



# **The Efficacy Of Decentralisation In Promoting Good Governance: A Case Study Of The Kpandai District Of The Northern Region Of Ghana**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**A country's democratic process is considered to be on a sound footing when its citizens are able to meet their basic needs, such as access to quality health care, housing, infrastructure, education, job security and what have you. This is what gives credence to decentralisation as a mechanism for bringing governance to the door steps of the citizenry. Ghana introduced its current decentralised governance system since 1992 to devolve central government's authority to the district level in order to bring governance close to the citizenry. This study assessed the efficacy of Ghana's decentralisation system as a mechanism for promoting good governance using the Kpandai District of the Northern Region of Ghana as a case study. The study benefited from both secondary and primary data collected and analysed using both the quantitative and qualitative research strategies. The study suggested that citizens' participation in both local and national level decision making processes were low mainly due to communication barriers between the electorates and their representatives. This was a result of inadequate public education or sensitisation on citizens' participatory processes. The study, therefore, suggested the need for awareness creation on citizens' rights to participate in decision making processes and elected representatives to report on their activities to their constituents as a way of feedback to allow citizens to demand their rights in order to enhance their wellbeing.**

**Key Words:** Citizens' Participation, Decentralisation, Good Governance, Kpandai District

## **INTRODUCTION**

Decentralisation is noted as an effective mechanism for deepening democratic governance worldwide [1]. Thus, the current Ghanaian Local Government System was established based on the Fourth Republican Constitution of 1992 and the promulgation of the Local Government Act, 1993

(Act 462). The aim is to at devolving central government's administrative authority to the district level and bringing governance to the door steps of the citizenry in order to promote good governance.

This paper assessed the efficacy of decentralisation in the promotion of good governance in the Kpandai District of the Northern Region of Ghana.

[2] holds that, all around the world in matters of governance, decentralisation is noted for bringing governance to the door steps of the citizenry. Apart from the widely debated issues of subsidiarity and devolution in the European Union and states' rights in the United States, decentralisation has been at the centre stage of policy development in the last two decades in a large number of developing and transition economies of Latin America, Africa and Asia. According to [2], the World Bank, for example, has embraced decentralisation as one of the major governance reforms on its agenda. He further indicates that in the case of the two largest countries of the world, China and India, decentralisation has been regarded as the major institutional framework for industrial growth that provides public services to smaller market areas. He argues that lower levels of government can only have greater ability to handle local services in their jurisdictions for effective governance systems through the activities of decentralisation. This, he notes, promotes good governance.

Similarly, [3], holds that, globally, governance occupies a central stage in the development discourse that needs to be considered as a crucial element for development strategy. However, the application of governance issues entails some level of good and bad aspects of it per the policies that are geared toward its achievements and the institutions that hold those policies. For [3], governance has become a major development discourse since the 1990s spearheaded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The rationale for this quest for good governance, is to allow the involvement of citizens in a wide range of policy making activities, including the determination of levels of service, budget priorities and the acceptability of physical construction of projects in order to orient government programmes toward community needs, build public support, and encourage a sense of cohesiveness within neighborhoods [3].

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

According to [4], several theories provide a strong rationale for decentralised decision making and a strong role for local governments on the grounds of efficiency, accountability, manageability and autonomy. The theory that was adopted for this study is the [5] Theory. The rationale for using the theory was because it provides a positive relationship between citizens' participation in local governance and the promotion of good governance.

Philosophically, the [5] Theory holds that there is a positive relationship between citizens' participation and service delivery by local governments. This is based on the premise that the closer a representative government is to the people, the better it works as citizens of a particular jurisdiction would have the right to vote for the kind and amount of public services they want. Three principles can be identified in relation to the theory:

The first principle is the Principle of Fiscal Equivalency. This principle is advanced by [6] that a governance system works effectively when the representation is closer to the people. This is

possible according to [6] based on the fact that it brings governance closer to the citizens and allows for their participation in governance processes. In that regard, citizens are well positioned to influence government policies to meet their needs at the local level. Therefore, the rationale for bringing governance to the door steps of the citizenry as a result of decentralization would be fulfilled [6].

The second principle is the Correspondence Principle proposed by [7]. According to the principle, the jurisdiction that determines the level of provision of each public good should include precisely the set of individuals who consume the good. The principle further holds that citizens have the right to advocate and choose among others the kind of public services that they want. The principle further posits that decision making should be based on managing the available resources to ensure allocative efficiency. Allocative efficiency or provision of services should be based on the problems of beneficiaries to promote local development initiatives.

Therefore, the Correspondence principle challenges stakeholders of local governance to consult consumers of a public good in order to address the most prioritised need of the people in the process of policy design and implementation. That is, citizens should be consulted to ensure project ownership and sustainability through participation. In addition, the principle explains that such a situation would promote bottom-up development intervention since the needs of the people would be identified and addressed. As a result, challenges posed by top-down approach to development would be addressed and ensure efficient allocation of resources [7].

A third principle is the Principle of Decentralization Theorem advanced by [7] which holds that each public service should be provided by the jurisdiction having control over the minimum geographical area. This would internalise benefits and costs of such provision, because local governments understand the concerns of local residents. This is because local decision making is responsive to the people for whom the services are intended, thus encouraging fiscal responsibility and efficiency of service provision.

Thus, the aspect of the [5] chosen for this study is anchored around the Decentralisation Theorem principle. Since the principle suggests a process of governance that puts the citizenry at the center of governance in the determination of the use of public resources for their own benefit. This situation promotes good governance because good governance is conceptualised in this study in line with [8] view that good governance is the ability of government to develop an efficient, effective and accountable public management process. This should be in a participatory manner of governing that is responsible for promoting the rights of individual citizens and the public interest. This has the potential for accounting to the people the use of public resources. In addition, citizens' involvement in decision making improves legislative strengthening, effective decentralisation and democratic governance process that ensure anti-corruption strategies for effective policy design and implementation.

The philosophical underpinning of good governance by [5] is the theoretical underpinning of this study which assessed the efficacy of decentralization in promoting good governance.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

[9] Suggests that the concept of good governance emerged at the end of the 1980s, a time of unprecedented political changes. He argues that the collapse of the Berlin Wall on the 9th of November, 1989, set off the disintegration of the Soviet Union which consequently led to the decay of the political and economic alliances of the Eastern bloc. For [9], these political changes created the breeding ground and gave way for a serious discussion on how a state has to be designed in order to achieve (economic) development. [9] Further holds that, in Sub-Saharan Africa as at 1980s, the economic performance of countries in the region had worsened despite the implementation of the World Bank's Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). Therefore, there was the need to integrate the states into the governance process as a way of achieving economic stability.

[10] Indicates on the subject that majority of African countries under the supervision of the World Bank, had adopted democracy before the new millennium. This allowed most countries in Africa to practice some level of good governance in the form of participatory, consensus oriented, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, effectiveness and efficiency, rule of law, equitable and inclusive governance. As a result, the concept of good governance has been widely acknowledged to be indispensable to sustainable development that is strengthened by the anchor of rule of law which appreciates human rights, effective management of public resources amongst others.

[10] Further establishes that good governance is supposed to minimize corruption, take into account the views of minorities and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society should be heard in decision-making and responsive to the present and future needs of society. That the guarantee for good governance requires both formal and informal actors to play a critical role in shaping the system of governance. In addition, good governance implies the involvement of the citizenry in the decision making process regarding resource use for public good. In this regard, there is the need for a platform to be created to ensure and allow for direct participation of citizens in the process of governance [10].

[10], states that African countries have faced a number of challenges in the process of building decentralisation as a mechanism of promoting good governance. These included inadequate awareness about human rights among the public, the limited democratic culture, limited participation of citizens in governance, lack of adequate and appropriate policy enforcement.

Democracy, has been practiced in Ghana since independence from Colonial Rule in 1957 and decentralised governance has been in practice in the country since the Colonial period in a form of indirect rule by the Colonial administration. However, the current Local Government System of Ghana, the decentralised or the District Assembly System, came into effect in 1988 by the promulgation or enactment of the [11]. This was amended by Act 462 of 1993 through the first Parliament of the Fourth Republic of Ghana. The rationale for the decentralisation programme is to: promote popular participation and citizens' ownership of the machinery of government; shift the processes of governance from command to consultative; devolve power, functions, competence and resources to the district level and; promote coordination of development activity in order to bring governance to the door-steps of the citizenry in the form of decision making [1].

It is against this background that this study assessed the impact of citizens' participation in policy decision making processes in the Kpandai District of the Northern Region of the Republic of Ghana

as a case study of the efficacy of decentralisation in the promotion of good governance. The Kpandai District was carved out of the East Gonja District in February, 2008, by Legislative Instrument 1885, with Kpandai as the district capital. It was officially inaugurated on 12th March, 2008 [12]. The rationale for carving out the District was to bring governance closer to the people in order to enhance policy decision making in the form of citizens' participation in the processes of governance [12].

### **Participation**

Participation as a concept came to the lime light in the social sciences as a result of rising advocacy to end top-down strategies to development in favour of greater inclusion of the subjects in development programmes [13]. Development as a process of increasing people's capacity to determine their future means that people need to be included in the process of planning their needs for development. In this regard, there is a growing consensus among development partners and social science analyst that, people everywhere have basic human rights to take part in decisions that affect their lives. Participation is, therefore, conceptualised as a process through which stakeholders' influence and share control in decision making over development initiatives that affect them [13].

According to [14], although participation is widely known to be a free process, in some instances, it practically requires that people are dragged into getting involved in operations. [14] Adds that participation should not be allowed by participants to determine the level of their involvement but should be sensitize on the need to do so. This is because most rural development initiatives strive well on participatory development. Therefore, bringing governance closer to the citizenry is a prerequisite to participatory development which promotes good governance.

Participation used in this study in line with [13] as a process through which stakeholders' influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them. It is more of local population being part of project identification and implementation to enhance ownership and sustainable development.

### **Citizens' Participation**

The [12] notes that citizens' participation is recognized as a benchmark of bringing governance closer to the citizenry through decentralisation. According to [13], citizens' participation is a mechanism through which the public express their views and ideally exert influence on political and economic decisions that affect their lives.

The [13] adds that citizens' participation involves the process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them. Citizens' participation is more of local population being part of project identification and implementation on the premise that individuals should fully participate and decide on their needs to promote local development [13].

Similarly, [15] conceptualises citizens' participation as the re-distribution of power that enables the haves-not citizens to be included in decision making. [15] Indicates that the most excluded from the political and economic processes are included as a result of citizens' participation. According to [15], citizens may influence the government decisions on the matters of their daily lives through

democratic processes especially political participation whereby citizens can be involved in decision making either directly or indirectly.

For [16], posits that citizens' participation is an activity or behaviour in a decision-making process that is willingly engaged in by individuals and groups to impact challenging issues faced by disadvantaged communities. Thus, citizens can participate in policy development processes through a number of activities and behaviours, including attending a public meeting to express an opinion on a local, state or federal problem [16].

### **Decentralisation**

Decentralisation has been conceptualised in different ways. According to [17], for instance, the term attracted attention since the 1950s and 1960s when the British and French Colonial administrations prepared Colonies for independence by devolving responsibilities for certain programmes to local authorities. In addition, [17], states that in the 1980s, the term decentralisation came to the forefront of the development agenda alongside the renewed global emphasis on governance and human centered approaches to human development. [17] Further notes that both developed and developing countries are pursuing decentralisation policies to promote efficient local development initiatives.

Similarly, [18] posits that decentralisation can be seen as a reversed concentration of administration at a single center and conferring powers on local governments. Thus, the transfer of authority to plan, make decisions and manage public functions from a higher level of government to any individual, organization or an agency at a lower level.

In addition, [19] maintains that decentralisation emphasizes grassroots mobilisation and citizen participation in decision making for development. That is, decentralisation aims at the promotion of the collective efforts of citizens to better their communities. [19] Further notes that decentralisation provides further opportunities for citizens to be involved in various aspects of governmental decision or planning process. He adds that decentralisation strengthens democracy and promotes popular participation, responsiveness, accountability and equity in the process of governance. As a result, decentralisation leads to greater improvement in the living standards of the people because the grassroots have access to public goods and services.

[19] Further holds that decentralisation offers greater political participation to ordinary citizens whose voices are more likely to increase with commitment, relevance and effectiveness of government's policies and programmes, as well as poverty reduction.

[20] Believes that decentralisation is dependent on the degree to which local actors and intended beneficiaries of development activities participate in decision making processes. He further indicates that development yields a number of tangible results, including chances of access to basic human needs and equitable distribution of goods and services. Hence, decentralisation guarantees popular participation which results in achieving the intended needs of local people to promote development.

In this study, decentralisation is construed according to [1] conceptualisation that, it is the transfer of functions and powers, skills and competencies, means and resources to lower levels of

governance, normally structures of local governance. In this regard, Ghana's decentralisation programme for instance is recognized as a situation where local authorities are the destination of the decentralised functions.

### **Governance**

The United Nations Development Programme [21] conceptualises governance as the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage a country's affairs at all levels which comprises mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

[22] Explains governance as a concept that has no single meaning depending on who uses it. Therefore, analysts conceptualise the concept based on the way that they think it should be. For instance, the [23] considers governance as the exercise of political power to manage a nation's affairs, which include the management of economic and social resources.

Similarly, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [24] conceives governance as the use of political authority and the exercise of control in a society in relation to the management of its resources for social and economic development. The [24] further indicates that, such processes encompass the role of public authorities in establishing the environment for economic operators to function and in determining the distribution of benefits, as well as the nature of the relationship between the ruler and the ruled.

[8] Opines that governance is a tradition of institutions by which authority in a country is exercised. These include the process by which governments are selected, monitored and replaced. Thus, governance encompasses the capacity of the government to effectively formulate and implement sound policies. For [8], this should also include respect for citizens by a state and its institutions that govern resources and maintain strong interactions among them.

[25], believes that though governance is a complex system, what is key relates to the interactions among structures, traditions, functions (responsibilities), and processes (practices) characterised by three key values, such as accountability, transparency and participation.

Notwithstanding the similarities in relation to the conceptualisation of governance, three common elements point toward a minimal understanding of governance, that is, the process (or manner) through which power (or authority) is exercised to manage the collective affairs of a community (or a country, society, or nation).

### **Good Governance**

Good Governance, which was the crux of this study, has also been conceptualised in diverse ways. For instance, the [21] indicates that good governance is a participative manner of governing that functions in a responsible way based on the principles of efficiency, legitimacy and consensus for the purpose of promoting human development. Thus, it includes promoting the rights of individual citizens and public interest. It has the potential for accounting to the people the use of public resources.

[26] Indicates that good governance has been widely acknowledged to be indispensable to sustainable development that is strengthened by the anchor of rule of law. [26] Further posits that good governance promotes human rights and ensures effective management of public resources. Good governance, for [26], is simply the process of making decisions and implementing them according to the wishes of the citizenry.

In addition, [8] explain good governance as the ability of government to develop an efficient, effective and accountable public management process that is characterised by transparent, pluralistic and citizens' involvement in decision making. These processes give citizens representation and accountability by focusing on the areas of legislative strengthening in decentralised democratic governance. [8], elaborate that good governance explains how the institutions, rules and systems of the state, that is the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, operate at central and local levels by providing opportunities for all people to influence government policy.

Thus, [8] and [26] placed emphasis on citizens' involvement in decision making as a key component of good governance.

Similarly, [27] conceptualises good governance to mean the effectiveness in which a government performs its work to promote public good. [27] Considers public good as the enforcement of law and order, revenue collection, allocation of resources to meet specific demands of the citizenry, provision of infrastructure and promotion of human rights. [27] Emphasizes the enforcement of law and order which confirms [8] analysis of good governance in terms of giving attention to the institutions, rules and systems of the state. That is, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, to play a central role at the local level by providing opportunities for all people to influence government policy and practice.

[28] argue that the hope for good governance can counter both the problems associated with unstable and undemocratic regimes and provide the context in which poverty, ill-health and literacy can readily be addressed. They further indicate that the key element of development is good governance [28].

[29] Adds that good governance occupies a central stage in the development discourse that needs to be considered in the form of citizens' participation as a crucial element for development strategy. [29], however, adds that, apart from the universal acceptance of its importance, differences prevail in respect of theoretical formulations, policy prescriptions and conceptualisation of the subject itself.

In that regard, [8] and [29] analyses place emphases on the interest of citizens to participate actively in decision making process of the governance. However, [8] give more attention to the institutions, rule and systems of the state to play a central role at the local level by providing opportunities for all citizens to influence government policy and practice. This provides a unique analysis of the term 'good governance' because, once the institutions fail to recognize the citizens' views in a governance process, and then, it would be strange to evaluate the situation within the ambit of good governance. Similarly, [27] analysis of good governance has reaffirms [29] understanding of good governance in terms of promoting the rights of citizens to fulfill public interest.



Therefore, in this study, good governance is conceptualised to mean the promotion of the rights of citizens to fulfill public interest and instituting appropriate mechanisms at the local level of government to ensure judicious use of state resources. This would lead to addressing societal problems through citizens' involvement which ensures that the needs of the grassroots are addressed.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

This study assessed the efficiency of decentralisation in promoting good governance in the Kpandai District of the Northern Region of Ghana. The study also assessed the perceptions of citizens and local authorities on the impact of citizens' participation in decision making processes, the challenges citizens encountered and ways through which Ghana's local governance system could be more beneficial to its citizens.

In assessing the perceptions of citizens and local authorities on the impact of citizens' participation in decision making processes, the study observed that citizens' participation at local and national levels of decision making processes were quite low. This was as a result of low level of education among citizens in the study area, which makes it difficult for the citizenry to effectively participate in the decision making processes. This finding confirms [30] assertion that there is a relationship between the literacy level of citizens and their level of participation in the local and national governance processes. According to [30], there is a positive relationship between citizen's educational level and their attitudes and beliefs towards political participation. Thus, the higher the educational level of citizens the more likely they will support and participate in political processes and the vice versa.

In addition, most respondents were not satisfied with the way development projects were carried out in the district. They attributed this situation to inadequate consultation regarding project design and implementation processes. This results contradicts the Correspondence Principle of the [5] adopted for this study as proposed by [7]. The principle is based on the premise that the jurisdiction that determines the level of provision of each public good should include precisely the set of individuals who consume the good. Thus, citizens have the right to advocate and choose among others the kind of public services that they want.

The challenges citizens' encountered in their effort to participate in decision making processes as revealed by the study included political affiliation and power relation which confirm [31] argument that power relation is a key challenge to citizen participation in the local government system. According to [31], Citizen Participation is about how power is exercised by different social actors who belong to different interest groups. Other challenges which citizens encountered regarding participation in decision making were inadequate communication between citizens and their electoral representatives and lack of public education on the rights of citizens to participate in decision making processes. These challenges also affirm [32] view that good governance can be promoted in decentralised local government system when the citizenry is informed about the operations of governance by their representatives.

Furthermore, limited avenues for citizens' engagement and organisation to enhance political participation were challenges identified. These confirm [33] view that avenues for participation was a challenge in local governance. [33], assert that direct citizen involvement in decisions making

by individuals or groups in public activities often requires newly established institutional channels. However, majority of these local government institutions do not create enough consultative avenues for participation to be easily accessed. The study also revealed inadequate women participation in decision making in the study area. This finding contradicts [27] position that it is important to make participation inclusive by ensuring that marginalised and vulnerable groups, such as women and children, are included in decision making.

Regarding suggestions on ways by which Ghana's local governance systems could be more beneficial to citizens, respondents suggested that there should be public education in the form of awareness creation on their rights to participate in decision making processes. The respondents suggested that development projects should be evenly distributed in the study area to ensure holistic development. They also indicated that their District Assembly representatives should report on the operations of the Assembly in the form of feedbacks. In addition, they suggested that the Member of Parliament and the District Chief Executive should pay regular visits to communities for problems identification and redress. Lastly but not the least, political biases in the form of favoritism and tribalism should be curbed to create even platform for all citizens to participate in decision making processes.

These suggestions confirm [5] that there is a positive relationship between citizens' participation and service delivery by local governments. This is based on the premise that, the closer a representative government gets to the people, the better it works. The Principle of Fiscal Equivalency of the [5] advanced by [6] further corroborates this assertion. The principle holds that governance system works effectively when the representation is closer to the people. This is possible, for [6], based on the fact that it brings governance closer to the citizens and allows for participation. In that regard, citizens are well positioned to influence policies to meet their needs at the local level.

### **CONCLUSION**

This study assessed the efficacy of decentralisation in the promotion of good governance in the Kpandai District of the Northern Region of Ghana. The study focused on the assessment of the perceptions of citizens and local government authorities on the impact of citizens' participation in decision making processes and challenges that they encounter in that regard. This was to help make the requisite recommendations to guide policy regarding improvement of good governance in the study area and elsewhere.

From the analysis of the results, it was revealed that citizens' participation at local and national levels of decision making processes was low. This was as a result of low level of education among citizens in the study area, as well as dissatisfaction of the way development projects were carried out in the districts due to inadequate consultation on the part of duty bearers.

Moreover, citizens' participation in decision making processes was impeded by some challenges. These challenges included political affiliation and power relation, inadequate communication between citizens and their elected representatives, inadequate public education on the rights of citizens to participate in decision making and limited avenues for citizens' engagement in decision making processes.

The study, therefore, suggests that, local government authorities and other stakeholders that have interest in promoting good governance need to embark on social mobilization strategies through development communication in the form of sensitisation of citizens to promote inclusive governance in local governance.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Considering the findings of the study, a number of recommendations were made for various actors and interest groups who are concerned with the promotion of good governance in Ghana's local government system and elsewhere to consider.

There is the need to sensitise elected representatives of the District Assembly through the National Commission for Civic Education. That is to bridge the communication gaps between elected representatives and electorates. This is in view of the revelation that elected representatives did not provide adequate information regarding the operations of the District Assembly to their electorates. This artificially created communication gap between the electorate and their elected representatives which resulted in low level of citizens' participation at both local and national levels in decision making processes in the District.

Such sensitisation programmes should be in the form of workshops on the need for elected representatives to constantly give feed-back to the electorates on the activities of the District Assembly and Parliamentary proceedings. This could keep the citizens informed about the operations of the District Assembly and bridge the communication gap between the electorate and their representative and increase participation of citizens in decision making process in local governance thereby promoting good governance.

In addition, the Non-Formal Education Division of the Ministry of Education and the National Commission for Civic Education should embark on public education campaigns for citizens in the Ghanaian local government system. Low level of formal education among citizens contributed to lack of enlightenment on the part of the citizenry to exercise their rights. That was identified as one of the reasons for lack of citizens' involvement in decision making processes in the study area. The study, therefore, recommends that adequate public education needs to be embarked on by the District Assembly through the Non-Formal Education Division, National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Non-Governmental Organisations and other institutions in the form of mass education strategies to educate the public on their rights to enable them participate in both local and national level activities.

Furthermore, Local Government Authorities need to liaise with central Government to devise social mobilisation strategies in the form of development communication in the various District Assemblies to promote citizens empowerment. The study revealed that citizens' dissatisfaction with projects design and execution by local government authorities was one of the challenges identified in the study area. For them, their voices were not heard as they were not consulted before projects execution in their respective electoral areas. It was noted that grass root development could be sustained through citizenry or community involvement in the project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes. Therefore, the study recommends that the District Assembly should empower citizens in ways that would enable them to prioritize their needs to ensure ownership, accountability and sustainability towards development interventions. This could be in

the form of social mobilization of citizens through development communication by reaching out to opinion leaders who could further reach out to a larger number of beneficiaries regarding project design and implementation. It would promote ownership if local leaders have greater influence on such projects and it will also ensure sustainability of projects.

The District Assembly needs to build the capacity of citizens within their jurisdiction in order to avert the limited avenues for citizen participation as a result of inadequate organisation of citizens to create such avenues. For citizen to participate effectively and efficiently in local governance, well-designed activities and programmes need to be put in place to build their capacities and equip them with the requisite skills. These programmes could equip the citizens with knowledge and leadership skills that would boost their confidence to organise themselves and create avenues for their effective involvement in the activities of the District Assembly thereby promoting good governance in the District.

Lastly but not the least, the District Assembly needs to create conducive environment to encourage citizens' involvement in local government activities. This was based on the finding that the involvement of citizens for local and national levels activities was politically influenced. Therefore, citizens who do not belong to the political party in power especially women were not given the opportunity to partake in decision making processes in the District except in cases of general election that were opened to all citizens. This was referred to as political affiliation and power relation which breeds discrimination and tribalism.

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