Background

While Ghana has been lauded for its electoral successes, there remain challenges with participatory, transparent and accountable governance, which have accounted for poor public service delivery. Citizens’ participation in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programs remains generally weak due either to less attention to mobilizing citizens for this end or the lack of requisite knowledge and skills of citizens. These factors have remained a major hindrance to citizens’ engagement in the development process. Under the CFLI funded Enhancing Grassroots Civic Participation in Governance Using New Digital Tool project, Penplusbytes wishes to take advantage of the increasing proliferation of affordable ICT tools, to empower citizens in the quest for more transparency and accountability from government. The overall project objective is to empower citizens through digital tools to effectively participate in the local government decision making processes and promote better public service delivery especially in health and education.

Location: Ashaiman Municipal Assembly, Greater Accra

Specific objectives:
The specific objectives of the project include the:

1. Providing easy and accessible information and creating awareness amongst citizens on allocated budgets and development plans for the selected community.
2. Engaging public officials in ensuring health and education services are provided as budgeted for
3. Enhancing the capacity of the media to play effective watchdog role in the promotion of governance and accountability at the local level

Main activities of the project.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the following activities will be implemented

- Project outreach and interface capacity needs assessment
- Deployment of innovative digital tools for citizen engagement
- Face-to-face forums for citizens and stakeholder engagement on pertinent community development issues

Expected outcomes:

- Civic engagement in local governance processes improved
- Responsive duty bearers/public officials to citizens’ needs
- Improved oversight role of the media in public service delivery