Good Law Project

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Principles of Good Law: Good Law Project REPORT I



GLP REPORT I provides clarity on the constitutional and jurisprudential principles and values that should be observed in the formulation and implementation of laws in South Africa.

When it comes to law-making, a holistic approach is required that involves constitutionality, consistency and clarity, feasibility, impact and costbenefit assessment, good governance, accessibility, justice that is expeditious, affordable and available to all, and consistent application of the rule of law, rather than the discretionary, subjective or arbitrary "rule of man".

GLP I includes check-lists, and suggestions for lawmaking mechanisms and institutions in government with a view to reviewing extant law and formulating high quality new law. Alternative Dispute Resolution Guidelines: Good Law Project REPORT II



GLP REPORT II provides guidelines that promote the highest standards for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) among ADR practitioners like ombudsmen, arbitration commissioners and tribunals.

GLP II defines the basic requirements of a fair ADR process to ensure access to justice via alternative means, not alternative law. In particular, the fundamental requirements of a fair process – namely the application of substantive law in the determination of the outcome of a dispute and the observance of basic rules of fair procedure in gathering facts and applying the law that is relevant to the dispute.

To whom it may concern

The above reports, chaired by **Prof Mervyn King SC**, are outlined in more detail in Attachment 1 below.

With your assistance, the **Good Law Project** (GLP) would like to make sets of the reports available **free of charge** to the following: members of parliament, parliamentary portfolio committee members and government officials, legal drafters and state law advisors, political party researchers, alternative dispute resolution ombudsmen and others involved in tribunals and similar institutions, law department academics and university libraries, public libraries and media editors, think tank and NGO researchers.

Adv Ashina Singh (Chair) | Leon Louw (Acting Executive Director)

The Good Law Project is an independent division of the Free Market Foundation

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Thanks & regards Gail Day ...on behalf of Law Review Project

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ATTACHMENT 1

Principles of Good Law – CONTENTS

FOREWORD

INTRODUCTION Research Notes Principal findings Proposals and recommendations

THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD LAW General rules for good law Specific rules for good law **Constitutional requirements** The rule of law Separation of powers Limitations International agreements Retroactivity Clarity and unambiguity Effectiveness Unintended consequences Common law Policy should not be legislated Seven steps of implementation Drafting Law revision

CONSTITUTIONALITY

Introduction The constitution The founding provisions The rule of law Definition Due process The advantages of the rule of law Subjective freedom The abuse of power Initiative and enterprise What the rule of law does not do Indirect threats to the rule of law The creation of discretionary power by the law itself The existence of too many laws Impossible to comply with certain laws Judicial activism The rule of law is a principle of government not a general rule of human conduct

THE CONSTITUTION The bill of rights Constitutional values The constitution: General Primary considerations The vertical division of powers The executive should neither legislate nor adjudicate Appropriate allocation of executive functions Principles of good administration Constitutional requirements for courts The vertical distribution of legislative and executive powers

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

UNITED KINGDOM Impact assessments: key points Purpose Monitoring Unintended consequences Alternatives Deregulation Small and new business Consumers Compliance Policing Common sense Expenditure Sunset clause The "IA threat" Problems with IAs Inadequate quantification Inadequate access to justice **Biased assessments** Politically motivated laws Damage to small business Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act, 2006 IAs are appropriate for all laws Loose ends Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF) Policy objectives To protect and enhance the rights and liberty of citizens To promote a safe and peaceful society To collect taxes and ensure that they are spent in accordance with policy objectives To safeguard health and safety or protect citizens from 'harming' themselves To protect consumers, employees and vulnerable groups from abuse To promote the efficient working of markets To protect the environment and promote sustainable development Self-regulation **Regulation checklist** Transparency Accountability Proportionality Consistency Targeting Distorted perceptions of risk encourage unnecessary laws **Better Regulation Executive** Planning and public spending Law Commission (England and Wales) Lord Woolf - access to justice Human Rights Act **UK** conclusion

AUSTRALIA

Australia's Productivity Commission (APC) The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) The Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) RIS compliance Compliance in relation to economic activity Factors in determining compliance Adequacy criteria for RISs Competition policy Issues concerning quantitative analysis Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) Case study: good law (Australia) and bad law (South Africa) Legal minimalism vs. good law

EUROPE

Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Central and Eastern Europe

FRANCE

The French legislature Institutions charged with the verification of statutes Conseil d'État Conseil Constitutionnel Conseil Économique et Social Cour des Comptes Cour de Cassation Conseil d'État: general principles of good lawmaking Conseil Constitutionnel: general principles of good lawmaking

NETHERLANDS

NORWAY

Context affecting governance and public management Policy-making capacities Democracy Performance management and services delivery Report on management evaluation systems Changing structures of the public sector

POLAND

Strategies and processes for planning and carrying out public management reforms Regulatory management and reform

PORTUGAL

SPAIN

SWEDEN

Main tendencies and overall priorities Regulatory management and reform The National Council for Quality and Competence (NCQC) Code of ethics of Swedish public administration Total quality management measures and authorities Provision of expertise for the public administration Independent evaluation of the public sector Simpler and more intelligible regulations Development of the central government administration Administration for citizens Guidelines on how to improve administration Simpler and more intelligible regulations Performance management Decentralised personnel management and centralised monitoring Conclusion

THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION

CHILE

KOREA Promoting regulatory reform and quality within the administration Adopting explicit standards for regulatory quality Reviewing and reinventing regulations Assessing regulatory impacts Korean reforms

MEXICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Federal agencies Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Office of the Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice (OLC) Regulatory reform legislation Good law at the state level Legislative drafting techniques First amendment Procedural due process Equal protection of the laws Bills of attainder Ex post facto laws Interstate privileges and immunities clause Supremacy clause Whole statute rule Narrow and broad interpretation / Strict and liberal construction Strict / narrow Liberal / broad Plain meaning rule Expresso unius est exclusio alterius Protections for small business Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Advocacy Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (RFA) Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) Lessons for South Africa regarding small business Partnering with industry Good governance

SOUTH AFRICA How laws are made in South Africa Legislative authority Legislative competencies at national, provincial and local levels Lawmaking at the national level The initiation of legislation and green and white papers Introduction of legislation in parliament Tagging of bills Procedure through parliament and the importance of committees Public role in lawmaking The decision-making process Signing the bill into law The act Lawmaking at the provincial level Policy formulation The bill stage

Law making at the municipal level General

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Tasks and projects Monograph Booklet: "The Elements of Good Law" Checklist Presentations and promotion Training Statutory vetting Statutory revision The Constitutional Law Foundation

ADDENDUM A Glossary of select acronyms

ADDENDUM B Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) guidance material (Australia)

ADDENDUM C Good law checklist

Alternative Dispute Resolution Guidelines – CONTENTS

Introduction

Preamble, Purpose and Committee

Chapter 1: What is ADR? The need for objective guidelines on the requirements of a fair legal process within the context of ADR

Chapter 2: Applicable law, legal principles, and universal preconditions for access to justice: Sections 33 and 34 of the Constitution and its founding value 'the rule of law'; the rules of natural justice; and the universally accepted preconditions for access to justice

Chapter 3: Guidelines on the requirements of a fair legal process within the context of ADR: Rules of fair procedure; application of substantive law in decision making; and requirements for an ADR agent to ensure a fair legal process within the context of ADR

Annexure 1: A general guide on the application of the requirements of a fair legal process within the context of ADR

Annexure 2: Examples of statutory and voluntary ADR mechanisms observing best practice principles

Annexure 3: Commentary on the arbitration regime in South Africa

Acknowledgements and Appreciation