Promoting A Culture of Good Governance
Objectives

- Increase participants knowledge of basic concepts and issues in governance
- Establish the biblical basis for Governance
- To build participants confidence and capacity to engage in discussions on Governance/Governance issues
- To build participants confidence and capacity to address Governance in development work
David goes to Kailahun!
What is Governance?

“The sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs”

(UNDP workshop on Ethics & Accountability)
What is Governance?

- Laws
- Policies
- Rules
- **Values**
  - Institutions e.g. AU, ECOWAS, Ombudsmen
  - Processes e.g. budgeting processes
  - Mechanisms e.g. African HoG Peer Review Mechanism
- **Behaviour?**
What is Governance?

- We might not always have the same view of what Governance entails, but we all agree that it operates at every level of human interaction:
  - Global
  - Regional
  - National
  - Community
  - Household
Governance and Government

What is the difference?
What is the Biblical Standard for Governance?

- God set the standard – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
  - The Law and the Prophets
  - The Judges and the Courts
  - The Priests
  - Jesus
Power!

If David was President Wade on that bus...?
Good Governance means…

- Rule of Law
- Accountability (upwards & downwards)
- Transparency
- Participation
- Respect for Human Rights
- Responsiveness
- Efficiency and Effectiveness
Poor Governance means…

- Poor (or the lack of) rules, policies
- **Corruption**
- Instability (political or social)
- Ineffective structures and systems
- **Voiceless ‘followership’** (e.g. media, civil society, laity)
- Poor or unfair justice systems
Measuring Governance Quality (A framework)

- **Laws**: e.g. policies, culture, norms, traditions, values

- **Mechanisms and Processes**: e.g. courts, ombudsmen, commissions of inquiry, systems of governance such as democracy or decentralisation, guidelines for meetings or communication

- **Outcomes/Impact**: e.g. how much access do people have basic services or information, what is changing in the quality of life (spiritual, material, economic)
Why must the Church in West Africa be alert to Governance Issues?

- Governance is at the heart of the biggest challenges Africa is facing today.
- Governance, including corruption, is a fundamental driver of spiritual & material poverty.
- The Church can be a role model of best practice (e.g. leadership & servanthood, probity, honesty, integrity, generosity, love).
- More Christians are aspiring to political positions!
Where does the Church need to improve internally?

- Clear systems and procedures of Governance (Who is the leadership accountable to? Who ensures that the rules are followed)

- Accountability rules and mechanisms (When the leadership, workers or membership are failing what mechanisms exist to hold them accountable? How effective are the rules and mechanisms in place? How do they apply to different categories of people – e.g. rich and poor)
Where does the Church need to improve internally?

- Management of Church resources (How is money budgeted for? How is it used? Do the leadership of the Church account to the a Board and membership? How often does this take place? Is there an assets register? Are internal - and external for the bigger churches - audits taking place?)
Where does the Church need to improve internally?

- Clear vision, mission and goals/strategy (If the Church does not have a clear and shared vision it could easily go off course!)
- Leaders should be cautious about overstating the issue of hierarchy (i.e. the Senior Pastor is superior to the church janitor)
- Because of some of the major scandals in the Church a lot of leaders and church establishments lack credibility in the eyes of the public
- “Expensive goodness!”
Conclusion

We the Church, need to address our own internal accountability issues if we are going to remain relevant and justified before God and able to address governance issues in our continent, countries and communities.
...So what happened to David...?