

DEMOCRATIC POLITICS AND CONSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY: Implications for Developmental Governance in South Africa

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My argument:

- South African election outcomes have become marginally less competitive between 1994 and 2004, but at the same time the institutional foundations of constitutional democracy have become stronger.
- Constitutional accountability ultimately involves more than just enforcing formal limits on arbitrary governmental authority; It also includes the promotion of a 'culture of answerability' in the exercise of state power.
- The Financial and Fiscal Commission (and other institutions such as the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Gender Equality) contribute to constitutional accountability by encouraging public deliberation about the major social and economic challenges facing South Africa.
- South Africa's record of democratic contestation and constitutional accountability, though imperfect, provides a solid institutional platform for developmental governance - in forms such as coherent policy formulation, effective public administration, and limited corruption.