

# Change through the Ballot: Examining the 2024 Constitutional Democracy in Senegal

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## ABSTRACT

**Aim of the Study:** The study examined the impact of elections on constitutional democracy in Africa with Senegal as case study. The paper assessed the implications of unconstitutional reforms on good governance, and identified the strategies that can improve the practices of constitutionalism and democracy in Africa.

**Methodology:** Methodologically, the paper adopted a descriptive research design and employed secondary sources of data collection. Sources included newspaper articles, worldwide indices, journals, online articles, survey data, research datasets, reports from distinct nations, and statistics from reliable international organizations. These include the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Freedom House, the International IDEA, the Afrobarometer survey data, the Perceptions of Electoral Integrity (PEI) and the dataset from the Electoral Integrity Project amongst others. Data was subjected to thematic content analysis.

**Findings:** The findings showed that democratic and credible elections drive political change in Senegal, demonstrating the country's commitment to constitutional democracy through peaceful transitions. Faye's electoral victory, characterised by high voter turnout and a quiet process, indicates the effectiveness of democratic channels despite prior civil unrest. The implications of unconstitutional reforms were found to significantly undermine good governance by weakening institutional checks and balances, eroding public trust in political leaders, and fostering environments where political opposition is dealt with by isolation rather than dialogue, leading to diminished rule of law and social cohesion. Robust strategies such as maintaining judicial independence, ensuring electoral integrity, combating corruption, media freedom and civic education were essential to consolidating democracy.

**Conclusion:** The paper concludes that strengthening Constitutional Democracy across Africa requires targeted and intentional efforts from both national and international stakeholders. The path to democratic consolidation as shown in Africa and specifically, Senegal, requires aversion of undemocratic tendencies in governance for solid democratic development in Africa.

**Keywords:** Ballot, Elections, Senegal, Constitution, Democracy, Governance.

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## **Background**

Several nations in Africa have shown a strong commitment to the belief that competitive elections are needed for democracy to flourish. This commitment is evident in the increasing number of countries holding regular elections and witnessing power transitions across their states. Multiparty elections have become the norm, except in a few war-torn nations such as South Sudan and Libya, as well as the African states of Eritrea and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland). To reinforce democratic principles, international and regional organizations like the African Union have taken steps to promote democratic governance and constitutionalism (Fombad, 2023). The African Union has adopted the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (ACDEG) as a framework to enhance democratic practices and governance within the African subregion, as stated by Ayodeji, Kolade, and Abiodun (2023). The objectives of the ACDEG include monitoring elections, promoting good governance practices, and providing technical assistance to member states to ensure free and fair electoral processes. However, despite the regularity of elections and the representative leadership a change through the ballot promises alone would not completely prevent the tendency for undemocratic and unconstitutional practices to arise (Ayodeji, Kolade, and Abiodun, 2023).

According to a study by Mattes (2019), only about 34% of Africans are content with the state of democracy in their countries. Akinyetun (2022) and Okubasu (2022) point out several factors contributing to this issue, including a significant decline in governments upholding constitutional principles, which has led to challenges in democratic consolidation (Akinyetun, 2022; Okubasu, 2022). Other contributing factors include a sit-tight government, corruption, election rigging, do-or-die politics, godfatherism, money-bag elections, poverty, and social and economic inequality (Akinyetun, 2022). Nevertheless, Senegal beams the light on credible, free, and fair elections in the 2024 presidential and general elections by electing its first-ever African youngest president, who never held any political position before being elected president, through a credible election that has been argued by many to have reflected the mind and choice of the people of Senegal (Booty, 2024).

### ***Statement of the Problem***

Since gaining independence from France in 1960, Senegal has distinguished itself by maintaining a relatively stable political environment characterized by regular and peaceful transfers of power (Faye, Dièye, Diakhaté, Bèye, Sall, & Diop, 2021). Unlike many of its neighbours, Senegal has avoided military coups and significant political turmoil, making it a model for democratic governance in West Africa. Furthermore, Senegal has used its constitution, regular elections, and peaceful transfers of government authority to build a democracy rooted in a social consensus that respects communal and religious pluralism (Carson and Sany, 2024). Despite these milestones, recent events have called into question the quality of democracy and constitutionalism in Senegal. Senegal's fourth president, Macky Sall, has been in office since 2012, vowing to adhere to the constitutional limit of two terms, which necessitates the election of his successor before his mandate concludes (Carson and Sany, 2024). Al Jazeera reported that just weeks before the scheduled elections, President Sall declared a decision to indefinitely postpone the elections (Lawal, 2024). According to reports, this marked the first time a presidential election had been postponed in the country's history (Presse, 2024; Dione, 2024).

The postponement sparked widespread protests and violent clashes, leading to several fatalities and numerous injuries. The unrest was fuelled by allegations that the postponement was a ploy to prolong Sall's tenure and manipulate the electoral process in favour of his party's candidate, Prime Minister Amadou Ba (Al Jazeera, 2024; Voice of America, 2024). These events amplified public outcry and deepened the political divide in Senegal (Human Rights Watch, 2024; Al Jazeera, 2024), as well as plunged Senegal into a significant constitutional crisis, according to Yabi and Holman (2024). The crisis was marked by a heavy-handed response from security forces, including the use of live ammunition and tear gas against protesters, leading to international condemnation and calls for the protection of democratic processes and human rights in Senegal (Human Rights Watch, 2024; Al Jazeera, 2024).

Furthermore, the opposition finds it quite challenging to compete in elections because of these and other recent institutional reforms (Mbaku, 2020). In a notable development, Senegal's Constitutional Council overturned Sall's decision to postpone the election, adding another layer of uncertainty about the timing and logistics of the vote. The council urged that the election be held as soon as possible but did not set a specific date (Voice of America, 2024).

In a turn of events, the peaceful inauguration of President Bassirou Diomaye Faye in Senegal was an indication of the democratic resilience required to avert the anarchy and potential authoritarianism that is gradually descending into Sahelian West Africa and halt it from spreading to the coastal states of West Africa, which have five times more people than Senegal (United States Institute of Peace, 2024). This was also possible due to the quick, well-calibrated support from international communities, domestic activism, and civil society alliances like the Aar Sunu Election (Protect Our Election) that joined opposition parties to demand adherence to the law (United States Institute of Peace, 2024).

According to the African Center for Strategic Studies, since 2015, leaders of 13 African countries have evaded or overseen the further weakening of term limit restrictions that had been in place (Siegle and Cook, 2023). Guinea, Senegal's neighbour, is all we need to look at to recognize the hazards. There, President Alpha Condé fulfilled his two-term constitutional mandate before using his position to set up a contentious 2020 referendum to lift the cap, although according to Afrobarometer poll data, over 80% of Guineans were in favour of it (Delamou et al., 2020). Condé succeeded in extending his rule, but the harm he caused to his nation's democratic institutions was so significant that a military coup deposed him the following year (Kim and Sudduth, 2021). Several African presidents, including Gnassingbé of Togo, Museveni of Uganda, Déby of Chad, Biya of Cameroon, Kagame of Rwanda, the late Nkurunziza of Burundi, and el-Sisi of Egypt, have amended their nations' constitutions to do away with the two-term limit (Mbaku, 2020). A similar case occurred in Nigeria, where Chief Olusegun Obasanjo wanted the National Assembly to amend the 1999 Constitution to enable him to realize his aspiration for a third bid in office, which Mbaku (2020) referred to as a 'constitutional coup'. Worth noting is that these kinds of coups are common in Africa.

### ***Study Objectives***

Generally, the study examined the importance of Constitutional Democracy Africa.

Other specific objectives include:

1. Examine the impact of elections on constitutional democracy in Senegal
2. Assess the implications of unconstitutional reforms on good governance
3. Identify the strategies that can improve the practices of constitutionalism and democracy in Africa.

### ***Research Questions***

The study proffered answers to the following question:

1. To what extent did a change through the ballot impact constitutional democracy in Senegal?
4. What are the implications of unconstitutional reforms on good governance
2. What strategies are best for constitutionalism and democracy in Africa?

### ***Significance of the Study***

The African continent is in dire need of constitutional democracy and good governance for political and economic development in the continent. Contrarily, Africa is bedeviled with sit-tight and unconstitutional regimes. To this extent, study such as this that examined the factors responsible lack of constitutionalism, and poor governance cannot be over-emphasize. The paper revealed the unparalleled importance of

democratic processes on good governance which is found missing in African democracies. It also brings to light how constitutional frameworks and adherence to its principles are essential in securing electoral practices which are fundamental to democracy. Furthermore, the study emphasized the role of citizen's participation and the involvement of international actors in strengthening constitutional democracy in Africa and Senegal in particular. The paper revealed the involvement of all stakeholders in addressing challenges related to public accountability and inclusiveness as is evident in the Senegalese 2024 presidential elections. The above shows the uniqueness and significance of this paper as different from other works on democracy in Africa.

## **Literature Review**

Several political analysts have sought to understand the intersection of elections, constitutionalism, and democracy, given their complementary nature as a requisite to good governance outcomes in many societies yet; the scope is limited to their investigations.

Their analysis and submissions often emphasize on how democratic principles help to ensure that political systems function effectively, uphold individual rights, and promote societal well-being. For instance, Fombad and Steytler (2021) analysed the state of democracy and elections in Africa, noting the decline of dictatorships and one-party governments since the 1990s. However, they observe a reversal of democratic progress, with authoritarian regimes masking their control through elections. They argued that maintaining constitutional democracy is crucial for addressing Africa's challenges, including internal conflict, inequality, and corruption. Furthermore, Pinto (2021) discussed the challenge of entrenched leadership to democracy in Africa, noting how some leaders remain in power by resorting to constitutional amendments. Despite the dominance of liberal democracies post-Cold War, leaders justify their hold on power through various means, including ideology, historical circumstances, and economic imperatives, alongside constitutional principles (Pinto (2021) Similarly, Fatai (2020) conducted a comparative study of elections and democratic consolidation in West Africa, focusing on Nigeria and Senegal from 1999 to 2012. The study revealed that despite regular elections in both countries, there were challenges in institutionalizing liberal democratic principles such as the rule of law and constitutionalism. It argues that while elections are crucial, they alone cannot ensure democratic consolidation without the foundation of these principles. The study employed qualitative research methods, including documentary analysis and interviews, to analyse the role of elections and suggest recommendations for enhancing democratic consolidation in the region.

In addition, Hudhaibi (2023) examined the implementation of democracy in Indonesia, focusing on the role of the constitution, particularly the 1945 Constitution, in conducting General Elections. The research adopted a descriptive-analytical approach to analyse governance practices and identified the constitution's aim to guide state administration, establish good governance, and uphold democracy and human rights. Elections were highlighted as important mechanisms for political participation and ensuring fairness. The study concluded that Indonesia's democratic status is both ideological and factual, emphasizing the importance of the constitution and elections in advancing democracy in the country. Also, Rudenko (2020) explores the conflict between constitutionalism and democracy, emphasizing constitutionalism's doubts about popular sovereignty. The elitist nature of current representative democracies is believed to erode democratic principles. Nevertheless, Rudenko points out two key developments that could improve democracy within contemporary constitutionalism: the establishment of clear legal structures for open governance and the reinforcement of avenues for substantial citizen involvement through logical discussions. These insights are situated in the context of the democratic struggles in Russia.

In his analysis, Schupmann (2024) addresses the threats to democratic values posed by legal revolutions and actions by populist leaders in countries like Hungary, India, and Turkey. The concept of militant democracy is presented as a safeguard against these threats by embedding protective measures within the constitution. Schupmann proposes a liberal normative theory of militant democracy, integrating John Rawls' political liberalism with Carl Schmitt's state theory. This theory advocates for three constitutional

mechanisms: explicit amenability, political rights restrictions, and the oversight of a constitutional court. These measures aim to prevent the erosion of democracy through legal subversion. Rawls' philosophy contributes the democratic foundation, emphasizing basic liberal rights, while Schmitt's ideas support the proactive defense of the constitution's political identity. This innovative combination offers a unique framework for maintaining liberal democracy against illiberal influences. Fombad (2021) provides a sobering analysis of electoral democracy in Africa, contrasting the initial optimism of the 1990s with the current pessimistic outlook. Using data from regional and international organizations, the paper reaffirms the resurgence of authoritarianism, where elections often serve as façades for undemocratic governance. The study reveals that no African country has firmly consolidated democracy and constitutionalism, with many nations experiencing decline or stagnation due to flawed electoral processes. These negative trends are attributed to deliberate actions by ruling elites to maintain power. Fombad argues for the need to rethink strategies to promote genuinely competitive elections and strengthen democracy and constitutionalism in Africa.

In summary, these literatures have justified the importance of democratic principles in ensuring effective political systems, upholding individual rights, and promoting societal well-being. They have analyzed issues such as the decline of dictatorships in Africa, challenges to democracy from entrenched leadership, the role of elections in democratic consolidation in West Africa, the implementation of democracy through the constitution, conflicts between constitutionalism and democracy, and threats to democratic values posed by legal revolutions and populist leaders. They also emphasized the need to maintain constitutional democracy, uphold liberal democratic principles, and implement protective measures within the constitution to safeguard democracy against authoritarian influences. This offers insightful analysis and practical suggestions for advancing constitutionalism and democracy in diverse regions, by emphasizing the significance of encouraging highly competitive elections and augmenting democratic institutions.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theory of Constitutional Patriotism is adopted as a framework to appraise the subject matter. It is a theory that emphasizes the importance of a shared commitment to constitutional principles and democratic values as the basis for political legitimacy and national identity. According to this theory, rather than relying on ethnic, cultural, or historical ties, all individuals should develop a sense of loyalty and patriotism towards the Constitution and the principles it enshrines, such as the rule of law, separation of powers, protection of civil liberties, and democratic governance (Habermas, 1990: 2018; Müller, 2007).

Habermas and Müller argue that constitutional patriotism is particularly relevant in modern, pluralistic societies where traditional sources of national identity, such as ethnicity or religion, may be divisive or exclusionary. By fostering a shared commitment to constitutional principles and democratic norms, constitutional patriotism can serve as a unifying force and a safeguard against the erosion of democratic institutions (Müller, 2007; Petit, 2020). The theory of constitutional patriotism offers a useful framework for examining the relationship involving elections, constitutionalism, and democratic consolidation for multiple reasons:

1. Constitutional patriotism addresses how important it is for civil freedoms, the rule of law, and the separation of powers to be internalized and upheld by citizens and political leaders. The prevention of undemocratic behaviors that can threaten democratic consolidation, like voting irregularities or disregarding term limits, depends on this internalization.
2. The theory recognizes that elections alone are not sufficient for sustaining democracy. It emphasizes the complementary nature of elections and other liberal democratic principles, such as political participation, freedom of expression, and an independent judiciary, as enshrined in the Constitution.

3. Constitutional patriotism promotes a shared commitment to democratic values and institutions among citizens, which can foster political stability and legitimacy. This shared commitment can help mitigate the risks of democratic backsliding and ensure the sustainability of democratic transitions.

The adoption of this theory offers a foothold to analyze the extent to which political elites and citizens in Senegal (or other African nations) have embraced and internalized the principles of constitutionalism and democratic governance. It can also examine the role of the Constitution in guiding the conduct of elections and ensuring their credibility, as well as how constitutional principles and democratic values can be strengthened to promote long-term political stability and democratic governance.

## **Methodology**

The paper utilized a descriptive research design to understand how a change through the ballot impacted constitutional democracy in Senegal based on recent trends and events. An extensive body of secondary data was gathered from various sources, including news articles, international indices, survey data, project datasets, country-specific reports, and statistics from reputable international organizations. These included the International IDEA, the Afrobarometer survey data, Freedom House, journals, internet publications, and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), among others. The study further employed thematic analysis of the data and applied the theory of "Constitutional Patriotism" as advocated by Jürgen Habermas (1990: 2018) and Jan-Werner Müller (2007) to underpin the paper.

## **Findings**

### ***A Change through the Ballot and the Impact on Constitutional Democracy in Senegal***

A "Change through the ballot" in the context of Senegal's recent political events refers to the country's use of democratic elections to bring about significant political transformation. The phrase demonstrates how important elections are in offering citizens a peaceful, legal way to influence their leadership and government. Examining the ramifications of electoral changes on constitutional democracy in Senegal holds paramount importance in evaluating democratic resilience, the rule of law, citizen engagement, international relations, and the public's confidence in institutions and leaders. Such political development not only sheds light on the democratic well-being of Senegal but also carries broader implications for governance, human rights, and political progress both within the nation and on a global scale.

Faye's victory is particularly significant as it represents a shift in power through electoral means rather than through violence or undemocratic methods. The result demonstrated the efficacy of democratic processes in bringing about political transitions through constitutional channels. It was made possible by a strong voter participation of 61.3% (IFES, 2024) and a largely peaceful electoral process. It supported Senegal's democratic base and reflected the electorate's desire for change (Yade, 2024). A phase of civil turmoil preceded the elections, centered mostly on legal problems involving opposition leader Ousmane Sonko. Sonko's supporters mostly disillusioned young people dealing with economic challenges and what they saw as political scheming, staged significant demonstrations. The administration was under significant pressure to preserve democratic principles and prevent more political repression because of these protests (Lawal, 2024). The recent changes through the ballot in Senegal have reaffirmed the country's commitment to constitutional democracy, showcasing the resilience of its institutions and the active participation of its citizenry in the democratic process.

The 2021 presidential election in Zambia again, signalled a major shift toward democracy. The United Party for National Development (UPND)'s Hakainde Hichilema beat Edgar Lungu, the standing incumbent. The smooth handover of power in this election, which is a sign of a mature democracy, and the high voter turnout made it noteworthy. The defamation legislation from the colonial era, which had been used to stifle political criticism, was revoked by the new administration as part of its efforts to improve democratic governance (International IDEA, 2023). On the other hand, Mali offers an entirely different story, repeatedly delaying elections under the military dictatorship of Colonel Assimi Goïta. Following the coup in 2020, the junta has frequently postponed elections, claiming technical difficulties,

and strengthened its hold on power by amending the constitution to exclude significant portions of the political spectrum and civil society. As a result, civic space has shrunk and democratic standards have significantly declined (Siegle & Cook, 2023).

President Azali Assoumani's contentious re-election in 2024 caused serious instability in Comoros. Electoral fraud allegations and aspirations for family succession have damaged democratic processes' legitimacy. In reaction, the opposition staged demonstrations that violently broke out with security personnel, which emphasized the unstable condition of the nation's constitutional democracy (ACCORD, 2024). The dissolution of parliament by President Kais Saied and the proposed constitutional amendments provide an environment for the next elections in Tunisia in 2024. Under a situation where civic space has greatly shrunk and democratic government is in jeopardy, the elections offer a chance to reestablish democratic standards (ACCORD, 2024).

Respect for constitutional term limits has strengthened democratic resilience in nations like Ghana and Kenya. Regular, free, and fair elections have resulted in relatively peaceful transfers of power in both countries, solidifying the institutionalization of democratic principles and practices (Mbaku, 2020). Approximately 37% of African nations will have national elections in 2024, with many these elections occurring in Southern and West Africa. The extensive election activity across the continent offers prospects as well as obstacles to the development of democracy (ACCORD, 2024). Elections have a varied effect on constitutional democracy while being an integral component of democratic administration in Africa. Mali and Comoros have demonstrated that holding free and fair elections may result in political instability and democratic regression, whereas Zambia and other successful electoral processes strengthen democratic legitimacy and stability. The ongoing commitment to holding inclusive, transparent, and regular elections is necessary for the advancement and stabilization of democracy across Africa.

### ***The Implications of Unconstitutional Reforms on Good Governance***

Significant ramifications for good governance resulted from Senegal's resistance to unconstitutional changes, which also raised questions about political legitimacy and stability and pointed to the vulnerability of democratic institutions (Senego, 2023).

These events transmit into a larger trend of political instability in West Africa, where prevailing governments' power grabs and manipulation of the constitution have frequently resulted in coups and rebellions. To successfully respond to illegitimate changes in government, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have battled to uphold democratic values (Good Governance Africa, 2023; ECDPM, 2023).

Statistically, Senegal's political climate mirrors a troubling regional trend. According to Freedom House, the index score as of 2023 is 68 out of 100 for Senegal, which is regarded as partly free (Freedom House, 2024). Several West African countries have low democracy scores, indicating pervasive issues with governance and the rule of law. For example, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Guinea have scores of 54, 38, and 33 out of 100 respectively, which reflects significant democratic deficits (Good Governance Africa, 2023). In Senegal, this erosion of democratic norms threatens to exacerbate social tensions and erode public trust in government institutions.

The consequences for poor governance are dreadful. Aside from weakening institutional checks and balances and undermining public trust in political leaders, unconstitutional measures also undermine the rule of law. Additionally, they foster an atmosphere where political opposition is more likely to be addressed in isolation than with dialogue, which further erodes social cohesion. Furthermore, the failure of regional organizations like the AU and ECOWAS to resolve these problems points to the necessity of more cohesive efforts to advance democratic government throughout the continent as well as more robust enforcement mechanisms (APRM, 2023). In a nutshell, attempts to degrade democratic institutions and extend presidential terms are hallmarks of a larger problem of governance in West Africa, which is best shown by the recent unconstitutional measures in Senegal. This tendency draws attention to the critical

need for strong measures to protect democratic values and deter incumbent leaders from consolidating their power. It also poses a danger to political stability and good governance.

### ***Strategies and Best Practices to Strengthen the Consolidation of Constitutional Democracy in Africa***

Several factors account for the backward and delayed growth of constitutional democracy across Africa. The most glaring is the prevalence of weak institutions unable to control corruption, prevent state capture, and ensure public service delivery, undermining term limits, political culture, economic instability, democratic tensions, shortsighted decision-making, and structural problems among many others. Notwithstanding, strengthening the consolidation of constitutional democracy in Africa against all obstacles is a multifaceted endeavor that requires comprehensive strategies and best practices. Some of these are:

**1. Inclusive Governance and Participation:** Inclusive governance is one of the main tenets of constitutional democracy (Dennie, 2024). This means that a variety of stakeholders must actively participate in decision-making procedures. Examples of constitutional provisions designed to promote inclusivity include affirmative action laws that correct historical injustices; South Africa is one country that exemplifies this (Petrakis, Kostis, Petrakis, and Kostis, 2020). Nonetheless, obstacles still exist to guarantee significant involvement, particularly for disadvantaged populations such as young people and women. Initiatives for participatory budgeting, quota systems for political representation, and improving access to political resources and education are some ways to solve issues (de Paredes and Desrues, 2021).

**2. Rule of Law and Judicial Independence:** Constitutional democracy depends on maintaining judicial independence and upholding the rule of law. A popular example in this regard is Botswana, which has a long history of judicial independence and adherence to the law (Gisbert, 2022). On the other hand, nations such as Zimbabwe have experienced difficulties due to presidential meddling in the legal system, compromising its autonomy (Nganje, 2023). Strong legal foundations, protecting judicial appointments from political influence, and improving legal education and training for judges and other legal professionals are examples of best practices.

**3. Electoral Integrity and Accountability:** Consolidating democracy requires free and fair elections. Ghana's electoral system is a good example because it has a history of peaceful handovers of power and independent electoral commissions (Kumah-Abiwu & Darkwa, 2020). In contrast, nations such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo have encountered electoral disputes and allegations of falsification, pointing to the necessity of electoral modifications and clear procedures (Nantulya, 2024). Reforms to voter registration, effective election monitoring by impartial organizations and foreign observers, and the encourage political parties' responsibility and openness are all part of strengthening democratic legitimacy.

**4. Combatting Corruption:** Corruption weakens institutions and erodes public trust, it poses a serious threat to constitutional democracy. Strong anti-corruption legislation and organizations, such as the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Crime, have allowed Botswana to maintain low levels of corruption, setting an example for other African nations (Saruchera and Mantzaris, 2023). Widespread corruption is a problem in countries like Nigeria, which calls for all-encompassing anti-corruption initiatives that include public awareness campaigns, whistleblower protection measures, and legal changes.

**5. Media Freedom and Access to Information:** Free and unbiased media is important because it keeps governments in check and encourages discussions among the public. For example, Namibia has laws that protect media freedom, which makes sure there's a lively media scene. In places like Ethiopia, where journalists are restricted or attacked, it shows how hard it is to have free media (Ayalew, 2019). To make that sure the media stays free, it's important to have laws that protect journalists, let different media outlets exist, and make sure people can access information easily.

6. Education and Civic Engagement Education is important for democracy because it helps people understand their rights and duties as citizens. Ghana has been doing a good job of teaching people about politics and civic duties in schools and communities. Countries like Chad, where people aren't well-educated or involved in civic activities, struggle more with democracy (Chitondo, 2022). To make democracy stronger in Africa, it's essential to teach civic education in schools, support people to participate in society and use technology to educate people about their rights and responsibilities. For constitutional democracy to work in Africa, we need to look at everything from how the government works to how laws are enforced.

## Conclusion

The Electoral change in Senegal echoes the importance of upholding democratic principles and the rule of law. President Macky Sall's decision to forgo a third term, influenced by domestic and international pressure, and the subsequent election of opposition candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye demonstrates the stability of Senegal's democracy. This transition, marked by significant voter participation and peaceful elections, points to the nation's commitment to constitutional governance. Comparatively, other African countries exhibit varying degrees of democratic stability, with some like Zambia showing progress, while others like Mali face setbacks. Strengthening constitutional democracy across Africa requires inclusive governance, judicial independence, electoral integrity, anti-corruption measures, media freedom, and civic education. These elements altogether are essential for fostering democratic resilience, public trust, and good governance respectively.

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