



# UNDERSTANDING GOVERNANCE & POWER STRUCTURES



Project supported by the US Embassy in  
Zambia



# Governance



- Refers to the manner of steering or governing, or of directing and controlling, a group of people or a state.
- The process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented).
- Just as politics talks about governments, institutions, power, order, and the ideals of justice, governance also deals with the public sector, power structures, equity, and ideals of public administration

# Power



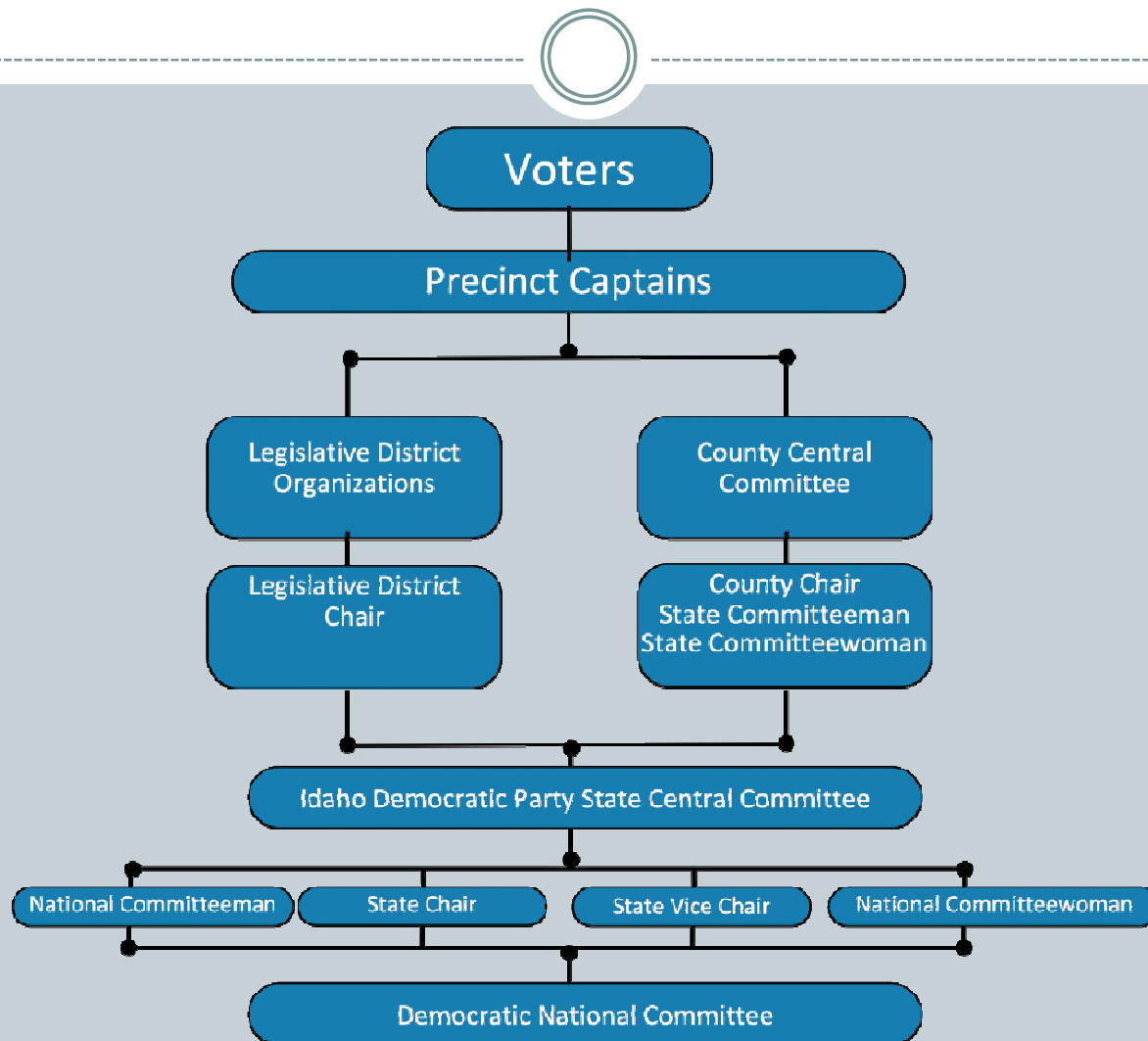
- **Power** is the ability to influence the behavior of others to get what you want.
- Power is simply the ability to get things done the way one wants them to be done.”
- Power can also be defined as the ability for one to use is position or standing in society to get things done through influence or command.



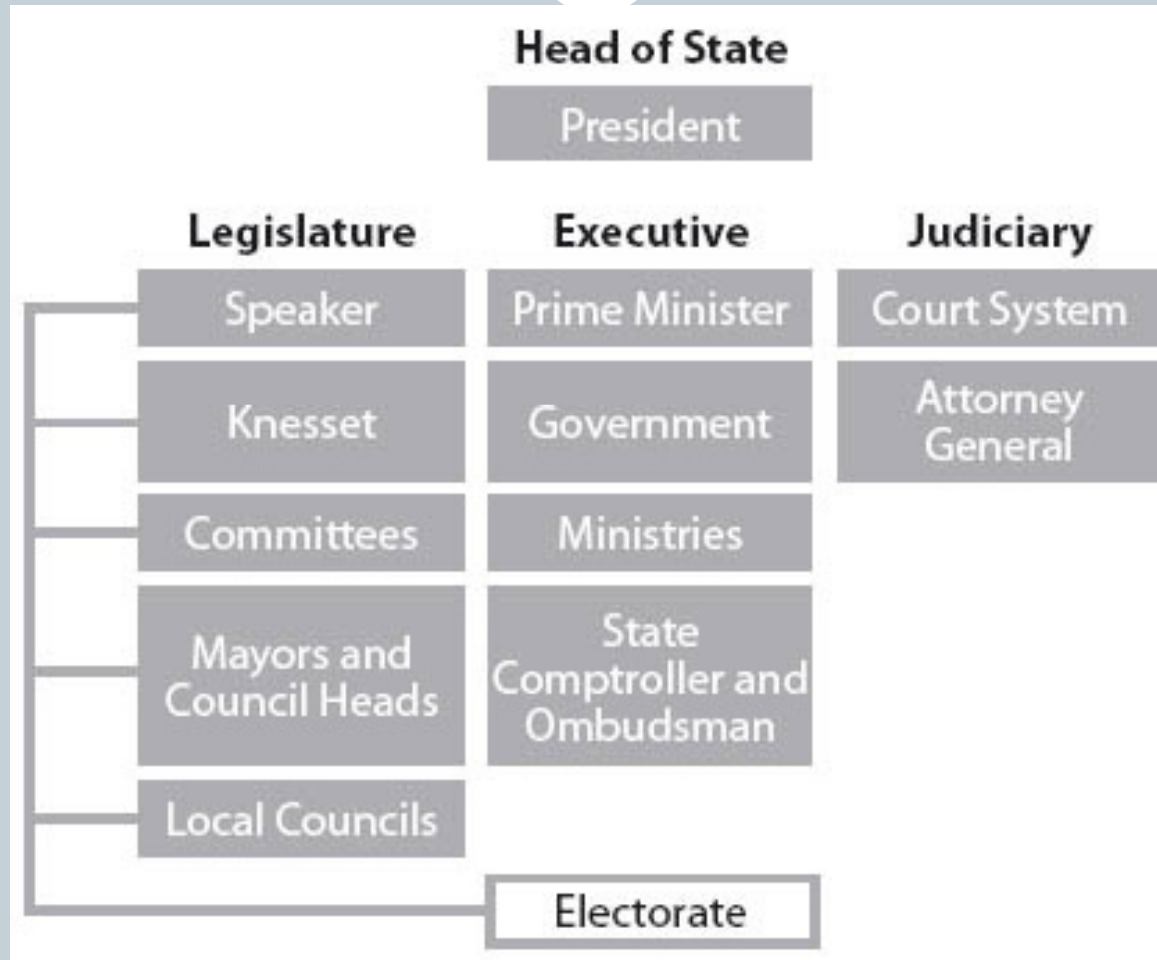
# Structures

- The arrangement of and relations between the parts or elements of something complex.
- is a system that outlines how certain activities are directed in order to achieve the goals of an organization.
- is a system used to define a hierarchy within an organization.
- An organizational structure defines how activities such as task allocation, coordination, and supervision are directed toward the achievement of organizational aims

# How a political structure looks like



# Country structure



Israel Country structure

## Historical background of structures of governance and power



- When ancient warriors or Kings won battle they created systems that ensured their safe continued stay in power, thus they created structures of influence that consolidated their power.
- We learn that mighty Kings or Chiefs that had influence in maintaining political power had well defined structures that ensured smooth running of their kingdoms.
- People like Shaka Zulu maintained well defined structures that ensured that he maintained and sustained his political power



## Continued

- Kingdoms and Chiefdoms have had basic structures that included the Kings Council, the military, traditional courts, sub chiefs, village headmen etc.
- These structures ensured that kings and those in ruling position are able to achieve their aims and goals through those they put in their structures.
- Each structures where carefully designed to work towards achieving the kingdom goals.

# Why are structures important



- Structure Allows For Better Communication
- Clear Reporting Relationships (Authority)
- Location of Decision Centers
- Growth And Expansion
- Efficient Task Completion

# MODERN GOVERNANCE & POWER STRUCTURES

- From the ancient structures that Kings and Chiefdoms built modern organizations such as political parties, cooperate organizations and even countries have created structures .
- All political parties and cooperate organizations have form of structures that help them achieve their cooperate goals.
- A country equally has a structure that it uses to achieve its goals.

# Political party structures



- Different political parties have different power structures some of the key notable ones include the office of the Presidency, Secretary General, National Executive Committee, mobilization provincial e.t.c
- These structures help the party to achieve its goals.
- Structures are made inline with the demand of the organisation.

# Activity Group Work



- Define structure of your political party and what their functions are?
- Define structures in your community and what their functions and why are they important?
- Define structures of a nation and why their important?

# Country structures



- The help the country run and achieve its goals.
- Three key structures include the executive the, the judiciary and the legislature.
- Article 62 (2) of the constitution of Zambia provides that, “The legislative authority of the Republic is vested in and exercised by Parliament”
- Article 63. (1) of the constitution of Zambia provides that, “Parliament shall enact legislation through Bills passed by the National Assembly and assented to by the President.”



# Executive

- Article 91. (1) of the constitution of Zambia provides that, “There shall be a President of the Republic who shall be the Head of State and Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Force.”
- Article 92. (1) of constitution of Zambia, “The President shall perform, with dignity, leadership and integrity, the acts that are necessary and expedient for, or reasonably incidental to, the exercise of the executive authority”
- Article 47. (1) Elections to the office of President shall be conducted directly, under a majoritarian electoral system, where the winning candidate must receive more than fifty percent of the valid votes cast, and in accordance with Article 101.



# Judiciary

- Article 119. (1) Judicial authority vests in the courts and shall be exercised by the courts in accordance with this Constitution and other laws.
- Article 121. The Supreme Court and Constitutional Court rank equivalently
- Article 122. (1) In the exercise of the judicial authority, the Judiciary shall be subject only to this Constitution and the law and not be subject to the control or direction of a person or an authority.

# Judiciary



- Article 140. The President shall, on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission and subject to ratification by the National Assembly, appoint the— (a) Chief Justice; (b) Deputy Chief Justice; (c) President of the Constitutional Court; (d) Deputy President of the Constitutional Court; and (e) other judges.

# Key institutions of Governance



- System of Local Government (Councilors, Mayors, Council Chairperson e.t.c)
- Chieftaincy and House of Chiefs
- Public Service (civil Servants)
- Central Bank
- Judicial Service Commission
- Zambia Police Service Commission
- Electoral Commission of Zambia

# Continued



- Human Rights Commission
- Public Protector
- Auditor-General
- Anti corruption commission
- Drug Enforcement commission

# Challenges of institutions of governance in Zambia and Africa



- Lack of independent power
- Lack protection of office bearers from external influence
- Mostly appointed lack proper independent decision power.
- Lack of professionalism
- Nepotism
- Weak legislation and enforcement.

# Challenges of institutions of governance in Zambia and Africa

- Most institutions of governance have been used to settle political scores instead of operating independently.
- Party and carders become more powerful than legal institutions of governance.
- selective justice system on how the law should be applied



# Conclusion



- Institutions of governance are key to achieve political and economical development.
- Political parties that have strong institutions of governance can easily win elections.





Africa doesn't need strong men  
but strong institutions of  
governance  
Barack Obama

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