



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Building Institutions, Escaping Development Traps

Strengthening Anti-Corruption Efforts in Mauritius

Between 1970 and 2012, Mauritius' economy transitioned from sugarcane to services and Mauritius became a middle-income country. However, the nation's newfound wealth - especially in the booming offshore finance sector - created distinct risks. In 2002, when corruption and money laundering began to jeopardize the country's reputation for good governance, Mauritius created an anti-corruption commission that had investigative and prosecutorial powers as well as preventative and educational roles.

A new [ISS case study](#) describes the steps that Senior Magistrate Anil Kumar Ujoodha took to strengthen the country's Independent Commission Against Corruption, beginning in 2006. Ujoodha built investigative capacity, implemented government-wide preventative reforms, and won many court cases. Six years later, however, the commission still struggled to win public trust, illustrating the difficulty of winning broad support in a politically charged context.

Mediating Election Conflict in Sierra Leone

When Sierra Leone's contentious 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections threatened to spark violent conflicts across the country, the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) used national and district code-monitoring committees to promote peace. A new [ISS case study](#) explores the effect these committees had on the 2007 and 2008 elections and the PPRC's efforts to strengthen them.

The PPRC had a constitutional mandate to regulate and monitor political parties to ensure their compliance with electoral laws. The code-monitoring committees it created encouraged adherence to the electoral code of conduct and mediated conflicts. The committees helped resolve disputes and served as an important early warning system to identify electoral violence. Partly as a result of the PPRC's

Featured ISS Interview

In a 2008 interview with ISS, [Magnus Öhman](#), country director for International Foundation for Electoral Systems, discusses Sierra Leone's 2007 elections. He also describes how the Political Parties Registration Commission worked with the National Electoral Commission to facilitate a successful election process.

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efforts, the 2007 national elections and the 2008 local council elections were largely peaceful. As the 2012 elections approached, the PPRC restructured the committees to include traditional leaders in order to strengthen the committees' capacity to mediate local conflicts. The restructuring enabled the committees to address electoral conflicts more effectively across Sierra Leone.

Improving Government Accountability and Leading Reform

Innovations for Successful Societies (ISS) helps public servants, policy makers, and scholars share institution-building strategies that work in especially challenging contexts. Interview-based case studies facilitate these exchanges and provide a basis for scholarly research. To date, ISS has published 114 reformer-focused case studies and 363 interviews, all of which are available for free on a web repository. Thousands of people around the globe access these web resources each month. Governments use the materials to learn from each other, inspire discussion in their ranks, and recall the steps they took to implement a reform. Universities and training programs use the cases in the classroom to engage students in the operational and strategic aspects of public sector reform.

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