

Decentralized Management in the Context of GPRS and MDBS

Draft Comprehensive Decentralization Policy
-Remarks from a DP's Perspective –

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Principal decision in favor of decentralization
has been taken:

- Ghanaian Constitution 1988 and 1992
- Local Government Act 1993
- Local Government Service Act 2003
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- GPRS I – 2003 - 2005
- GPRS II - 2006 - 2009



Decentralization offers a great potential to

- improve efficiency of service delivery
 - reduce poverty
- engage the people in decision making processes
 - to deepen participatory democracy
- improve transparency and accountability
 - to support good governance

GOG has repeatedly confirmed its commitment towards devolution

However, implementation is slow due to challenges such as

- Coordination between MDAs
- Leadership within GOG
- To which extent is the central Government willing to shift power to local Government level?
- Is decentralization already a public issue?

What is our point of departure?

- I. Lack of a clear decentralization policy leads to fragmented and less efficient DP's support
 - insufficiently consistent approaches for TA and FA
 - simultaneous "sectoral" support to Central Government and Local Government (SWAp, baskets)

- II. Increasing common GOG/DP's understanding about the challenges:

APRM Review has contributed to

- clarification of the challenges
- promoting a public debate

Joint decentralization policy review 2006/07

Decentralization has become an increasingly important topic in the GOG/DP's policy dialogue:

- Consultative Group Meetings
- Multi Donor Budget Support Policy Dialogue
- Sector Dialogue

MDBS - Negotiations of the Progress Assessment Framework 2006 (Sept. 2006, to be fulfilled by March 2007):

- Drafting a comprehensive decentralization policy (trigger)
- Preparation of intergovernmental framework (target)
- Cabinet endorsement of DDF/FOAT (target)
- Integration of 4 departments into LGS (target)
- Finalization of conditions and schemes of service for LGS (target)

Draft comprehensive decentralization policy has been sent to DPs in March 2007

Some comments on the MLGRDE's draft policy:

Policy is covering a 10-year period and should therefore provide a medium to long-term vision

Policy will facilitate future GOG/DP's dialogue on decentralization

Clear commitment regarding administrative decentralization

- * integration of departments into LGS
- * future role of central, regional and local levels?

Clear commitment regarding policy coordination and management

- * Set-up of an inter-ministerial coordination committee (IMCC)

Rather general commitment regarding fiscal decentralization

- * sufficiently clear commitment to increase the discretionary power of LG

Rather general commitment regarding political decentralization

- * does it contain a clear vision of MLGRDE?
- * what are the lessons learned in other countries?

What is the way forward?

- * Is there further consultation with the civil society envisaged / necessary?
- * What is the role of the IMCC in the final preparation of the policy?