

Governance from the Ground Up

Edward T. Jackson

DISCAP and Carleton University

Presented to the Best Practices
Conference on Decentralization in
Ghana, Accra, May 8, 2007

Planning and Institutional Arrangements

- *New Policy:* Role of the RCC and RPCU to be clarified and resources provided
- *Comments:* The Region must be mandated and capable of a) coordinating DPs through an R-GPRS; b) developing a Regional Plan with strategic economies of scale, and c) renewing its appointed leadership

Planning and Institutional Arrangements

- *New Policy:* Promotes well-integrated inter-governmental fiscal framework
- *Comments:* Learning from DWAp and other initiatives, new GPRS and MDBS must fully support devolution of funds and decisions to District Assemblies for the currently de-concentrated Ministries: Health, Education and Agriculture

Planning and Institutional Arrangements

- *New Policy:* District Assemblies will finance the wage bill from IGF and external revenues
- *Comments:* Sufficient IGF will flow only if a) competent service delivery convinces citizens to pay service fees and b) incomes in the district rise to *enable* citizens to pay

Planning and Institutional Arrangements

- *New Policy:* LGSC must design and implement integrated system for HRM
- *Comments:* Non-monetary incentives must be provided to staff for meaningful citizen engagement and accountability for results, as well as the skills and knowledge necessary for this role

Planning and Institutional Arrangements

- *New Policy:* No mention of gender equality
- *Comments:* The policy should emphasize gender mainstreaming at the District level, through planning, networking and focal persons who can advocate for gender-sensitive plans and budgets and monitoring and enforcement of key laws; MOWAC should be represented on implementation structures

Planning and Institutional Arrangements

- *New Policy:* Little reference to civil society as part of the local-governance system
- *Comments:* The policy must a) integrate civil society participation into the local governance process (eg. development NGOs, community groups, water boards, health committees, parent-teacher committees, etc.) and b) provide for training of civil society leaders in engagement with government, accountability and transparency

Planning and Institutional Arrangements

- *Next Steps:*
 - 1) Learn from recent interventions (MDBS evaluation, CBRDP, DWAp, DISCAP)
 - 2) Address challenges and gaps in the new policy during preparation stage (2007-2008)
 - 3) Build learning, adjustment and scaling strategies into two-phased implementation of the policy (2008-2016)