

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE UNDP SUPPORTED TECHNICAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTRY
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDING 31ST

MARCH,2018.

1.0 Introduction:

In December 2017, the UNDP supported the recruitment of a Technical Advisor on Governance (Dr. Eric Oduro, Osa) to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) after a competitive interview under a one (1) year renewable contract. The Advisor has since assumed work operating from Room 13 at the MLGRD.

As part of the engagement, the Technical Advisor is required to submit to the UNDP a quarterly report on his activities during the engagement period. This report is for the period December 2017- 31st March 2018 and highlights the activities undertaken, challenges and plans for 2018.

2.0 Activities for the Period:

Within the reporting period, the following activities were undertaken by the Advisor in accordance with his Terms of Reference (ToR):

1. The Technical Advisor assumed work and secured an office at Room 13 of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) awaiting the office to be furnished and other equipment's such as computers and printers to be supplied ;
2. The Terms of Reference(ToR) for the position was discussed and activities to be implemented to deliver on the ToR agreed upon with the Chief Director and the Minister for Local Government ;
3. Within the reporting period, the Advisor plunged into action and has within the period advised on the following:
 - a. A Contract between MLGRD and AMARK Company Limited

- b. Proposal submitted for Revenue and Property Rate Collection of MMDAs by ACCESS Bank Limited
- c. The INSPUR –HGIS contract on a nationwide Distance Learning infrastructure to support capacity building of functionaries in local government sector of Ghana.
- d. As an in-house legal Counsel and Governance Expert, supported the development of legislations and other regulatory framework for the creation and elevation of newly created Municipal and District Assemblies;
- e. Supported the capacity assessment of the newly created Assemblies to establish their capacity needs before their inauguration ;
- f. Developed a roadmap to guide the Ministry on the Election of Metropolitan Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCFs) in Ghana
- g. Plan, Coordinate and Facilitate the conduct of seven (7)¹ nation-wide regional consultation workshops on the election of MMDCFs in Ghana ;
- h. As a lawyer researched and supported the Attorney General's Department to represent and successfully defend the Ministry in the following cases:
 - i. The Kukurantumi Case on the siting of the District Capital
 - ii. The Japan Motors Vrs. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development(MJGRD)
- i. Supported the Ministry in the development of a draft concept paper to revive the Local Government Finance Bill initiative.
- j. Served on the Internally Generated Funds (IGF) Technical Working Group (TWC) to develop a roadmap for improving revenue mobilization and management practices of MMDAs in Ghana.
- k. Supported the Ministry's organization of a Meet –The-Press Session to showcase the achievements of the Ministry within the first quarter of 2018.
 - l. Provided Advisory services to respond to Parliamentary questions on:
 - i. The District Assemblies Common fund

¹ Regional consultations have as at the reporting been held in the Greater-Accra, Volta, Eastern, Central, Western, Brong-Ahafo and Ashanti regions.

- ii. Creation of New Districts
- iii. The issue of registration of names by the Birth and Death Registry.

3.0 Challenges for the Quarter Ending 31st March 2018:

The following challenges were encountered within the reporting period:

1. The unavailability of computer and printer for the office of the Technical Advisor to facilitate work.
2. Absence of an official vehicle to facilitate official movement of the Technical Advisor
3. Office not furnished with logistics, working tools and other stationery required for effective delivery on the ToR.
4. Delays in the payment of Technical Advisor's salary , as though this was required to be made available on a monthly basis as per the contract, for certain unknown circumstances, payment have moved to every two months.

4.0 Programmed Activities for the Remaining Period in 2018:

The following activities have been programmed to be delivered in the next 9 months of the 2018 fiscal year.

Key Focus Area(s)	Proposed Activities				Output(S)
	Period Quarters				
	1	2	3	4	
1. Support the MLGRD to inaugurate and implement LAs on the Newly Created MMDAs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a New MMDA Inauguration Committee • Undertake baseline audit for available infrastructure resource mobilization potential, administrative, political and capacity Audit 				New MMDAs Inaugurated, capacitated and functioning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and support in the Development of Districts Political Maps and Asset Liability, Plan and Budget Disaggregation Systems • Inaugurate the New MMDAs 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building of Newly Created MMDCAs • Support the provision of Political and Administrative Leadership and Governing Structures for New MMDCAs 			
<p>2. Support the MLGRD to review its operational capacity, systems and internal operations to deliver on its mandate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the MLGRD to review the Monthly, Quarterly, Annual Monitoring, Evaluation Control and Reporting Systems and arrangements between the Ministry and Agencies and institutions under the MLGRD (H.G.S.N.M.A.G.O.H.G.S, Community Development H.G.S.N.M.A.G.O.H.G.S, Community Development • Support organization of a National Decentralization Conference to Share the Ministry and Government's Direction on Decentralization and Local Government to Stakeholders. • Support the institutionalization of a bi- monthly sector institution meeting to share decentralization information (made up of Minister and Deputy Ministers of MLGRD, DACF Administrator, Head of Local Government Service, Executive Secretary of IMCG, Director, H.G.S and General Secretary of N.M.A.G) • Support the organization of the 2018 Annual MMDCG conference • Inaugurate the 30 years of Decentralization in Ghana • Review the Organogram of the Ministry. • Support Annual Decentralization Conference of all MMDCGs, PMs and DCs on Regional Basis. • Meeting of CSOs and Other Non- State Actors • Support the process for the Review of Model Standing Orders and Regulations on Act 936 			<p>MLGRD Take full control and Charge of the Local Government Sector Providing Policy Direction for Decentralized Local Governance in Ghana.</p>
<p>3. Support the MLGRD to undertake comprehensive Legal, Policy and Institutional Reforms in the Local</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the setting up of DCFs election Committee • Support the Launch of the DCI Election Project and the organization of 10 Stakeholder Consultations on the 			<p>All Arrangements² for the Election of MMDCGs in</p>

² Including National Referendum, Constitutional, Institutional, Policy and Legal Reviews.

<p>Government Sector necessary to support the Election of MMDCs in Ghana.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • process • Support the Policy, Legislative and Institutional Review to have DCEs elected. • Work with EC, NCCG, other stakeholders on the Election of MMDCs. 		<p>Ghana set for their election in 2021.</p>
<p>4. Support the MLGRD to deepen Fiscal Decentralization and reform the Local Government Public Financial Management (PFM) systems by supporting the passage of a Legislative Instrument(LI) on the PFM Act of 2016, Review the Local Government Financial Memorandum of 2004 and the passage of the a Municipal /Local Government Financing Law</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Setting up of LGPFM Committee • Support the Development of a Draft LI on the PFM from the Local Government Perspectives. • Reactivate the MFPM Project and task it to review existing LGPFM systems (Including Municipal Finance Bill, Local Government Borrowing Bill and LGPF framework). • Support the Review of the Local Government Financial Memorandum of 2004. • Support the development the development of a draft a Draft Local Government Financial Management Bill 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Local Government Finance Bill Developed for Cabinet Consideration • Local Government input into the development of Regulations on the L.I. on the PFM Act 2016 Act 921.
<p>6. Supporting the MLGRD to reform the management of intergovernmental fiscal relations through enhancing the revenue mobilization and accountability capacities of MMDCs; decentralizing the operations of the Land Valuation division to provide direct technical support on property valuation to MMDCs, improving the property addressing and socio economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the conceptualization, decentralization and Implementation of a Project to LVD to Support MMDCs undertake holistic Property Valuation for effective Resource mobilization through Property Rate Collection. • Support the Operationalization of the national LGF Return Strategy and Guidelines. • Support the institutionalization of Social Accountability through the establishment of Social Accountability Committees in MMDCs. • Support the mainstreaming of LVD and other Government Priority Intervention Projects of DDIP, ICST, One District One Dam. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations of the Land Valuation Division of the Lands Commission Decentralized to support comprehensive MMDC valuation. • MMDCs

<p>database systems of MMIDAs for enhanced revenue mobilization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactivate and complete the Street Naming and Property Addressing Systems in Chananian MMIDAs. 	<p>integrated government PTP into their AAPs and MTDPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Accountability Committees Established at MMIDAs.
<p>7. Support the MLGRD to review the existing national decentralization policy and action plan leading to the development of a revised national decentralization policy and action plan in line with the new National Medium Term Development Framework (NMTDF).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Review of the 2015-2017 NIDPF and NIDAP • Support the Revision of the NIDPF and NIDAP to accommodate New Government Policies on Decentralization. • Support the Launch the Revised and Costed 2018 NIDPF and NIDAP. • Support the Planning, Publishing and Dissemination of the Revised NIDPF 2018 to Stakeholders. 	<p>Completion of property addressing systems by MMIDAs to complement the existing street naming.</p> <p>New Decentralization Policy and Action Plan 2018-2021 developed and launched.</p>
<p>8. Support the MLGRD to undertake Reforms to improve the allowances and conditions of service of Assembly members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a Review of the Compensation and Allowances Register for Assembly and Full Committee Members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowances of Assembly members streamlined

<p>and other operators in the lower level government system in Ghana.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and payment commenced. • The Assembly members' Common Fund Concept Implemented
<p>9. Support the MLGRD to Strengthen the sub-district structures and other lower local governments including unit committees and sub Metropolitan Councils through capacity building, sustainable and adequate resource allocation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Operational Effectiveness of Sub-District Structures under L.I. 1967 (on Zonal Councils, Town and Area (Councils and Unit Committees); and LI 2223 on Sub-structures of Metropolitan Assemblies • Organize the First Ever Regional Based Sub-district Structure Conference • Support and Implement Structured Capacity Building Programmes for Sub-district Structures • Support the development of Policy Directives and Guidance for Operationalizing the Substructures. 		<p>Sub-structures Strengthened and operational under LI 1967 and LI 2223.</p>
<p>10. Support the Ministry to continue to implement the Roadmap for the election of MMDCs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the organization of a Media Engagement on the Election of MMDCs • Support the organization of 3 additional Regional Consultations and Sensitization to raise awareness and prepare for the Referendum. • Support a meeting with special groups on the election of MMDCs in Accra. • Support the conduct of a Final National stakeholders meeting on election of MMDCs in Accra. • Make inputs into the drafting of a Bill for the amendment Article 55 (3), an entrenched provision of the 1992 Constitution. 		

5.0 Conclusion

The advisory services have been very useful as it has afforded the ministry the opportunity to have an in-house Counsel and Advisor on local governance issues. The Advisor has also served as an internal quality assure to support in the monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's action plan. By the availability of the advisor, the ministry is on course to achieving the implementation of its 2018 programmes and plans.