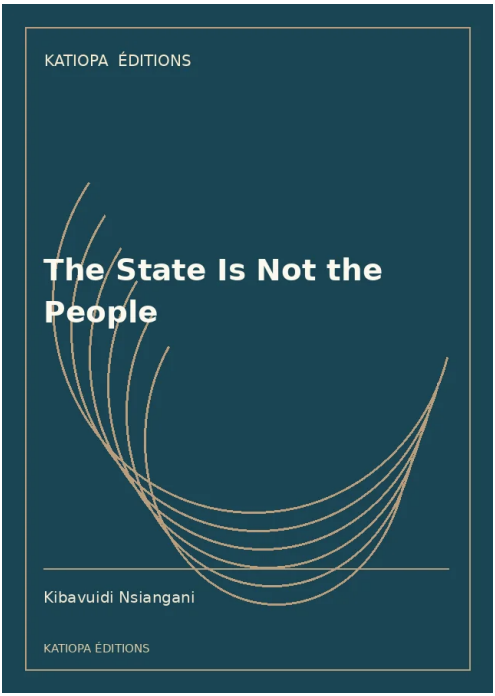


The State Is Not the People

Kibavuidi Nsiangani

A book to discover

Governments speak in the name of nations. But what makes an institution genuinely answerable to the people whose authority it claims? The State Is Not the People begins with that distinction, investigating legitimacy, public mandate, legal protections and

the right to challenge decisions that affect collective life.

The book examines what happens when institutions identify their survival with the survival of the public itself. Security, law and administrative procedure can be used to protect residents, but the same vocabulary can shield decisions from scrutiny. The crucial test is not the elegance of a constitution on paper; it is whether the people it claims to serve can demand reasons, correct mistakes and secure equal protection.

Through the connected principles of Nsiku, Nzola and Bisalu, the work develops instruments for assessing legitimacy, selective protection and institutional correctability. It is both a critique of systems that monopolize the public voice and an attempt to make better arrangements measurable.

Questions to explore

• What distinguishes state continuity from public legitimacy?

• How can institutional harm be made visible and correctable?

Who will enjoy this book?

Policy makers, Researchers, Students

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