

# **Welcome To Africa Local Government Action Forum (ALGAF)**

**on "Participatory governance as a Tool  
for Enhancing Social Accountability".**

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# What is Participation?

- Participation is the voluntary involvement of a greater proportion of a group or community in situations that affect their well-being. Participation can be in the form of assessing their situations, prioritizing, planning and taking action to find solutions and act on the identified problems

# What is Governance?

- The concept of governance recognises that there is power outside the formal authorities and institutions of government in the hands of other organizations and institutions that influence the process of government.  
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# What is Governance? contd.

- “Governance is defined differently by development and academic institutions

# UNDP DEFINITION

“The system of values, policies and institutions by which a society manages its economic, political and social affairs through interactions within and among the state, civil society and private sector

”

.....

# EC Definition

- “Concerns the state’s ability to serve the citizens, it refers to the rules, processes and behaviours by which interests are articulated, resources are managed and power is exercised in the society. ....”

# World Bank Definition

- “The traditions and institutions by which authority in a country is exercised for the common good.

This includes:

- The process by which those in authority are selected, monitored and replaced.
- The capacity of the government to effectively manage its resources and implement sound policies
- The respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interaction among them.

# Participatory Governance

- Engagement of ‘government’ with groups that have interests beyond that of the individual. It is not about government participating with individuals but with groups of individuals. The groups should be identifiable as having common interests of their members.

# Why Participatory Governance?

- To make government more inclusive and therefore more effective e.g. in poverty reduction.
- To ensure transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency and, ultimately, sustainability.
- **Transparency** - information, priorities, strategies, actions are open to all stakeholders.

# Why Participatory Governance contd.

- **equity** - the groups which are usually excluded from the decision-making process have the opportunity to present their concerns and defend their interests;
- **accountability** – by sharing in decisions, partners are accountable to the public, and to each other vis-à-vis the tasks they have committed themselves to;

# Why Participatory Governance contd.

- **efficiency**, - information is shared and decisions are taken in common, avoiding overlap and duplication of efforts.
- Poverty reduction
- Ensures ownership, accountability, openness, honesty, ethics & integrity.
- Improve revenue collection
- Responsiveness to citizen' needs
- Inclusive approach: Inputs from disadvantaged groups ensured: Women, children, poor, disabled

# FACTORS ENHANCING PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

- Decentralization: Representative structures
- Willpower of Citizens & local government
- Capacity & competence: Civil societies & citizens
- Existence & Role of Civil Societies: Catalyst role in macro level & organisers in local level.
- Availability of resources & sustainability.
- Sharing of successful models encourage other groups.

# Mechanisms used for promoting participatory governance

- Participatory development planning : identification of needs & priorities serve as basis for budgetary decision making
- Participatory budget formulation
- Open budget information: open & transparent
- Reliable information: Quality & Credible information.
- Participatory Budget monitoring
- Use of service delivery feedback on services.

# Benefits of participatory governance

- Empowerment through participation
- Representativeness of citizens
- Ensures Sustainability,
- Engagement of civil society
- Transparency, efficiency
- Secure citizenship –development of strong citizenry.

# continued

- Civil engagement in prioritisation: Expression of voice
- Citizen Participation
- Awareness of need for increased knowledge & concern on budget systems.
- Understanding on fiscal transparency, participation & accountability.
- Increased CSO influence: Zambia CCJP resulted to focus on poverty.
- Improvement in budget monitoring:
- Enforcement of responsible government resource allocation.
- Ensure resources reach users

# **PARTICIPATORY PUBLIC EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT (PPEM)**

Participatory Budget formulation: Resource allocation. Budget consultations.

Participatory Budget Review: budget implication diagnosis:

Participatory Expenditure Tracking: Assessment of where the money goes

Participatory Performance Monitoring: after money has been spent, assessment of how output/results/services are performing. Citizen report cards, community score cards.

# GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

- - Electoral Systems e.g of councilors & mayors & their accountability: Commissioners.
  - Corruption
  - Respects to Human rights:
    - Quality & extent of Service Delivery
  - Gender equality: Gender budgeting
  - Participation of Disadantaged groups
  - Civil society participation: Zambia Case
  - Socialising dimension: freedom of expression, peaceful association, consultation.

# Indicators contd

- Scope for policy advise
- Accountability at different levels : citizens, appointed & elected officials
- Transparency: Access of citizens to local government documents, information



# ACCOUNTABILITY

*It is the obligation of power –holders to account for or take responsibility for their actions in both their conduct and their performance (By serving the public*

# Accountability Contd

- *interest in an efficient, effective and fair manner) Power Holders: are those who hold political, financial or other forms of power*
- (Karen Sirker)

# **WHAT IS SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY**

**An approach towards building  
accountability that relies on civic  
engagement, I.e in which ordinary  
citizens and/civil society**

Continued

**organizations participate directly or indirectly in exacting accountability. It can be initiated by government, private sector or civil society actors.**

# ❖ MECHANISMS FOR SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- Role of Civic Societies
- Participatory budgeting
- Participatory planning
- Participatory expenditure monitoring
- Anti corruption surveys:

- Participatory budget Tracking
- Use of civil society to track how Local authority spends the money that was allocated to it and that was generated from its revenue sources
- Consumers of services track on inputs and expenditure: Empowerment of the citizens and building of confidence in the governance process.

Performance Monitoring

# Citizen report cards:

- Results from Citizen Report Cards can be used to pressure for efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery e.g case for Bangalore India in early 1990.
  - Use of Citizen report cards was made: Local leaders concerned about the poor quality of Government Services undertook a customer satisfaction survey.

- Only 5% of the poor surveyed knew of programmes designed to benefit them.
- Survey quantified corruption instances.

# SOME SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY CHALLENGES

Inability of elected officials to be accountable to electorate

Frustration of elected officials by technocrats/bureaucrats & their inability to be accountable to elected officials.

## *Continued*

Limited capacity

Failure to be accountable to citizens  
by some civil societies.

Harmonisation of civil society, Local  
government & Citizenry.

Political environment

Genuine Commitment V Rhetoric

# Continued

- Expensive & time consuming process.
- Sustainability challenged by Limited resources
- Mystified & complicated concepts & tools of governance makes it difficult for people to comprehend.
  - Lack of cooperation & Mistrust by Government: Accountability resisted.
- Availability of usable data disaggregated to required categories.

*“ A growing body of evidence points to the linkages between empowerment and development effectiveness.....Empowerment approaches can strengthen good governance,*

*which in turn enhances growth prospects. When citizens are engaged , exercise their voices, and demand accountability, performance increases and corruption is harder to sustain” (Lori Pearson)*

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**