OpenGov Platform - Access to Information

15th April 2017 to 15th December 2017
Twifo Atti-Morkwa District Assembly (Central Region), Tema Metropoltan Assembly (Greater Accra Region), Ellembelle District Assembly (Western Region) and Wa Municipal Assembly (Upper West Region)

Access to public information is a key ingredient to promote transparent and accountable governance. It ensures citizens have the necessary information to hold duty bearers to account. In Ghana, citizens' participation in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programs remains generally weak due either to general citizen's apathy to participate in the governance process or the lack of requisite information to make informed contribution to the governance process. To add to this challenge is the inadequate responsiveness of duty bearers to citizen's feedback.

A number of questions thus remain unanswered. Do citizens have access to the required information to hold public officials accountable? Do citizens have the necessary channels to have their voice heard and be counted? To what extent can the media, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other watchdog institutions play an effective role in ensuring citizens' concerns are addressed and revenues assigned for development are used for their intended purposes especially at the grassroots level.

In light of the above questions, Penplusbytes, with support from Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie is rolling out the "OpenGov Platform - Access to Information" project. The project which is being piloted in four (4) districts in Ghana is intended to enhance communication and information sharing between citizens and the local government particularly on health and education using a collaborative, inclusive and integrated approach. The four pilot districts under the project are Twifo Atti-Morkwa District Assembly in the Central Region, Tema Metropoltan Assembly in Greater Region, Ellembelle District Assembly in the Western Region and Wa Municipal Assembly in the Upper West Region.

The project is a build-up on the existing Penplusbytes www.opengov.org.gh online assets, which seeks bring all district assemblies in Ghana online and provide an online platform where citizens have access to information district assembly development plans and budgets on selected thematic areas. The project intends to take advantage of the proliferation of affordable ICT tools in Ghana and explore the myriad of new opportunities it offers to empower citizens in the quest for more transparency and accountability from government.

Intended Outcome
The project seeks to improve access to information and enable citizens become active agents in the formulation and implementation of social policies and not mere users and choosers of policies, which do not always meet their needs.

www.penplusbytes.org

Project Partners

Penplusbytes is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to empower the media using Information and Communications Technology to advance journalism in the coverage of governance and accountability, mining, oil & gas and new media & innovations,.

DW Akademie is Germany's leading organization for international media development. DW supports the development of free and transparent media, quality journalism, and also offer programs to boost media skills.

For more details: Send a quick mail to info@penplusbytes.org.