

The state of financial accountability in local government in Tanzania

Do we know where the money is going?

Presented by Geir Sundet at REPOA's 10th Annual Research
Workshop, Kunduchi Beach Hotel, 7-8 April, 2005

Do we know where the money is?

1. Limits to accountability from above: a problem of monitoring and data management
2. Access to information and perceptions of corruption in six districts
3. The 2004 Public Expenditure Tracking Study for PEDP: main findings
4. Where to next? Some thought on how to strengthen local accountability

Limits to accountability from above

- Chains of accountability in Tanzanian Local Government are largely vertical and upwardly directed
- Exercising oversight from above depends on the availability of data that reflect the realities on the ground
- But, financial data tends to be of questionable quality
- and, there is no common reference point for the available data

The state of monitoring systems

- What the 2004 External Review of the PER said:

“Tanzania has a large number of parallel systems to monitor government policies and programs, but their capacity to deliver outputs that are useful for improving budget allocations and policy effectiveness is weak.”

“To date there is no mechanism/procedure for collection, collating and analysis of local government revenue and expenditure to arrive at a general view of government operations.”

Access to information and perceptions of corruption in six councils

- Under the Formative Research Programme, REPOA, NIBR and CMI did a survey of the public's experiences of accountability in six councils: Bagamoyo DC, Ilala MC, Iringa DC, Kilosa DC, Moshi DC and Mwanza CC.
- 1260 respondents were asked of their perceptions and experiences of financial management and corruption in the case councils.

... Showing a Clear Correlation Between Access to Information and Perceived Level of Corruption...

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES FROM SIX COUNCILS													
		Ilala MC	Bagamoyo DC	Kilosa DC	Iringa DC	Moshi DC	Mwanza CC	Total					
Level of corruption in the council compared to 2 years ago	Less/ more (-)	-23.4	-10.9	10.9	9.1	-40.5	-16.5	-11.1					
Awareness of abolishment of development levy and 'nuisance taxes' in 2003	Yes	32.4	33.8	87.6	73.8	29.5	26.7	47.3					

The PEDP PETS

- Tracking of PEDP resources from the Central, through district, to school level
- Covering years 2002 and 2003 and a total of Tshs. 196bn.
 - Capitation Grant (93.6bn)
 - Development Grant (95.9bn)
 - Capacity Building Grant (6.5bn)
- Covering 210 schools in 21 districts