

Project overview

- GOOD PRACTICES OF NALAG
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF GHANA(NALAG)

The association have built a good reputation both nationally and internationally as a result of the implementation of a good practices to run its affairs.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- The National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) is the mouth piece and the umbrella body of all the 254 Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies(MMDAs) in Ghana. The membership of NALAG is compulsory for all the MMDAs established by Law.
- Act 240 of the 1992 constitution, chapter 20 states that **“(1) Ghana shall have a system of local government administration which shall, as far as practicable, be decentralized’.**
- Article 35(6) (d) of the constitution provides that **“the state should take appropriate measures to make democracy a reality by decentralizing the administrative and financial machinery of government to the Regions and Districts by affording all possible opportunities to the people to participate in decision making at every level of national life and in government.**
- **In response to the Constitutional provision, Article 1(1) of NALAG`s constitution states that” The Association aims to promote the development of Local government and decentralization in Ghana.”**

NALAG'S GOVERNING ORGANS

The core mandate is the promotion and development of high standards of Decentralization and Local Government administration through lobbying and advocacy.

- National Delegates conference (The highest decision making body)
 - National Executive council (17 Member board)
 - National Secretariat (headquarters)
 - Regional Secretariat
 - District Desk

2. Starting point

Some of the challenges that are confronting the association in the discharge of its mandate include but not limited to:

- Inadequate financial resources
- Low human resources capacity
 - Political interference
- Challenge in managing Conflict among members
 - Low women participation at the local level.

3. Approach

- The membership dues, proceeds from investment and donations.
- Training and capacity building of members to respond to their call mandate.
- NALAG opted out of government subventions because it wanted to withstand all political interference in its decision making process. The association's budget was badly affected but, due to a very good financial planning and investment in income generation activities made us financially strong to deliver on our roles as a Local Government Authority
- The use of alternative dispute resolution ways to manage conflict among stakeholders
- Lobbying and advocating for increase in women participation at the local level.



4. Outputs

Some positive gain have been made through the operation of the strategic practices

- NALAG is able to arranged properly for the deduction of membership dues from Common Fund Administration, office space for rent to the public and donation from partners .
- NALAG is able to capacitate its members through sensitization, training on national popular participation and waste management.
- NALAG is able to withstand external interference.
- Resolution of conflicts within and between key stakeholders in the the Local Authorities when the needs arise.
- It has resulted to increase in women participation at the local level.



5.Lessons

There are some lessons that we have learnt from the process:

- Systems and resources are good but the quality of the human resources is paramount and critically essential.
- Planning without the requisite financial flow can slow the process and expected outcomes.
- Periodic review of the laid down practices is the surest way to go since there is no perfect system in the world.(willingness to change course if its not going well)
- Team building and openness to share information

6. Follow up

Despite the gains made so far there are many outstanding challenges that is confronting the association such as :

- Advocacy for the election of MMDCEs
- Appointment of more women in to the office of MMDCEs and Assembly Members
- The four years term of office of the Presiding Members
- The remuneration and condition of service for the Assembly and Presiding Members
 - Training and capacity building of members
 - Financial stability and sustainability