Exploring the theme ‘ADVANCING DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTAL LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN GHANA: THE ROLE OF ACADEMIA’
by Dr. Kodjo Esseim Abrampa, Director General, NDPC at ILGS 5th Congregation

The Institute of Local Government Studies held its 5th Congregation on Saturday 21st November, 2020 on the theme Advancing Democratic Developmental Local Governance in Ghana: The Role of Academia. The speech on the theme was delivered by Dr. Kodjo Esseim Abrampa, the Director General of the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC).

Dr. Esseim Abrampa begun his speech by explaining that democracy and decentralisation are concepts hinged on facilitating relationship between people and their government, be it central or local. Emphasising that they involve structures, systems, framework, statutes, procedures and processes for deepening these interactions. He continued that in the context of Ghana, decentralisation has brought government closer to the people as it has considerably increased the number of MMDAs from 110 to 260.

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Dr. Abrampa further defined Democratic Developmental Local Governance (DDLG) as a system designed to redirect local governance actors’ role, culture, autonomy, mandate, accountability, resources and priorities towards democratic developmentalism. Thus, giving more space for choices, competition and grounded accountability. He continued that DDLG connotes a defined break for a new paradigm and practice of decentralisation and local governance from a traditional service-oriented focus to a local economic transformation, local democracy and inclusiveness.

The Role of the Academia

Dr. Abrampa in his presentation touched on the salient issue of the theme which is ‘The Role of the Academia in Advancing Democratic Developmental Local Governance’.

He stated that one key stakeholder that is expected to contribute conceptual clarity, ideas and strategies for implementation is the academia. He said ‘these are the actors in academia and research institutions interested in generating alternative local processes for local development’. Further stating that the appropriate time for discussions on advancing democratic developmental local governance is now. He continued that the success of DDLG taking roots in the country depends on the local political leadership and professional civil servants. Dr. Abrampa stressed that training Institutions such as ILGS with the mandate to provide professional training to local government practitioners (politicians and local government service staff) will need to develop tailor made training that will provide the knowledge, skills and attitudes that local government professionals need to make DDLG successful.

Dr. Abrampa continued that local government staff are required to have the ability to shift their mindset and competency towards managing LGs as a business and not just a bureaucracy. He finally concluded stating; ‘that requires development of a new training modules in a new public management and this squarely falls in the ambit of academia and research institutions’.
Call for Articles

We invite articles for future additions of the Newsletters. Interested organisations and individuals can consider providing a short item of news or an in-depth article related to the objectives of the LGPF or any current issue of interest for the next edition of the newsletters.

The articles can be submitted in the following structure:

- Current and news oriented
- Articles should be submitted in Word format.

All articles which are selected for publication will be proof read for content, spelling and grammatical errors.

Word count:

- News items – 50 to 200 words.

Articles should include section headings.

Pictures, Illustrations, tables, sidebars are encouraged to illustrate and emphasize the message.

Submission

Please send your contributions to lgpf@gmail.com or 0596060212

Submission deadlines

- Monthly—by the end of the 3rd week in EVERY Month

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions.

Thank you
Across
2. One other major policy is ..........of democratic decentralisation (devolution)
4. LGPF is supported by.......Ghana Foundation
5. One major policy is .......... economic development
9. LGPF is supported by..............
10. On 17th December, 2019, a ..........referendum would have been conducted
12. ...............democratic decentralisation
13.............Poll
14. Acronym for Local Governance Practitioners Forum.........

Down
LGPF is hosted by...........
3. The LGPF platform aims to bring both............and policy discussions back to national agenda
6. ............Democratic Local Governance
7. LGPF is supported by............... 
8. ............of ILGS, Dr. Nicholas Awortwi
11. The objectives of the platform resonate with........ major government policies