

***GOVERNANCE AS A VEHICLE FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
UGANDA***

By

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- Understanding the concepts: a) governance; b) sustainable development
- Relationship between the concepts
- Challenges to realizing the concepts
- Tackling the challenges
- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- Good governance is critical for sustainable development
- Attention increasingly paid to these issues by UN agencies such as UNEP and World Bank, regional bodies and state institutions
- Standards set up: elaborate provisions in the 1995 Constitution, MEAs, national legislation, declarations and resolutions
- Challenges exist but not insurmountable

***UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPTS:
GOOD GOVERNANCE***

- Good and bad governance
- Exercising power and decision-making for a group of people
- Use of power in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development (World Bank)
- The exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage a nation's affairs (UNDP)

GOOD GOVERNANCE Ctd

- Public/citizen participation
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Access to information
- Effective, ethical and efficient management of public affairs and resources
- Democratically elected and accountable leaders
- Stable livelihoods

UNDERSTANDING CONCEPTS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Growth and development
- Development: process of improving the quality of *all* human lives (Todaro)
- Process of expanding real freedoms/choices that *all* people enjoy (Sen; UNDP)
- Socio-economic and cultural development

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Ctd

- 'Development which meets the needs of the *present* without compromising the ability of *future* generations to meet their own needs' (WCED, the Brundtland Commission Report).
- Concept is against greed and selfishness of the present
- Concept covers both development and environmental goals

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO CONCEPTS

- Good governance, including democracy v. development arguments: conflicting, interrelated, complementary?
- Democracy is an essential component of the development process
- Good governance promotes sustainable development; bad governance promotes poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation and generally undermines human rights

CHALLENGES: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

- Lack of constitutionalism; including non compliance with international environmental and human rights obligations
- Corruption, greed, aggrandizement; political interference
- Poverty : a violation of all categories of human rights
- Wasteful damage and destruction of bio-diversity; forest 'give aways', destruction of wetlands etc
- Worshipping investors: Commercial and wealth generating activities that ignore environmental and human rights consequences

CHALLENGES Ctd

- Lack of political will cf. the plastic bags phenomenon
- Weak enforcement and compliance mechanisms
- Lack of transparency cf. the oil deals
- Lack of *meaningful* public participation in development projects that have the potential to compromise the environment and deprive local people of the basic means of survival and livelihoods cf. the so-called 'forestry projects' to mitigate climate change

TACKLING THE CHALLENGES

- Strategic litigation to hold state and non-state actors accountable
- Exercising peoples' power: the vote; demonstrations where necessary
- Environmental, Social and Human Rights Impact Assessments
- Follow the polluter pay principle
- Compliance with Constitution, MEAs and other standards

TACKLING CHALLENGES ctd

- Involve the public and civil society in decision making, monitoring and evaluation beyond workshops and seminars
- Promote both substantive and procedural rights
- Make all major development deals public
- Sensitization/public awareness
- Stem trend of corruption; tackle poverty

CONCLUSION

- Good governance and sustainable development are interrelated and complimentary: both have the same goal---the achievement of well-being and quality human life
- There must be a balance between environment and development priorities of the government
- Bad governance must be challenged by all