

Role of Civil society in promoting Procurement outcomes

By

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Outline

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- Major civil society actors in Uganda
- Role of civil society in Public Procurement
- What has been done so far in Uganda
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INTRODUCTION

- CSOs have become important actors for delivery of social services and implementation of development programs
- They complement government action, especially in regions where government presence is weak
- Government cannot be everywhere especially during the implementation of programmes

- Involvement of civil society in public procurement is increasingly receiving attention from all actors including:
 - Development partners
 - Regulatory bodies
 - Civil society organizations
 - Members of the public
 - Policy makers
 - Politicians

- The involvement of civil society organizations was one of the key resolutions of the 2nd East African Procurement forum in Nairobi
- Progress has been made in enlisting their involvement in public procurement

Meaning of civil society

- *Civil society refers to the arena of uncoerced collective action around shared interests, purposes and values.*
- *Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power.*

The World Bank....

- Defines the term civil society to mean an array of **non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations that have a presence in public life, expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations.**

- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) therefore refer to a wide of array of organizations:**
 - **community groups**
 - **non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**
 - **labor unions**
 - **indigenous groups**
 - **charitable organizations**
 - **faith-based organizations**
 - **professional associations, and**
 - **foundations”.**

Major CSOs involved in Public Procurement in Uganda

- Institute of Procurement professionals of Uganda
- Transparency International-Uganda
- Anti-corruption coalition of Uganda
- Uganda Debt Network
- The media
- Other professional associations like lawyers, engineers

Role of CSOs in Public procurement

- Working with Government Oversight Agencies to monitor procurement processes to ensure Value for Money
- Carry out diagnostic studies to identify loopholes and use the findings to advocate for procurement reforms
- Advocate for opening up the law to provide for third party monitoring
- Train community monitors to monitor project implementation
- Sensitization of private sector and general public to understand the procurement process

Transparency International in Uganda

- TI Uganda heads the Uganda Country Working Group on procurement reforms
- Advocating for opening up the procurement law - Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act to provide for third party Monitoring
- Introducing Integrity Pacts with initial focus Water and Sanitation Sector – National Water and Sewerage Corporation

PPDA's Interventions so far

- Conducted training of CSOs on procurement law
- Received funding from Commonwealth secretariat to train SMEs on their participation in public procurement
- Support the formation of a civil society working group in Uganda
- Support to Institute of Procurement professionals of Uganda

Challenges faced by civil society organizations

- Funding their activities
- Limited human capacity
- Lack of 'space' to do their work
- Lack of accurate and reliable information
- Lack of recognition by government
- Political suppression of their critical opinions
- Lack of internal democracy amongst themselves

LESSONS LEARNT

- Citizen Participation in public procurement is critical and needs support at all levels
- Discretionary power of public procurement officials should be checked
- Need for supportive legal framework
- Working closely with government departments is critical
- Need to work closely with the media