THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT OF GHANA

Presented by
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OUTLINE

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Around the world today, countries are looking for the best possible ways to efficiently manage their public finances.

According to the Addis Ababa Action plan of 2015, every sovereign country is responsible for the effective, efficient and transparent use of its finances.

An absence of an effective public financial management system in place mostly results in deterioration of public services and fiscal imbalances (Baltaci and Yilmaz, 2007).
• Developing countries like Ghana with few financial resources are more particular about the use of their financial resources……. BUT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Financial Mismanagements</th>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>GH₵47,629,013.32 (Auditor-General report, 2015, p.5)</td>
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• The capacity of the state has proven inept in dealing with some of these instances, there is the need for other actors to fill the gap (Salamon et al., 1999).

• To ensure an effective use of financial resources, different stakeholders come together to play different roles in the public financial management process (Andrews et al., 2014; Lawson, 2015).
• Each of these stakeholders has an important contribution to the public financial management process.

• Attention is however particularly being drawn towards the role of civil society organizations in the public financial management process (Khan, 1998; Salamon et al., 2000; Carlitz, 2013).

• Civil society organizations in the public financial management process would help improve and make public financial management transparent and accountable (World Bank, 2002; Ramkumar and Krafchik, 2007).
RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To assess the role of civil society organizations in the public financial process of Ghana.
Institute for Democracy in South Africa (IDASA) and the Development Initiatives for Social and Human Action (DISHA) in India perform a **budget review and analysis functions** (World Bank 2002).

**DISHA** - unpacking and demystifying the data in the budget to enable the legislators, media, and citizens to be able to quantify the allocations made.

**IDASA** - **Improving the budget literacy** through training, community radio, newspapers and the internet.

**Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)** in India - **Social audit scheme** (Carlitz, 2013)
METHODOLOGY

Research Approach
This paper is a qualitative study

Sample
Ten Civil Society Organizations

Data Collection Instrument
Interview guide and documentary review

Data Analysis
Thematic analysis
### Name of civil society organizations

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Name of the Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>African Center for Energy Policy (ACEP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Center for Economic Policy and Analysis (CEPA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Center for Local Governance Advocacy (CLGA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IMANI Center for Policy and Education (IMANI-Ghana)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Integrated Social Development Center (ISODEC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Occupy Ghana®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SEND Ghana</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FINDINGS

Non-Auditing Roles

Participatory Planning
- Submission of inputs
- Identification of pro-poor areas

Participatory Budgeting
- Submission of proposals
- Budget review
- Demystifying of budgets
- Parliamentary engagement
FINDINGS

Auditing Roles

- Expenditure monitoring
  - Budget tracking through research
  - Budget impact

- Follow-up on Audit Reports
  - Demystifying Audit Reports
  - Legal Actions

- Contract Analysis
  - Contracts Reviews
  - Advocacy
CONCLUSION

• The paper presents findings from Ghana to support the assertion that even though civil society organizations are not mandatory stakeholders, they still have a role to play as permissive stakeholders in the management of public finances.

• The paper identified that civil society organizations as permissive stakeholders use participatory approaches in the non-auditing roles. In the auditing roles, the study identified that civil society organizations use their own activities to play these roles.

• The paper concludes that if civil society organizations persist and sustain the momentum, there will be likely qualitative improvement in the public financial management process of Ghana.
To qualitatively improve the PFM process of Ghana to effectively include civil society organizations, the study recommend that:

- Civil society organizations should be accorded official recognition and integrated into the public financial management process.

  - Indeed, official recognition and integration would empower them to work freely without any form of interference and intimidation from state institutions.

  - By so doing, they will see their role more of an obligation than a responsibility.
REFERENCES


THANK YOU
for your
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