

METOGU! (Keeping the Pressure on!!) Project

The NPP government won the December 2016 election and thus gained the right to implement its manifesto. On the campaign trail and in the manifesto itself, the party highlighted its commitment to reducing corruption significantly and promised to use new tools in achieving this. Ghana's high corruption index makes this an important part of the government success indicators and will be a point for accountability with citizens in the coming months and years.

Making politicians accountable, a key principle of good governance requires openness and more importantly well designed and properly resourced engagement tools. Traditionally, CSOs have taken the lead in the accountability agenda and used a number of approaches to tackle the government on its progress or lack of it particularly on anti-corruption laws and programmes. This has had varied success as some of the approaches have not been evidence based.

It is based on these learning that Penplusbytes with support from STAAC (Strengthening Transparency and Accountability Against Corruption) is implementing the 2-year METOGU! (Keeping the pressure on) project. The overall aim of the project is to create awareness amongst citizens on government interventions to fight corruption and create pathways for citizens to hold government to account to deliver on their promises.

This goal will be achieved through the following activities:

- Research NPP manifesto promises on anti-corruption and specific sector promises; Carry out a research exercise, which will identify and list all the various anti-corruption tools laid out by the NPP government and then build a comprehensive participatory monitoring & evaluation (PM&E) tool to gauge delivery on anti-corruption programmes.
- CSO and citizen tracking on .NPP promises; Using an adapted community scorecard and performance scorecard (e.g. a visual answer to the question, "How are we doing?") we will co-measure and display the government's progress annually. This will influence the government to review and address what progress it is making on its anti-corruption promises in an ethical way, which takes citizens' needs into consideration and involves wider stakeholders. It will also support a closer relationship between government and civil society as well as state and citizenry; creating constructive relationships to increase accountability and collective problem solving.

Four regions were selected for administering the community scorecard and three districts selected under each region. In Ashanti Region, the districts selected are Asante Akim South, Asante Akim Central, and Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly. The Western region has Shama district, Wassa West District and the Sekondi-Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly. Greater Accra being the third region selected with Accra Metropolitan Assembly, La Dade Kotopon Municipal, Ashiaman Municipal and in the Volta region are the Ho Municipal, North Tongu district and Adaklu district.

The expected results after the completion of the project are:

- More effective intelligence gathering and dissemination.
- Improved identification and handling of corruption risks and cases by key oversight agencies.
- A corruption-tracking tool used by citizens to influence transparency of government actions and delivery.

This project is imperative because it will support citizen's engagement with the government and make it accountable to its pledges during campaign period.