

**SECOND QUARTER REPORT OF THE UNDP SUPPORTED TECHNICAL ADVISORY SERVICES
TO THE MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MLGRD) FOR
THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST JULY, 2018.**

1.0 Introduction:

This is the second report of the UNDP supported Technical Advisor to the MLGRD for the period 1st April-31st July, 2018. The report focuses on activities carried out within the reporting period, challenges as well as developments in the local government sector. It concludes with projected activities to be executed and reported on in the third quarter.

2.0 Activities Within the Reporting Period:

As part of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Technical Advisor, the following were the tasks executed within the reporting period:

1. Facilitated the continued Roll-out of the Ministry's Roadmap(Copy attached as Attachment 1) to have MMDCEs elected on partisan basis with series of meetings with parliament, NCCE and representatives of interest groups at the Upper East, Western and Northern Regional Coordinating Council.
2. Led a team to meet with the National House of Chiefs to solicit their input and consult them on the proposed Births and Deaths amendment Bill I Kumasi.
3. Facilitated and supported the development of Memorandum to amend Articles 55(3) and 243 of the 1992 constitution to allow political parties to sponsor candidates in a local government election.
4. Provided legal support to the Attorney General's Office to successfully defend three(3) suits brought against the Ministry by Japan Motors Ghana Limited (One at the Humana Rights Court and the other at the Financial Court) and Another by African Automobile limited.

5. Provided direct legal and court representation support through direct legal representation for selected MMDAs in matters bothering on decentralization brought against the Assembly by members of the assembly and third parties in certain cases.¹
6. Provided technical support to the Ministry to develop a draft Local Government Financial Management Bill(LGFMB) ready to be submitted to Cabinet for their consideration before finalizing .
7. Provided Technical Support to the IMCC to initiate a process to develop a revised National Decentralization Policy Framework (2020-2024) to succeed the current policy which expires in 2019.
8. Provided technical support to enable the Ministry respond to three (3) urgent Parliamentary questions².
9. Provided Technical Support to enable the Ministry report its activities to Cabinet within the reporting period.
10. Provided Technical Support to enable the Ministry Brief the media on its activities for the first quarter of 2018 in a meet the Press session organized in May, 2018 by the Ministry of information.
11. Provided technical support for the creation and inauguration of 38 new MMDAs in Ghana

3.0 Challenges Encountered Within The Reporting Period:

It worthy of reporting that after the meeting between the UNDP and the staff of the MLGRD, most of the challenges encountered in the first quarter by the Technical Advisor have been resolved. Except for the following:

1. An official vehicle was allocated to the office of the Technical Advisor but the leathers seats , windscreen
Absence of an official vehicles to facilitate official movement of the Technical Advisor
2. Office not furnished with logistics, working tools and other stationery required for effective delivery on the ToR.

4.0 Report on progress in the Local Government Sector:

¹ The MMDAs supported under this included Ga West Municipal Assembly, Krowor Municipal Assembly and La Nkwantanang Madina Municipal Assembly.

² The 3 parliamentary questions are - a. A question on the alleged anomaly in the disbursement of the 2018 DACF b. A question on the relocation of the Capital of the Yunyoo District and explanation on the delays in completing offices for newly created MMDA created in 2012.

Since the last quarterly report, the ministry has made significant progress towards delivering on its mandate. Below are the current happenings and progress in the local government sector: Under Decentralization and Governance: The ministry has made the following progress:

- To finalize a new Births and Deaths Bill for the consideration of Cabinet.
- To develop a new Local Government Financial Management Bill to support and rationalize the financial management capacities of local governments.
- Consult with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Local Government (PSCLG) on the government's new policy to have MMDCEs elected on partisan basis in 2019.
- Engaged with the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) on the upcoming Referendum in 2019 to amend article 55(3) of the 1992 Constitution to pave way for political parties to sponsor candidates to contest local level elections.
- In collaboration with the GiZ the ministry is implementing a revenue improvement project for 60 MMDAs to boost their resource mobilization capacities.
- The ministry developed and sensitized MMDAs on the new fee fixing guidelines
- The Ministry in collaboration with the Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee on Decentralization (IMCC) has reviewed the status of implementing the National Decentralization Policy Framework (NDPF) 2015-2019).
- The ministry in collaboration with the IMCC has initiated a process to develop a revised National Decentralization Policy Framework (NDPF) to accommodate new government initiatives to run from 2020-2024.

5.0 Projected Activities for the Next Quarter

In the next quarter ending 30th November, 2018 the following activities would engage the attention of the Advisor:

- a. Facilitate the sensitization of Professional Bodies and interest groups on the upcoming Referendum to amend article 55(3) of the 1992 constitution to have MMDCEs elected on partisan basis.
- b. Lead a process to develop amendment Bills to amend the constitutional provisions and other legislations likely to affect the election of MMDCEs on partisan basis.
- c. Support the ministry to in collaboration with the Electoral Commission of Ghana formulate the Referendum question for the amendment of article 55(3) on the 1992 Constitution.
- d. Support the ministry in the development of its Medium Term Budget for 2019
- e. Facilitate the organization of the 2018 annual MMDCEs conference in Accra.

6.0 Conclusion

The quarter was full of activities to support decentralization in Ghana. The role of the Technical Advisor continue to be relevant as I have been an important member of all technical committees set up by the ministry to deliver on the critical areas of its mandate. The technical support has covered attending to the legal matters involving the ministry in courts, providing technical legal support to the MMDAs as well as advising on policy issues affecting the local government sector of Ghana.