



THE CHALLENGES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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ABSTRACT

Appropriate application of democratic principles brings about good governance practices. This is particularly evident in societies where democratic culture is becoming the daily experience of citizens. With regard to the advancement of human rights, the incidence is that, wherever these two factors (democratic culture and good governance) are well entrenched, rules and procedures – under the purview of which operates the society – safeguard human rights by significantly minimizing any possible margin to the infringements. This is unfortunately far from being the case at present in many African countries, where the establishment of the said factors still remains a challenge – one with considerable repercussions on the human rights front. To improve the situation, African rulers need to effectively implement a leadership model that caters to the aspirations of their peoples, while the peoples need to be empowered to make use of democratic principles and good governance institutions in place to secure their human rights.

Keywords: Democracy, Democratic culture, Good governance, Human Rights