

Check-up: Effective legitimate governance



In a well-governed nation, community, group or organisation, the people (members, board, staff and leaders) have an agreed way of doing the things listed below. Do you?

Categories	Yes	No
Understanding and fulfilling their roles and responsibilities		
Working together to make and execute relevant decisions		
Exercising power and leadership thoughtfully and accountably		
Providing direction and regular feedback to members and stakeholders		
Negotiating and reaching agreements		
Developing rules and processes that are fair and reasonable		
Respecting and following those rules and processes		
Maintaining shared values and norms		
Resolving disputes and complaints fairly		
Planning and carrying out work to achieve priorities and goals		
Effectively managing resources (financial, economic, natural, cultural etc.)		
Meeting the needs of citizens, members and stakeholders		
Developing and mentoring their own and other people's capacity, knowledge and skills		
Taking responsibility for their actions and decisions		
Building networks with other nations, communities, organisations and stakeholders		
Reinforcing respect, trust, loyalty and mutual support in their nation, group, community or organisation		

A nation, community, group or organisation is governed well when these rules, processes and structures are clear, understood and fair—and when they have the backing and respect of the members.

It follows that poor or weak governance can arise when any combination of these components is not working effectively or lacks legitimacy.

Do you have the right stuff?