

**BRIEF REPORT OF THE 7:30 BREAKFAST DEBATE – JANUARY 27TH
2012**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECENTRALIZATION BY DEVOLUTION IN
TANZANIA: HAVE WE ACHIEVED?**

The government of Tanzania adopted in 1998 Decentralization by Devolution (D by D) as a policy option which could deliver improved governance and service delivery within the social-economic and institutional context in Tanzania. Also, it was chosen as a means of bringing decision making on services closer to the people, to make government and service delivery more responsive, efficient and effective.

Since its adoption, has this policy achieved its set targets?

That is why Policy Forum dedicated its January 2012 debate on the issue of the implementation of Decentralization by Devolution, The debate is titled: **The Implementation of Decentralization by Devolution in Tanzania: Have we achieved?**

The debate included one presentation from **Mr. Cleophas Manyangu**, Legal Officer of ALAT and critics from **Professor Max Mmuya** who was the discussant:

The Debate was facilitated by Alex Ruchyahinduru from Policy Forum.

The debate started by a presentation from Mr. Cleophas Manyangu, who said that his presentation is based on the experience and a report of ALAT on the implementation of D by D.

He referred decentralization as bringing the government closer to the people in order to bring quality public services to them particularly the poor.

He mentioned three types of decentralization as the decentralization by Devolution, decentralization by de concentration and decentralization by delegation.

He said that, the policy of local governance started to be implemented in 1999 and has quite a problematic history with it being continuously established and abolished. And is basically based on four principles namely, Decentralized Service Delivery, Principal of subsidiary, Good Governance and Public Participation.

He further said that, we as citizens of Tanzania have to ask ourselves whether we have democratic and efficient local governance.

He added that, the status of implementation of D by D differs due to the fact that all LGA's differ and their own levels of performance differ because of different factors related to D by D, resources, autonomy, participation, culture, climate and so on.

He further talked about the political decentralization, fiscal decentralization and administration decentralization at the local government level, he said, fiscal decentralization is the cornerstone of D by D this being the case LGA's now prepare 3 years rolling Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks this has improved the financial management capacity and the use of 'Opportunities and Obstacles to Development (O & OD) that informs local plans and budgets from grassroots to council level. Regarding the administration decentralization, he said that there are several pieces of legislations which shows devolution power and there are other legislations enacted with provisions which take away those powers(claw back clauses).

He said, generally the local government reform policy which elaborates the powers and the distribution of resources has less improved than previously and civic awareness is at least there now on the roles of central and local government authorities.

He mentioned some of the challenges faced in the implementation of D by D as, need for good governance by LGA's, shifting powers and resources is

cumbersome, fiscal decentralization is slow and difficult, some officials are not committed in the implementation of D by D, there are only two articles which address local government, PMOLRG oversee over 133 local government in the country therefore it is overworked.

He concluded by saying that, ALAT and other civil organizations working on the local government fraternity should take their active role to pressurize the government to adhere to D by D in action.

The discussant of the event Professor Max Mmuya, started by appreciating the presentation which was made by Manyangu.

He continued by envisaging that the working conditions of LGA's are very challenging that's why most of them are very corrupt.

He gave out his experience after visiting different local governments in Tanzania, he said most of the LGA's were not aware of their roles, he paused to ask the participants of the breakfast debate whether LG are really an authority or just an empty shell as in does it really exist or its just imaginary.

In a nut shell, he pointed out that political competition is a huge hindrance therefore people who have been put in power by citizens forget what they have been elected for and by whom and embrace their own interests leading to corruption in the education, health sector hence no quality services

Comments and Questions from Plenary Discussion:

- Good service delivery needs a strong government.
- No support from the public and LGA's to address the catastrophes at the local government level.
- O & OD have not been implemented in all local government areas so this is a huge problem.
- LGA's should have independent audit units

- The entire concept of D by D is not known to all citizens, if it was people would have demanded their rights.
- All these local authorities are appointed by the government, there is a need to educate the citizens of what local governments should consist of.
- Civil Society Organizations are to educate the citizens on the aspects of local authorities.
- All these show that the central government in Tanzania is failing, consolidated efforts is needed so as to face this.
- What has ALAT done so far to address all these LGA problems.

Respond to the comments and Questions:

- Local authorities will only perform unless they get enough resources and participation from the public.
- There is a problem of implementing plans in O and OD therefore it is important for all the plans made to be implemented at a reasonable time.
- Official leaders elected and public should be educated on D by D.
- Matters of democratization concerns everyone therefore everybody should involve themselves and participate in these issues
- ALAT through its lobbying committee is making efforts to lobby with the government as a way of addressing LGA problems.

Mr. Alex Ruchyahinduru closed the discussion and he welcomed again participants for the next 7:30 Breakfast Debate.