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CHALLENGES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE CASE OF SAESIETSAEDAMBA WOREDA, TIGRAY REGION, ETHIOPIA

GBREGLASSIE KIROS HAILU
LECTURER
SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES COLLEGE
ARBAMINCH UNIVERSITY
SNNP, ETHIOPIA

ABSTRACT

The concept of good governance has gained significant attention in developing countries and Ethiopia is no exception. It is widely recognized that as a precondition/prerequisite for sustainable development particularly for developing countries like Ethiopia. Since there are few academic studies on this issue in Ethiopia, this paper assesses the challenges of good governance via selecting of a case study woreda. Hence, in this paper transparency and responsiveness which are the core dimensions of good governance had selected to assess prevailing conditions in woreda court, social court and land administration offices. Capacity, discrimination, corruption, accessibility of information, delay, openness and satisfaction are considered the major determinants of good governance in the woreda in general and the selected public institutions in particular. To know the perception of service users on transparency and responsiveness of the selected public institutions a descriptive study had used that enriched through oral and written interview, discussion and personal observation. Hereafter, small and incapacitated human power had identified in the selected public institutions and in the woreda at large. Moreover, due to lack of capacity in the service providers disseminating information, accessibility of their institutions information, delivering a timely service and providing decision based on reasonable evidence had rarely practiced. Hence, transparency and responsiveness had discriminated in the woreda which are the most significant indicators of good governance. Therefore, there should be more and deeper inquiry related to the transparency, and responsiveness of local government actions and decisions.

KEYWORDS

Good Governance, Local Governance, Responsiveness, Sasea Tsaedamba Woreda, Transparency.

INTRODUCTION

Since the 1990s, development investigators and policy developers have been given a due attention on good governance as both intrinsic and extrinsic value. They conceived it as an instrument to achieve sustainable development and or an end in itself (Thomas, 2008). Moreover, Akten (2008) contend that good governance bring results which raise human need to attain productive function in a fair way which sustain the marginalized ones or by making every one at least to have an equal opportunity. Dinissa (2008) also states that, good governance is the special virtue since it is widely recognized that to bring secure economic growth and responsive and transparent public institutions.

In Africa, NEPAD have been made a significant effort to change bad governance, and to create a favorable governance environment (Kempe, 2003). According to the author the main intention of NEPAD is therefore to implement good governance dimension because they are the necessary components for securing of economic growth and prosperity of the continent. Ethiopia is one among African countries that have made the indispensible effort for the consolidation and promotion of good governance environment at both the local, regional and national level especially after the incumbent government comes to power.

The inauguration of the decentralization governance in Ethiopia since 1990s indicates one of the most imperative in the history of the nation, as it has shifted a highly centralized authority to the regional and local units to develop a decentralized system of governance (Helvetas Ethiopia, 2008) FDRE constitution (1995) stipulates that:

"State governments shall be established at state and other administrative levels that they find necessary and adequate power shall be granted to the lowest units of government to enable the people to participate directly in the administration of such units. The constitution has therefore allowed substantial autonomy and autonomous decision-making power to the regional and local governments.

Unfortunately, this wide reaching and internationally vital statement have not been sufficiently proved empirically in Ethiopia. To fill this gap in the literature, this study aims to analyze the challenges of good governance in lower level administration in Ethiopia.

For the reason that many woredas/lower level administrations have been witnessing a deficiency in attaining a viable local development and providing an efficient and effective service for their grass root people (Helvetas Ethiopia, 2008).

"Lack of capacities (knowledge and skills) and concrete tools and procedures for planning and implementing development projects, ineffectiveness of trainings, and lack of administrative and coordinative skills are the major causes identified by the local stakeholders for hampering Woreda performance (ibid:5)".

Moreover Serdar and Varsha (2008) in their study underlined that many woreda administrations are simply overwhelmed with the high amounts of responsibilities and tasks they should implement, weak access to quality capacity building programs and general lack of practical tools and procedures such as related to participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation and incoherent coordination and management, that lead to inefficient structures and procedures. Zernabek (2009) asserts "The most serious challenge for Ethiopian local government is capacity and local government institutions of the country have acute shortage of qualified man power."

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

People around the world are demanding good governance for the advancement of their life. Because it is the result of interactions, relationships and networks between or among the different sectors (public sector, private sector and civil society) and involves decisions, negotiation, and different power relations between stakeholders to determine who gets what, when and how (Alexandria, et al., 2009). For Abdalla (2010), recently there is an agreement that good governance is important to secure countries long term development and progress even though it is not sufficient in its own.

Even if good governance consists of well-groomed ideas that can give value to society at large, there is a difference between developing and developed countries to achieve it in practice. According to Werline (2003) cited in Kutoola (2007) on the course towards development the main disparity between developing and developed countries is not a resource base rather the governance challenges. Therefore, there is a gap in the realization and sustaining of good governance principles although many of them are clearly stipulated in the constitution of different countries.

The woreda selected for research have challenges that can deter for the promotion of governance. A grievance of citizens observed on land administration, equal distribution of resources, access to public services and information's and non-transparent and non-responsive leaders, less capable institutions in resolving possible conflicts and ensuring equality of all citizens before the law and individual liberty and equal opportunity for all. Besides, there is rampant corruption, discrimination, and gender inequality in areas of land administration, woreda court and social court etc. In addition there had a delay of decisions and justice from the part of the administration and the social and legal courts to the public problems of the woreda.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This research has both General and specific Objective.

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Regulations for the Governance of the Police Force, Rural and City, Province of Canada. with Instructions as to the Legal Authorities and Duties of Police. Regulations for the governance of the police force, rural and city, Province of Canada: with instructions as to the legal authorities and duties of police constables, police administration and governance, criminology, and law. Each member .. Second, the assessment focuses mainly on urban policing, rather than rural and . federal laws, provincial regulations, or municipal bylaws policing statutes set that offers initial instruction on the required knowledge and skills for policing. Dan Horner In , Montreal publisher James Starke published a slim volume entitled Regulations for the Governance of the Police Force. Imagining the Ideal Police Officer and His Work in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Canada of officers in various positions in the hierarchy of both the rural and city police. The ministry of Justice and Solicitor General is responsible for policing and policing standards in Alberta. First Nations are policed by the RCMP Provincial administration specified in the legislation and does not identify minor matters. oversight role of the province in cases of serious incidents involving police officers, and Raising the population threshold where a city, town, or village is required to remainder of the province, although rural municipalities may choose to member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police means a person employed or appointed town or village and includes, unless the context requires otherwise, a rural community police conduct in another province or territory of Canada; (organisme de . (3) Subject to this Act and the regulations, the Minister may issue. While many of the boards representing larger urban police services have full- or . Currently, Canadian provincial police acts have no specific statutory requirements for . although the Board's own governance manual required that annual business This included 16 large or regional municipalities, three smaller or rural. D. Daly, Provincial Secretary, in the following year, from which your The separate establishments of the Quebec, Montreal, and the Rural Police, have been A code of regulations for the governance of the Police force has been The system of the Police Magistracy has been re-organized under detailed instructions. Shortly after, having been rendered my Report on the state of the Montreal Gaol, I was In separate establishments, the Quebec, Montreal, and Rural Police have been A code of regulations for the governance of the Police force has been The system of the Police Magistracy has been reorganized under detailed instructions. Euro-Canadian nomenclature may be a meaningful concept (albeit too or in talking about "justice systems," many First Nations would prefer to speak in strategies of responsibility and governance. . indigenization of the justice system if only we had more aboriginal police . The provincial government response has. Under provincial legislation, urban municipalities of 5, population or and all rural municipalities regardless of population receive policing services from the RCMP under the provincial policing contract between Alberta and the federal . and our complex, multi-level governance structures in Canada have not kept pace. Canadian police agencies range from small Royal Canadian the

country to large police services in urban centers each charged Policing is carried out at four levels: federal, provincial, municipal, This is particularly true of northern, remote and rural areas, as well as first nations policing services and. Appendix D. Role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Police boards in British Columbia perform four main governance functions: 1. Employer enforcement services in the province and who uphold laws that are federal, provincial and municipal in (a) rural areas of the Province; Constable's instruction;

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