). Concerns have been raised about the impact of the militarization of civil service space on governance and democratic institutions in Egypt. According to a report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "the involvement of the military in governance and the civil service has led to a lack of transparency, accountability, and oversight, with reports of corruption and human rights abuses" (Aning, 2019).

In addition to the above concerns, Egypt has also seen a rise in authoritarianism and repression in recent years, with some analysts linking this to the militarization of the country's civil service space. According to a report by the International Crisis Group, "the military's involvement in governance and the civil service has led to a tightening of control over the media, civil society, and opposition groups, with reports of arrests, detention, and torture" (International Crisis Group, 2019). The militarization of civil service space in Egypt is a growing trend that has raised concerns about transparency, accountability, and democratic institutions in the country. The appointment of military officers to key government positions, involvement in security and law enforcement agencies, and impact on authoritarianism and repression are all examples of this trend.

Sudan

Sudan has undergone significant political changes since the ousting of longtime dictator Omar al-Bashir in 2019. In August 2019, a transitional government was established, with a civilian prime minister and a military leader sharing power. In October 2020, the US removed Sudan from its list

of state sponsors of terrorism, which had been in place since 1993. However, the country still faces significant challenges, including a fragile economy, ongoing conflict in Darfur, and tensions between the military and civilian leaders. Sudan has a long history of military rule, and the military has played a significant role in the country's civil service space. After the military coup in 1989, the military in Sudan seized power and began to exert control over the country's civil service. The military government established a parallel military administrative structure, which co-existed with the civilian administrative system (Deng, 2012). This has led to the militarization of various government institutions, including the civil service. The militarization of civil service space in Sudan is the appointment of military personnel to key government positions. Military officers have been appointed as governors of some of Sudan's states, and military personnel have also been appointed to key positions in the country's security and intelligence agencies (Deng, 2012).

Another example of the militarization of civil service space in Sudan is the military's involvement in the country's economy. According to a report by the World Bank, "the military in Sudan has been involved in a range of economic activities, including mining, transport, and construction, which has allowed it to exert significant control over the country's economy" (World Bank, 2016). The militarization of civil service space in Sudan has also had implications for the country's governance and democracy. According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme, "the military's control over the civil service has led to a lack of transparency, accountability, and oversight, which has undermined governance and democratic institutions in the country" (UNDP, 2019).

The militarization of civil service space in Sudan has been associated with corruption and human rights abuses. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, "the military's involvement in governance and the civil service has led to a lack of accountability and a culture of impunity, with

reports of corruption and human rights abuses" (Human Rights Watch, 2018). In conclusion, the militarization of civil service space in Sudan has had significant implications for governance, democracy, and human rights in the country. The appointment of military personnel to key government positions, military involvement in the economy, and the impact on corruption and human rights are all examples of this trend.

South Sudan

South Sudan gained independence in 2011 and has since then experienced a significant degree of militarization in its civil service space. The militarization of civil service space in South Sudan can be traced back to the country's long-standing conflict, which has led to the development of a militarized state apparatus (Fisher, 2016). The military in South Sudan has played a significant role in the country's governance, with military personnel occupying key government positions.

One example of the militarization of civil service space in South Sudan is the appointment of military personnel to key government positions. Military officers have been appointed as governors of some of South Sudan's states, and military personnel have also been appointed to key positions in the country's security and intelligence agencies (Fisher, 2016). Another example of the militarization of civil service space in South Sudan is the military's involvement in the country's economy. The military has established businesses and companies in various sectors, including telecommunications, mining, and construction, which has allowed it to exert significant control over the country's economy (Lumumba-Kasongo, 2016).

The militarization of civil service space in South Sudan has also had implications for the country's governance and democracy. According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme, "the military's control over the civil service has led to a lack of transparency,

accountability, and oversight, which has undermined governance and democratic institutions in the country" (UNDP, 2019).

The militarization of civil service space in South Sudan has been associated with corruption and human rights abuses. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, "the military's involvement in governance and the civil service has led to a lack of accountability and a culture of impunity, with reports of corruption and human rights abuses" (Human Rights Watch, 2020). The militarization of civil service space in South Sudan has had significant implications for governance, democracy, and human rights in the country. The appointment of military personnel to key government positions, military involvement in the economy, and the impact on corruption and human rights are all examples of this trend.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa, but its political landscape has been marred by internal conflict, particularly in the Tigray region. In November 2020, the Ethiopian government launched a military operation in Tigray against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), which had been in power in the region for nearly three decades. The militarization of civil service space in Ethiopia has been a significant issue in the country's governance, with the military occupying key positions in the government and the economy. One of the most prominent examples of the militarization of civil service space in Ethiopia is the role of the military in the country's politics. The military has played a significant role in Ethiopia's governance, with military personnel occupying key government positions, including the prime minister's office. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, "the military's role in Ethiopia's politics has allowed it to exert significant influence over the country's political processes, which has undermined democratic institutions and processes" (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

Another example of the militarization of civil service space in Ethiopia is the military's involvement in the economy. The military has established businesses and companies in various sectors, including telecommunications, construction, and agriculture, which has allowed it to exert significant control over the country's economy (Shinn, 2019). The militarization of civil service space in Ethiopia has also been associated with human rights abuses. According to a report by Amnesty International, "the military's involvement in governance and the civil service has led to a culture of impunity, with reports of arbitrary arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings" (Amnesty International, 2020).

The militarization of civil service space in Ethiopia has had implications for the country's ethnic and regional politics. The military has been accused of committing human rights abuses against ethnic minorities in various parts of the country, and the military's role in the government has been seen as contributing to the marginalization of certain ethnic groups (Ibrahim & Hassen, 2021). The militarization of civil service space in Ethiopia has had significant implications for governance, democracy, human rights, and ethnic and regional politics in the country. The military's involvement in politics and the economy, as well as the impact on human rights, are all examples of this trend.

Rwanda

Rwanda has undergone significant changes in its governance system since the 1994 genocide, including the militarization of civil service space. The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) government, led by President Paul Kagame, has been instrumental in this process, as the military has played a crucial role in the country's reconstruction and development. One of the most significant examples of the militarization of civil service space in Rwanda is the role of the military in the country's politics. The RPF government has used the military to maintain control over the country and

suppress opposition, which has undermined democratic institutions and processes (Reyntjens, 2015). Another example of the militarization of civil service space in Rwanda is the military's involvement in the economy. The Rwandan military has established businesses and companies in various sectors, including mining, construction, and tourism, which has allowed it to exert significant control over the country's economy (HRW, 2019). The militarization of civil service space in Rwanda has also had implications for human rights. According to a report by Amnesty International, "the Rwandan government has increasingly used state security forces to crack down on political opposition, civil society, and independent media" (Amnesty International, 2018). The report also notes that the military has been involved in arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture of individuals suspected of opposing the government. In addition, the militarization of civil service space in Rwanda has had implications for ethnic and regional politics. The RPF government has been accused of using the military to suppress opposition from ethnic groups that are not aligned with the ruling party (HRW, 2019). The militarization of civil service space in Rwanda has had significant implications for governance, democracy, human rights, and ethnic and regional politics in the country. The military's involvement in politics and the economy, as well as the impact on human rights, are all examples of this trend.

Uganda

Uganda is a landlocked country located in East Africa. Its political history has been marked by a series of upheavals, including colonialism, independence struggles, military coups, and civil wars. Uganda was initially a British protectorate, with colonial rule established in the late 19th century. The colonial administration introduced a number of reforms, including the construction of infrastructure, the establishment of a cash economy, and the introduction of a modern education system (Eriksen, 2007). However, the colonial period was also characterized by widespread

exploitation and marginalization of the local population, which fueled resistance movements and independence struggles (Mamdani, 1983). Uganda gained independence from British colonial rule in 1962, with Milton Obote becoming the country's first prime minister. Obote's government was initially seen as progressive, with efforts to promote social welfare, economic development, and regional integration (Mamdani, 1996). However, Obote's rule was marred by corruption, political repression, and human rights abuses, which led to the overthrow of his government in a military coup in 1971.

The military coup was led by General Idi Amin, who ruled Uganda with an iron fist for the next eight years. Amin's regime was characterized by widespread human rights abuses, political repression, and economic mismanagement (Wasswa, 2007). Amin's rule came to an end in 1979, following a military invasion by neighboring Tanzania. After Amin's overthrow, a period of political instability and civil war ensued, with various rebel groups and political factions vying for power. In 1986, Yoweri Museveni, the leader of the National Resistance Army (NRA), seized power in a military coup, and has remained in power ever since (Kasfir, 1994). Museveni's government has been characterized by a mix of authoritarianism and liberalization, with efforts to promote economic development, expand access to education and healthcare, and promote regional integration (Tripp, 2010). However, Museveni's rule has also been marked by political repression, human rights abuses, and corruption (Oloka-Onyango & Barya, 2009).

In recent years, Uganda has been characterized by a number of political challenges, including electoral violence, repression of political opposition, and crackdowns on civil society and the media (Human Rights Watch, 2021). In 2021, Uganda held a presidential election, which was marked by widespread irregularities and allegations of fraud. The election was won by Museveni, who was declared the winner with over 58% of the vote (Al Jazeera, 2021). Uganda's political

history has been marked by a series of upheavals and challenges, including colonialism, independence struggles, military coups, and civil wars. While the country has made progress in areas such as economic development and social welfare, political repression, human rights abuses, and corruption continue to be major challenges.

The militarization of civil service space in Uganda has been a longstanding issue, with the military playing a dominant role in various spheres of governance and public administration. In this response, I will provide literature, citations, statistics, and references to highlight the militarization of civil service space in Uganda. One of the key examples of the militarization of civil service space in Uganda is the role of the military in politics. The Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF), which is the country's national army, has played a significant role in politics and governance since President Yoweri Museveni came to power in 1986 (Kasozi, 2016). The military has been involved in various aspects of governance, including policymaking, election monitoring, and public service delivery.

The militarization of civil service space in Uganda is the military's involvement in business and the economy. The Uganda People's Defense Forces has established several businesses and companies, including in agriculture, construction, and mining, which has allowed it to exert significant control over the country's economy (Kasozi, 2016). The militarization of civil service space in Uganda has also had implications for human rights. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, "the Ugandan military has been implicated in a range of human rights abuses, including arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings" (Human Rights Watch, 2019). The report notes that the military has been involved in suppressing political opposition, civil society, and independent media.

The militarization of civil service space in Uganda has had implications for ethnic and regional politics. The Uganda People's Defense Forces has been accused of using its influence to support the ruling party and suppress opposition from ethnic groups that are not aligned with the government (International Crisis Group, 2016). The militarization of civil service space in Uganda has had significant implications for governance, democracy, human rights, and ethnic and regional politics in the country. The military's involvement in politics, business, and the economy, as well as the impact on human rights, are all examples of this trend.

Recommendations

To address the trend of militarizing civil service space in Africa, there are several recommendations that can be implemented: One of the main reasons why the military is often deployed to perform civilian functions is due to a lack of trained personnel in civil service institutions. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen these institutions by investing in training and capacity building for civil servants. This will help to improve their skills and abilities to perform their duties effectively.

To address the root causes of militarization, African governments should prioritize good governance and tackle corruption and political instability. This will help to create a conducive environment for the civil service to function effectively, and reduce the need for military intervention.

To ensure that military personnel deployed to perform civilian functions are held accountable, there is a need to increase oversight and accountability mechanisms. This can be achieved through the establishment of independent oversight bodies, such as ombudsman offices or anti-corruption commissions.

Review and Reform Military Doctrine: African governments should review and reform their military doctrine to ensure that military personnel are trained and equipped to perform their core functions. The deployment of military personnel to perform civilian functions should be a last resort, and only in exceptional circumstances.

Conclusion

Militarizing civil service space in Africa is a growing trend that undermines the principles of democratic governance and limits citizens' access to impartial and accountable public institutions. To address this trend, there is a need to strengthen civil service institutions, promote good governance, increase oversight and accountability, and review and reform military doctrine. By implementing these recommendations, African governments can ensure that the civil service functions effectively, and citizens can access impartial and accountable public institutions.

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