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**“Good Governance: Concepts, features and models**

**A work-paper by**

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Good governance implies that "the ruled are happy, and rulers wretched".

It involves those slogans for which we aspire, but not grasp, utter but not act upon, seek to attain, but do fear their consequences on us. These include democracy, freedom, social justice, peace and security, sustainable development, transparency, accountability, fighting corruption, human rights etc.

A logical question comes to mind: why don't we embrace such catchwords in Africa and Arab world?

The weak will of both rulers and the ruled-regimes and peoples- and other factors may well play a significant role in delaying the achievement of good governance in the region.

Good governance is old concept adopted by lots of leaders and rulers, whose heroics and exploits had gone deep down the annals of history.

Good governance as rule precept has recently emerged for many reasons:

-Emergence of globalization as international trajectory involving myriad processes.

-Globalization of democratic values and human rights.

-Growing role of NGOs.

-Globalized market and rising private sector.

-Significant transformations at the global level

-Similitude between groups, institutions and communities.

-Worldwide proliferation of corruption, which necessitates working out mechanisms to make regimes more transparent in order to eliminate corruption.

-It is necessary that civil society and the private sector engage in development-taxes, customs and services.

Good governance doesn’t just involve a single automatic criterion; rather, it is multifaceted, multi-phased concept with multiple results.

It is the good steering of resources in a community-be they financial, material or human. It is also a participatory movement that allows for the accurate management of public and private institutions, community institutions and various social actors.

**Key traits of good governance**

-Institutional legitimacy

-democratic elections

-respect for human rights

-political opening

-Independence of both law and the judiciary

-Equality

-participation

-transparency

-Government spending on public services

-Effective and independent media

-Administrative competence

-free flow of information

These properties can be summed up as follows:

-Realization of power legitimacy

-Citizenry position as to the interests of decision-making centers

-public administration's suitability to citizens' needs

Numerous international organizations, such as UNDP and the World Bank, and international Transparency, among others, have their own standards for good governance, which vary based on their objectives and responsibilities, but don't run counter to the aforementioned elements.

-Assessment and measurement of governance and offering counseling to states, organizations and institutions in terms of aiding institutional, socio-economic and political reforms, and attracting funds in accordance with specified standards.

**Measuring good governance**

To ascertain its quality, good governance should be measured. UNDP defined good governance as the processes and structures that lead politico-economic relations transparently and responsibly. Thus, the following measurement indicators were determined to serve as standard for measuring the quality of good governance:

-Socio-economic indicators –education, access to basic needs, and role of women.

-economic indicators-growth, financial relation to foreign resources

-Manpower and sustainability

-Natural resources and environmental trends

According to the WB, good governances has two values to it:

**Inclusiveness:**

Equality among all the parties, non-exclusion of any party, protection of individuals’ basic rights, and the kind of treatment given to citizens by the government.

**Accountability**:

All those selected as rulers by the people should be brought to account based on their success or failure.

**Components of Good Governance**

**Government**

**-**Taking an effectively fixed legal approach to public and private activities.

-Enhancement of stability and equality in the market.

-provision of commodities

-Providing public services in an effective and responsible manner.

**Private sector:**

It includes private enterprises, industry, trade and banks. The state should encourage the development of private sector through economic governance in order for this sector to be sustainable through the following effective mechanisms:-

* Creation of stable macro-economic environment.
* Creation of competitive market.
* Making sure that the poor get loans.
* Enhancement of institutions to create a working environment.
* Attracting investments and working to transfer technological knowledge.
* Strengthening the rule of law.
* Provision of incentives.
* Protection of the environment and natural resources.

**Civil society:**

The concept of civil society has become an integral part of the modern state. Accordingly, there is no direct relationship between the citizen and the state, but through the institutions and civil society organizations including parties, associations, bodies, unions and others. Therefore, the concept of civil society focuses on:

* Volunteerism.
* Institutionalism
* Independence.
* Engagement with a set of basic concepts (Human rights, political participation ………etc.) .

**Models of good governance:**

**New Partnership for Africa's Development ( NEPAD):**

It was established under a resolution of the African Summit held in Lusaka , Zambia in 2001 .NEPAD is a vision and strategic framework that facilitates and coordinates the development of continent-wide programs and projects .

Its primary objectives are:

1. To eradicate poverty and promote sustainable growth and development in Africa.
2. To create an environment conducive to sustainable development through the achievement of security, peace, democracy and good management at economic, political and social levels.
3. To foster integration of Africa in the world economy through increasing and diversifying production, exports, agro-processing, transformational industry and mineral manufacturing.
4. Mobilizing resources to increase reserves, investment, and Africa's share of world trade, to attract investment, capital flows, debt reduction and to increase aid.
5. To promote tourism and boost trade between African countries and world markets.
6. To increase investments in agriculture sector and human resources through focusing on education, health and the empowerment of women.

**African Peer Review Mechanism ( APRM):**

The African Peer Review Mechanism ( APRM) is a self-monitoring instrument voluntarily agreed to by member states of African union within the new partnership for Africa's development ( NEPAD ) in 2003 .

Its primary purpose is to adopt policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth , and sustainable development, and accelerate sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practices ,including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs of capacity building required by the development process.

Membership of the mechanism is voluntary and open to all member states of the African Union. The membership is to sign the memorandum of understanding and pay the annual contribution of $ 100,000.

**APRM Basic Areas :**

The APRM processes entail reviews of the policies and practices of member participating countries to ascertain progress being made towards achieving the mutually agreed goals and in compliance in the four focus areas, namely :  
1- Democracy and good governance.  
2. Economic governance and Management .  
3. Corporate Governance .  
4. Socio-Economic Development.

**Types of review :**

1. Basic review: This is carried out within eighteen months of a country becoming member of the APRM.
2. Periodic review : Every two to four years .
3. Requested review : Any country can request an additional review for its own reasons .
4. Crisis review : Early signs of impending political or economic crisis would also be sufficient cause to institute a review .

**Review Process :**

The APRM is used by member countries to carry out a self-assessment review for all aspects of administrative, economic and social governance. The process also includes legislative and judicial bodies, as well as civil society and the private sector. The review process provides a national opportunity for dialogue on governance and development with a view to reaching a national consensus for the advancement of a country. A national action program will be drawn up for all stakeholders including the people and government.

**Turkish renaissance under Justice and Development Party (AKP)**

The Justice and Development Party (AKP) adopted the civil parliamentary thought that is based on balance between religious authority and rules of modern state, one that makes democracy out of shura; freedom and equality out of secularism, belonging and accomplishment out of citizenship, pride out of history, constitution out of consensus; isolation but not slip out of religious observance; power but not begging out of economy; and greatness, but not dependence, out of politics.

**Key pillars of Turkish renaissance**

1- Renaissance is mass movement integrated in the entire nation with all its institutional and popular components.

2-Bringing balance back to the modern Turkish intellect to restore the historic consciousness of engagement.

3-Achieving reconciliation within the state and reviewing the philosophy of educational investment by providing the necessary support for religious and worldly education.

4-Reframing the notion of secularism in such a way as to serve as a call for science, liberation of the human mind and thought, respect for human freedom, and endeavor to follow science , and explore and harness nature for the interest of mankind.

5-Educational policy to build an educated society and learned generation that aptly and consciously hold their state's project by expanding scientific and technological research, supporting research and development centers, enabling scholars to partake in research projects, and achieving cooperation between universities and industrial institutions.

6-Creating a favorable climate for production and investment, raising manufacturing competitiveness and preparation of productive power.

7-Boosting confidence in the Turkish economy, which expedites the entry of foreign capitals.

8-supporting the establishment of free zones, subsidizing engineering services, promotion of national defense industries and modern economic tools, launching export boost campaign, encouragement of high value products, and rejuvenating regional and global trade.

**Success indicators**

1-Turkey's gross domestic production rose to more than $ one trillion.

2-Public servants' salaries rose by 300%, with the per capita income increasing from $ 3,500 to $ 12,000 per annum, and unemployment dropping from 38% to 2%.

3-With regard to conservation of environment, 770 million shady and fruitful trees were grown across the country.

**Good governance models**

In an effort to achieve renaissance for Malaysia, Muhatir Mohammed took into account the following:

**1-Model state**

He reviewed the experiences of successful countries, and identified the approaches they took to attain success as well as the mistakes they did in order to avoid same. After much effort, he chose Japan as a good model for the emerging Malaysian state.

2-**Good Management:**

Thanks to good education and willpower that characterized both Malaysian society and leadership, Muhatir played the role of the adept leader who had the will to achieve sought-after success in terms of national industries in order to achieve self-sufficiency.

3-He also catalyzed the Malaysian people to work , closely followed upon development plans, implemented distinctive foreign policy, and aborted any attempts, mainly incitement of sedition, which were aimed at undermining development.

Malaysian renaissance was based on the following:

1-Unity of Malaysian ethnic groups, including Malays (58%), Chinese (24%) and 7% Indians. He also worked hard to spare the country any conflicts.

2-He picked out Japan as the model state for Malaysia in terms of advancement and development.

3-Drawing other countries’ attention to Malaysia by attracting foreign investments.

4-Introduction of modern technology and implementing training programs.

5-Adoption of developmental approach and provision of high levels of education and state-of-the art technology inside and outside the country.

6-Providing Malaysian citizens with all educational and technological tools, integrating them into labor market to increase production, reduce unemployment and boost economic development.

7-Establishment of over 400 universities and institutes, imposition of obligatory education, granting loans to students, including those joining higher studies at home and abroad, strengthening the relationship between universities, research centers and the private sector, and raising spending on education to 23% of total government spending.

8-Taking care of Malaysian women, offering interest-free loans to girls, and offering scholarships to the poor.

**Success Indicators:**

1-Expansion of industrial ventures and establishment of 15,000 industrial projects with a capital to the tune of $ 220 billion.

2-Manufacturing high-tech products, including cement, steel iron, cars, textiles and electronics, among others.

3-Industries accounted for 65% of added value and absorbed 40% of labor force.

4-The number of citizens living under the poverty line dropped from 52% to 5%, and reduced unemployment from 50% to 3%.