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0521584647 - Comparative Constitutionalism and Good Governance in the Commonwealth: An Eastern and Southern African Perspective - John Hatchard, Muna Ndulo and Peter Slinn

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## COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONALISM AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE COMMONWEALTH

The central role that good, effective and capable governance plays in the economic and social development of a country is now widely recognised. Using the Commonwealth countries of eastern and southern Africa (the ESA states) as the basis for discussion, this book analyses some of the key constitutional issues in the process of developing, strengthening and consolidating the capacity of states to ensure the good governance of their peoples. Utilising comparative material, the book seeks to draw lessons, both positive and negative, about the problems of constitutionalism in the region and, in doing so, critically addresses the legal issues involved in seeking to make constitutions 'work' in practice.

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# COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONALISM AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE COMMONWEALTH

An Eastern and Southern African Perspective

JOHN HATCHARD

MUNA NDULO

PETER SLINN



CAMBRIDGE  
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## PREFACE

This book has been some years in gestation. Conceived in an era of optimism after the almost miraculous constitutional transition in South Africa and the emergence of a new democratic dispensation in other countries of eastern and southern Africa, our offspring has emerged from the delivery room in the summer of 2002 in an atmosphere clouded by serious threats to the practice of good governance in the region. The world's press is full of pessimistic stories of the breakdown of the rule of law in Zimbabwe, once heralded as a model for African development, and of the regional prospect of disastrous famines exacerbated by evidence of governmental corruption and incompetence. We hope to throw some light, from our particular legal perspective, on Africa's continuing quest for sustainable good governance and development.

In the process of writing, we have incurred many debts of gratitude to our fellow workers in the field of law and policy in Commonwealth Africa and to the institutions which have sustained us during our collective labours. It would be invidious to identify particular individuals, other than to record our warm appreciation of the support and forbearance of Ms Finola O'Sullivan, Ms Jenny Rubio and their colleagues of the Cambridge University Press and of the patience of our respective families. In general we have been able to include materials available to us as of 1 August 2002, although we have been able to make some reference to the *Report of the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission*, which appeared in mid-September 2002.

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