Good Governance in Oromia: Challenges and Strategies (Major Cities in Arsi and East Shewa zone in focus, Ethiopia)

Zinabie Degu
Department of Engineering works and Services Department, Foundry Shop, Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited, Ajaokuta, Nigeria

Abstract

The main objective of this study was to identify the level of good governance with respect to its founding pillar elements in Oromia Arsi and East shewa zone selected urban cities. The key elements of good governance considered in the study were accountability, transparency, participation, responsiveness, control of corruption, operational effectiveness and efficiency, equity building and inclusive, and consensus orientation. The study followed a survey and focus group discussion. The data were collected from four selected cities that in Adama, Asella, Batu, and Shashemenne. Analyses were based on primary data generated through structured questionnaire for each key elements of good governance. Focus group discussion was also conducted with selected informant groups. Descriptive analyses were specified to identify the current practice of good governance. The focus group discussion data were subject to thematic analyses and triangulated with the findings from survey analyses. The pillars of good governance such as: accountability, participation, responsiveness, responsibility, efficiency and effectiveness, equity and consensus orientation, elements observed at low level within the selected city administration. Top priority problems were identified for respective cities. Fraud with respect to land administration and project authorization are among the top source of corruption. The study proposed pre-symptom actions and after symptom actions to curb corruption and establish good governance within the city administration.

Keywords: Good governance • Mitigating strategies • Effective good governance

Conclusion

The survey findings revealed that elements of good governance are found at about quarter level which need key attention of the leaders at all levels, policy makers, businesspersons, civil society leaders, and religious leaders) in ways that activate the strong desires and commitments to make good governance a realistic goal. Good governance ensures that organizations are fit for purpose, are well led and managed, establish appropriate appetite for and provisions for risks, and are sustainable in operations and delivery of quality of services, learning from experience, through review benchmarking evidence, and well warranted advice.

*Address for Correspondence: Zinabie Degu, Department of Neurology, MagQu Co., Ltd., New Taipei City, Taiwan, Email: yaqubokamuna@gmail.com

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levels to change the current misgovernance. The findings revealed that corruption is still the leading bottleneck where this seeks engagement of all stakeholders to curb from the bottom-line. Absence of Accountability was rated as the second problem area observed from the investigation. Hence, city administrations need to take a step to ensure accountability for the citizen. Lack of transparency was judged as the third problematic that necessity commitment of the leaders to make the system transparent. In general, except for lack of consensus and equitability elements, others are rated reflecting that good governance practice was down to the bottom. Among the forms of corruption rated, fraud in relation to land administration and fraud in relation to project authorization are the priority where resources are misused or embezzled. Besides, nepotism in employment of officials is the third problematic identified. Hence, these sources of corruption necessitate leader’s intervention to create a system that trusted by the citizen.

References


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