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Strongman Rule and Democracy: Translating the Success of Professional Bodies into Democratic Reform in Africa

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ABSTRACT

This paper looks at the rise of strongman rule around the world and in Africa in particular and shows how this is affecting democracy and democratic institutions. The paper explains the implication of strongman rule on democracy by showcasing its rise in different parts of the world in the contemporary time exacerbated by the tenure of the former president of the United States, Donald Trump. Using the qualitative method of text analysis, it examines what has been said by leaders of goodwill and scholars on the need to protect democracy from the onslaught of strongman rule. It talks about the takeover of the democratic space and digital media space by agents of the strongmen and advocated for a quick response in order to save democracy and democratic institutions. Finally, it calls for the adoption of the ethical practices of professional bodies in Africa in reforming democracy in the continent.

Contribution/Originality: This study contributes to the existing literature on democracy and its decline in the contemporary time due to the rise of strongmen in the world. Specifically, it highlights the problem of building democracy in Africa and advocates for reforms in the likes of professional bodies in Africa especially ICAN.

1. Introduction

Democracy in the world is witnessing a decline as a result of the rise of nationalism, populism and ethnocentrism in Europe and America. The reason for this boils down to the mistrust of politicians, politics generally and the view that democracy seems to be incapable of tackling the pressing problems of contemporary societies (Attila, 2016; Erdmann, 2011). Likewise, many democratic institutions seem to be caving in to fringe ideas and elements in the society. The election of the former president of the United States, Donald Trump, further exacerbated this view as he worked to undermine democratic institutions throughout his tenure. Therefore, there is an urgent call for the reform of democracy from concerned citizens and scholars in the world (Klaas, 2018).

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In Africa and other developing world where democracy is just taking hold, those in authority started taking a cue from what is going on in Europe and America about the decline of democracy. They are quickly transforming the democratic process that brought them into power into an authoritarian one by actively working to undermine democratic institutions which were not well grounded in these societies and also subverting the constitutions of their nations to serve their own personal agenda of remaining in power for as long as possible. In other words, strongman rule is taking over the democratic space in Africa and other parts of the world. Strongman rule is eroding the democratic gains that have been made in several societies and particularly in Africa. The acceptance and romance of strongman rule by the former president of the United States further embolden those who wanted to take this path in Africa as they saw that the US was no longer serving as a watchdog for democracy in other parts of the world and does not in fact care about it (Cheeseman, 2018).

However, in order to stem this tide of strongman rule and strengthen democracy and democratic institutions, many have suggested the need to reform democracy to make it to be more participatory by continuously involving the citizens instead of alienating them until the time of elections. Some have also suggested the need to focus on institution building and educating the citizenry especially in developing democracies.

In the light of the above, this paper suggested looking at the professional bodies and taking lessons from them by translating their successes especially in Africa into democratic reform in the continent. If one looked at the African societies, professional body organisations in the continent are resilient, democratic and progressive. Over the years, these professional body organisations have become beacons of what a democratic institution should look like. There are limited terms for the presidents/chairmen/women and they do not compromise on the conduct of their members as well as on the constitutions that guide their operation. Because of strict adherence to the ethos of their founding and the constitution of their organisation, they are stable and have succeeded in showing that when rules and regulations are adhered to and followed to the letter as enshrined in democracy, success is assured. Thus, it is practicable to see how we can translate their roles and structure into democratic reform in Africa so as to make our democracy to be as resilient as they have succeeded in making their organisations to be resilient.

To successfully discuss this issue, this paper has been divided into several sections, eight in all, and each section focuses on a particular subtopic that is allied to the issue. However, in discussing the professional body, while the paper talks about professional body organisations generally, it specifically makes use of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) to drive home the point that it was trying to make by quoting from it rules and regulations for its members.

2. Strongman Rule and Democracy

Before the advent of colonialism, in most African nations, and by extension around the world, the idea of governance was rooted in the traditional system of monarchy except in some few places like eastern Nigeria for example where the Igbo people practiced what was referred to by some scholars as village democracy. Africans were ruled through the monarchy system with some checks and balances for example in the Oyo Empire where the Oyo Mesi council serves as a check to prevent tyranny and excesses from the king (Alaafin) (Osadola & Adeola, 2020). In essence, the idea of a strongman or

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a single man rule was not alien to the people of the continent. In fact, it was what they knew as governance, hence the retention of this institution of monarchy as part of their heritage even with the advent of democracy and after the departure of the colonial masters. The people cherish a strong King who could rule with compassion and build a strong kingdom that can serve as a fortress against their enemies and where they could carry on the activities of life in peace and security. Thus, the idea of a single person ruling as a strongman was not alien to the African people and continent.

Likewise, if one looks at the western world, although democracy was known since time immemorial, specifically in Greece, yet philosophers like Plato and Aristotle talk about the philosopher king as the best person to rule a nation after having gone through a process of preparation for fifty years learning wisdom on different aspects of life and human endeavour. However, Plato and Aristotle recognise the difficulty in finding a single individual as a philosopher king hence they advocated for a council of philosophers as rulers called aristocracy. At this period, democracy was not attractive to these philosophers because of the way it was being practiced then, hence the call for aristocracy which would be composed of a council of philosophers (Stumpf, & Fieser, 2012). Nonetheless, the idea of a strongman rule was known in that part of the world too because in many parts of Europe, there was the rule of the kings who were seen as divine with all powers vested in them on earth (Sherman, 2000).

After the renaissance, democracy was reformed and imbued with new ideas making it to become more participatory and it again gained current in the world and eventually became the choice of administration in many parts of the world. With the decolonisation of Africa and the other developing nations in Asia and South America, democracy was the mode of choice of administration for these new independent nations especially after it success in North America and Europe. However, old habits die hard. The mentality of having a single leader as a strongman has not completely left these new nations in Africa, Asia and South America. Thus, all kinds of excuses where trumped up to overthrow the democratic governments in many of these nations. Military regimes were enthroned in many of these nations, thus the idea of a strongman rule was re-established. Unfortunately, these regimes were more corrupt than the civilians that they had accused of corruption and it became clear to every observer that this idea of a strongman rule is practically incapable of helping these nations to develop because most of these strongmen appropriated the resources of their nations for their personal use and there was no developmental in many of these nations (Fatton, 1990). The abject condition of people in these nations, therefore, led to a renewed campaign for a return back to democracy.

Thus, from around 1990 onward, democracy started gaining a foothold again in Africa especially after it has been made a condition for accessing many international aides by the United Nations, European Union and United States of America. Democracy also become a condition for classifying nations as developed or developing because of indices such as freedom of speech, freedom of association, citizens participation in governance, respect for human rights and others. As a result of this, the military were eased out of government in many of the developing nations and democracy and its principles starting taking hold in these nations again.

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3. The Decline of Democracy

However, as democracy was finding its feet in these developing nations, the 21st century has become more challenging for it because of the changing condition of the society especially with the rise of nationalist and extremist groups in Europe and America and the takeover of the public space by these groups. Globalisation, migration and the threat of loss of culture or cultural dilution and the rise of bigoted leaders who latched onto the fears generated by these phenomena to translate it to economic loss and loss of political power dealt a terrible blow on democracy in Europe and America. Citizens were made to believe that liberalism as preached by democracy is responsible for these phenomena of globalisation, migration, cultural dilution and loss of economic and political power (Triffitt, 2018). As a result, voters' apathy sets in and democracy started to decline because of peoples' disengagement from politics and the public space. The mistrust of those in the helms of affairs and the takeover of the political space by political parties that are organised around narrow ideological policy that bothers on culture war – nationalism, white supremacist, xenophobia and ethnocentrism – further exacerbated this situation. The populist idea of "we" versus "them" became the order of the day and the democratic systems moved away from its moderate and representational version into what might be called "democratic extremism". Putting this in perspective, Mark Triffitt (2018) says:

> *"This "unrepresentative" democracy creates a feedback loop. As the public invests less interest and commitment to democracy, the democratic arena is captured by those with narrow, unrepresentative world views. Growing public disengagement leads to the greater capture of democratic processes by outlier groups and individuals who are hostile to democratic institutions and practices"*. (Triffitt, 2018)

4. Reversion to Strongman Rule

With growing populism and mistrust for democracy because of the takeover of the democratic space by these extremist groups in many parts of the western world, we are again witnessing a reversion back to the idea of a strongman rule. This was further exacerbated by the rise of Donald Trump to power in the US as this has a domino effect on other parts of the world. His praise and romance with authoritarian leaders and his lack of respect and regard for democratic institutions in the US gave impetus for more authoritarianism in the world as democratic institutions are being subverted and crushed especially in Africa. Leaders in Africa who got to power through democracy started attacking these democratic institutions by changing their functions to suit their personal interest and purpose and even changing their nations' constitution for term elongation while crushing those who dissented with them either by making them run into exile or imprisoning them and depriving them of all their fundamental human rights. The former President of the US, Barrack Obama, raised alarmed concerning this shortly before he left office in January 20, 2017 when he said:

> *"The politics of fear and resentment … is now on the move. It's on the move at a pace that would have seemed unimaginable just a few years ago. I am not being alarmist, I'm simply stating the facts. Look around – strongman politics are on the ascendant"*. (Obama, 2018)

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This alarm has become a reality as its truth is evidence because Donald Trump, whose tenure was an example of a strongman rule, was not an aberration, according to Walker, he was "part of a strengthening authoritarian trend more or less across the globe" (Walker, 2018). In the Middle East, the Arab spring has given way to authoritarian rulers who rode on the back of the clamour for democracy to power. In Europe, the same thing is happening in Hungary, Belarus, Austria, and Romania. The Far East is not left out of this as Xi Jinping of China has removed the term limits that gave China a semblance of democracy. In Thailand, the military has refused to leave and in Myanmar the military strongmen has just dismantled its democratic institutions and put all elected officers under arrest. This strongman rule is also playing out in Egypt, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Equatorial Guinea to mention a few in Africa. According to Triffitt (2018), "Support for authoritarian-style governance has grown around the world, as it is often seen as more "effective" in addressing real-world problems" (Triffitt, 2018). But, the down side of this is that "Strongman governments are characterised by a weakening of democratic checks and balances. They are also marked by rhetoric and decision-making that promotes intense nationalism, while undermining core democratic values of tolerance and openness" (Triffitt, 2018).

In addition to the above, the effect of this strongman rule includes the erosion of the people's right, especially human rights, and prevention of people from participating and having a say in the governing process of their nations. Fundamentally, the idea of truth is also affected by the strongman phenomenon as each strongman sets and propagates what it sees as truth and not necessarily what is the objective truth. Any inconvenient news can be declares as fake news and falsehood can be declared as truth as long as it favours the regime. Anyone who propagates what the strongman regime classifies as fake news can be declared an enemy of the state and arrested without due process. Their news is the news and their truth is the truth. There is a total disrespect for fact and a resort to propaganda by the strongman regime. Former President, Barack Obama says concerning this:

> *"People just make stuff up. They just make stuff up. We see it in the growth of state-sponsored propaganda. We see it in internet fabrications. We see it in the blurring of lines between news and entertainment. We see the utter loss of shame among political leaders where they're caught in a lie and they just double down and they lie some more. It used to be that if you caught them lying they'd be like, 'Oh man.' Now they just keep on lying"*. (Walker, 2018)

5. Truth and Strongman Rule in the Digital Era

We had all assumed that with the advancement made in this digital era, it would be easy to hold political leaders to account because news is no longer centralised as it seems to be out of the control of those in government. But, to the surprise of many, the reverse seems to be the case as pointed out by Bremmer (2018) who says:

> *"A decade ago, it appeared that a revolution in information and communications technologies would empower the individual at the expense of the state. Western leaders believed social networks would create 'people power', enabling political upheavals like the Arab Spring. But the world's autocrats drew a different lesson. They saw an opportunity for government to try to become the dominant player in how*

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> *information is shared and how the state can use data to tighten political control"*. (Bremmer, 2018)

That is the strongman regimes have outsmarted everyone and this is compounded by the fact that many human beings are herd-followers who rely on others to think for them and are easily swayed by emotion and populist appeal instead of looking at the facts. To be candid, scholars now refer to communication in this present period as the post-fact or post-truth period because of "the growing tendency of "political and social discussions" to be dominated by "emotions instead of facts" and this phenomenon is playing into the hands of the strongman regimes all over the world. This is made worse by the fact that, as the German Language Society [Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache (GfdS)] says, "Ever greater sections of the population are ready to ignore facts, and even to accept obvious lies willingly. Not the claim to truth, but the expression of the 'felt truth' leads to success in the 'post-factual age'" (Keane, 2018). Many of the strongman regimes now have media centres of their own and their presence is felt on the internet and on online forums and discussions, especially on the Social Media. They employ internet savvy citizens who churn out propaganda about the government every day and counter any negative story and report about the government and its activities. All facts are contested and dispelled through this propaganda thus making citizens to doubt every genuine reports and facts. These regimes creates a new reality of their own as against what is factual an example is when Donald Trump claims that there was no a drought in California and that the bush burning there is not because of climate change but because of lack of forest management. Likewise, when he said that during his inauguration, the weather was clear, when in actual fact light rain fell throughout his address. Keane (2018) said concerning this:

> *"post-truth" is not simply the opposite of truth, however that is defined; it is more complicated. It is better described as an omnibus term, a word for communication comprising a salmagundi or assemblage of different but interconnected phenomena. ……. Post-truth has recombinant qualities. For a start, it is a type of communication that includes old-fashioned lying, where speakers say things about themselves and their world that are at odds with impressions and convictions that they harbour in their mind's eye"*. (Keane, 2018)

In conclusion, Bremmer (2018) says about democracy and the rise of the strongman phenomenon. Perhaps the most worrying element of the strongman's rise is the message it sends. The systems that powered the Cold War's winners now look much less appealing than they did a generation ago. Why emulate the US or European political systems, with all the checks and balances that prevent even the most determined leaders from taking on chronic problems, when one determined leader can offer a credible shortcut to greater security and national pride? As long as that rings true, the greatest threat may be the strongmen yet to come (Walker, 2018).

6. Strongman Rule in Africa and the need to Reform Democracy

As pointed out earlier, in Africa, the idea of the strongman has gained a hold on the people. Leaders both at national, region and state levels have turned themselves into tin gods. Democratic institutions are not allowed to function as they should and everything is now at the mercy of the president, regional heads or governors. The rights of people are not respected and voices of dissent are being silent. Democratic debates which are

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meant to celebrate diverse views and opinions are not allowed to take place and where they are allowed, opponents of the government position are treated as enemies of state. The idea of agenda setting with a single story is the order of the day and facts no longer matter. Opposing views to the official ones are no longer allowed to thrive. Robust debates about the state of affairs of the nation are a thing of the past and the democratic ideal of checks and balances among the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of government has hit a brick wall. The executive arm now controls everything and those who are in the other branches of government now serve at the pleasure and mercy of the executive arm of government. Democratic institutions are now bent to function in satisfying the will and desire of the strongman and not as they should ideally function. Subversion of the constitution for term elongation instead of the normal two terms limit as enshrined in the constitution is now the new order of the day in Africa. Ethnic and religious differences have been weaponised to divide the people and keep them busy from what is important. Ethnic and religious strives are now on the rise and they are being used as excuses for term elongation as these strongmen leaders present themselves as the sole solution to these problems.

In view of these challenges to democracy and democratic institutions, Triffitt (2018) emphasises the need to reform democracy in order for it to the expectations of citizens in the contemporary time. He sees the need to reform democracy in order to strengthen it as the challenge of our time and that there is need to act urgently so that it will not be destroyed totally thus leaving nothing to reform at the end of the day. To quote him, he says:

We need to reinvigorate democracy to meet the expectations of citizens as to how 21st-century democracy should engage and perform. A few years ago, the idea of citizen juries to advise parliaments, diversified political representation, and stronger checks and balances on partisan politics would have struggled to gain public support. Now, amid growing public recognition that our current configuration of democracy is not working, they are seen as imperative reforms by voters themselves. Without urgent and strategic democratic renewal, there is the danger that soon there will be little left on which to rebuild (Triffitt, 2018).

7. Translating the Success of Professional Bodies into Democratic Reform in Africa

Meanwhile, in spite of this gloomy picture of democracy in Africa, many professional bodies are thriving in the continent and their institutions still holds true to their principles. One can observe some democratic principles in their operations and they have become a very strong institution in African societies. The ethos that serves as the foundation of these professional bodies still continue to guide their operations and make them to be continuously relevant over and over again even as the world continues to experience changes every generation. It is here that the successes of these professional bodies can be translated into democratic reform by using their model to build strong democratic institutions that can stand the test of time as they have done.

In order to see how the above could be done, we need to look at the strategy adopted by the professional bodies which has made them to remain relevant as well as democratic. One of such professional bodies is the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN). To streamline this discussion and remain focus, this paper will use ICAN as a model example of a democratic professional body in Africa whose ethos and principles could be used as a guide for democratic reform and progress in Africa. The institute is

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particularly important because it has its equivalent in virtually all nations in Africa and they almost all subscribe to International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

As is apparent, professional bodies like the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) have become a model of working institutions that are desired in a democracy. As we all know, democracy survives only when there are decent and principled men who follow strictly its ethos by building institutions in the different spheres of life in the society. Institutions that can withstand the test of time and changes, such as ICAN, which regulates the affair of professional accountants in Nigeria, are what are desired by democracy in Africa. This fact is even more poignant if one considers the recent event that happened in the united states where the former president, Donald Trump, refused to concede defeat after losing his second term bid and put to serious test the democratic institutions in that nation. Were the United States of America to be any of the African nations, he would have been sworn in for a second term and the society would have had no option but to accept him or descend into chaos as is the case in Burundi, Uganda, Congo and other places in Africa. The fact that the USA survives this test shows that building very strong institutions are very important in upholding democracy and professional bodies like ICAN which are strong institutions can help Africa nations in this regard by providing guidance from their wealth of experience. Thus, the success of these professional bodies can be translated into democratic reform in Africa by adopting their core values and strategies.

In the interim, on January 2012 (26 – 27 to be precise), over twenty accountancy professional body organisations backed by the World Bank, IFAC and FEE met together in Sinaia, Romania, for a round table talk on the current and future roles and structures of professional bodies in the society. Likewise, they intend to work out strategies which professional body accountancy organisations can pursue in order to address current and future challenges. These professional accountancy bodies were drawn from Central and South Eastern Europe. After a rigorous section, four strategies were adopted which are: 1) Strategic direction, 2) Regulation, 3) Education and Training, and 4) Technical and other services (ICAEW, 2012).

IFAC, one of the stakeholders in the meeting mentioned above, is a parent body to many of the professional accountancy bodies in Africa including the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN). Thus, the resolutions of this round table talk trickle down to ICAN and other professional bodies in Africa and are adopted by them as well. Thus, these four strategies could be translated into democratic reform in Africa and this can be seen as explained below.

1) Strategic direction: there is need to have a focus on what we want democracy to achieve in Africa. There is need for a mission statement for democracy and to work towards achieving this mission. For example ICAN has the following statement as it mission statement "To Produce World-Class Chartered Accountants, Regulate and Continuously Enhance Their Ethical Standards and Technical Competence in the Public Interest" (ICAN, Vision and Mission) and it has put in place programs and activities that will help in achieving this statement. For democracy to thrive in Africa we must be very clear about what we want to achieve with it and the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and others like them can help in articulating this mission of democracy in Africa. The African Union has to be intentional and clear about what its member nations must do about upholding democracy and building democratic institutions to serve the needs of the people. In this regards, the AU

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and other regional bodies like ECOWAS was emphasise strict adherence to the constitution of the nation of each member state and the unconstitutional and unpopular change of the constitution to elongate leaders' rule must become unacceptable. Each leader should serve his/her term according to the constitution and leave office as required.

2) Regulation: there is need to regulate the political space in Africa so that those who ascend to position of authority are those who understands the ethos of democracy and are prepared for the task that they are given. The task will fall most especially on the political parties as part of their responsibilities to members as we can see this in the way ICAN operates.

ICAN's responsibilities in relation to its members are (i) setting initial professional development and continuing professional development requirements for its members; (ii) determining examination and certification requirements for members; (iii) maintaining a membership register; (iv) enforcing rules of professional conduct as well as ethical and technical standards for its members; and (v) carrying out quality assurance reviews for members (ICAN, Membership).

In view of the above, there must be a set of standards both ethical and knowledge wise that members of political parties must possess before they are allowed to take the position of authority and the party must be ready to sanction those who do not adhered to these set of standards. Likewise, these set of rules must be public and the masses must be encouraged to report any breach of these standards by any political officer while also making sure that the parties act accordingly in keeping to their rules and regulations. The various electoral commissions in each nation need to be empowered and backed by law to make sure that parties who refused to keep these rules and regulations are sanctioned appropriately. Part of this should also include empowering the electoral commission to disqualify parties that engage in or promote violence at the polls and during campaign. This is important because in many parts of Africa, violence, intimidation and killings have become the order of the day during the period of elections.

3) Education and Training: part of the fundamental duties of professional bodies is the education and training of their members. Political parties must take a cue from this and ensure continuous education and training of members on leadership and democratic principles that bothers on institution building, following democratic ethos, respect for the rule of law and loyalty to the constitution as supreme to individuals, party and position of authority. This, for example, will be in tandem with the ICAN charter that says that ICAN will continuously update the technical skills and competencies of the chartered accountants through value added training programmes provided at minimum costs and designed to enhance productivity and social responsiveness (ICAN, Membership).

In this way, politics and by extension democracy, will no longer be for the mediocre who do not know what ruling a nation and managing institutions entails. This is important because today, our current democratic experiment shows that those who man our institutions are mostly loyal to the person who put them in position and not to the constitution of the nation. It is the reason why they are always ready to go against the constitution and to subvert it believing that their loyalty is to the person and not to the nation or the constitution. Electoral bodies in the different nations in Africa can be

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empowered to organise these trainings from time to time and make it a condition to become a candidate for any political party. Courses could be organised during non-election periods and it should not be a one-time thing, rather, it must be a continuous thing so as to keep them up-to-date. During this process, people from developed democracies could be invited to teach on the importance of the constitution and loyalty to the constitution above the individual.

4) Technical and Other services: this entails measuring and if possible impacting some fundamental skills and values into leaders such as increasing their intelligent quotient, making sure that they have the right emotional quotient and social quotient to communicate effectively. These are further explained below as adapted from Olatunji (2020):

Intelligence Quotient (IQ): this is the measure of your comprehension ability", solve maths; memorize things and recall subject matters. It also includes the ability to solve technical issues that affect the welfare of the people even if he/she has to enlist the help of the experts, he must be informed enough to select the best after listening to a cross section of them and determining the plausibility of their views and knowledge (Olatunji, 2020).

Emotional Quotient (EQ): this is the measure of your ability to maintain peace with others; keep to time; be responsible; be honest; respect boundaries; be humble, genuine and considerate. This will help the officers to relate with people with compassion instead of looking down on them as we have today. It includes the ability to view things from the perspective of those who are affected or afflicted with any problem. That is the ability to empathise and sympathise with the people and being humble enough to bring oneself to their level knowledge (Olatunji, 2020).

Social Quotient (SQ): this is the measure of your ability to build a network of friends and maintain it over a long period of time. In this regard, this will help the officer in effective communication keeping in touch with his/her base, understand their thinking, actions and inaction as well as their likes and dislikes. Having local knowledge and trusted hands among the people who can be honest with one on issues that affect the people knowledge (Olatunji, 2020).

If we can imbibe these four core values and strategies from ICAEW (2012), for a start, and which we believe have led to the continuous relevance and resilience of professional bodies in Africa, we can tailor democracy in the continent to the benefit of the people and eliminate the evil of having a single man lord it over all and sundry.

The idea of a strongman may be attractive in the short term but not sustainable in the long run for nation building and the welfare of the nation and her people. From experience, most strongman starts on a good footing for the first few years of their rule, but as they continue to hold on to power, they usually run out of ideas and the fight for survival makes them commit all kinds of atrocities against the people and against the nation. As the saying goes, “power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” A decade is enough for any leader to contribute his/her quota to the development of the nation and leave the stage for fresh ideas and a new direction because our world is not static and each generation look at things differently from the older generation. This idea of term limit is what professional bodies also practice and it is one of the things that keeps them going and growing strong. As the quote that is usually attributed to Albert

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Einstein says, “We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” There is need for new thinking and new approach in entrenching democracy in Africa and in restoring the value of democracy and democratic institutions the world over.

8. Conclusion

In conclusion, although there may be some mistrust towards democracy and people may be supporting the idea of strongman, democracy still remains our best option especially in Africa. Yes, there may be need for reform and we have highlighted that some lessons could be learned from professional bodies like ICAN in reforming it. However, the alternative, the rule of the strongman, may be attractive in the short term, but it is a poison to society in the long run and should be avoided at all cost.

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