

22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2022  
IDEG AUDITORIUM

**Draft Report**

**ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF MUSIGA, ACTORS' & SCREEN ACTORS' GUILD**

**RECONSTRUCTING LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY IN THE 4TH  
REPUBLIC: THE ROLE OF MUSICIANS AND ACTORS**



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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CDD-Ghana – Ghana Center for Democratic Development

CHRAJ – Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice

CLDG – Council for Local Development and Governance

DACF – District Assembly Common Fund

EC – Electoral Commission

IDEG – Institute for Democratic Governance

MMDCE – Metropolitan, Municipal, District Chief Executive

MUSIGA – Music Union of Ghana

NCCE – National Commission for Civic Education

NDC – National Democratic Congress

NIM – National Interest Movement

NPP – New Patriotic Party

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ruling party, the New Patriotic Party (NPP), has been working to change Articles 55(3) and 243(1) to reform the local government system and devolve more power and resources to local communities since 2018. However, the national referendum set for December 17, 2019, was canceled, and the proposal to change Article 243(1) was withdrawn. Following the cancellation, research and analysis revealed a lack of proper education about the referendum's purpose, as well as public awareness of the benefits that the amendment would bring. Since then, both the NPP administration and the NDC opposition have reiterated their pledge to refocus and pursue local governance reforms if elected in the mandate year 2021-2024.

Disenchanted Ghanaians, particularly the young, have voiced interest in not just local governance reform but also the drafting of a new constitution, since the 2020 elections. Furthermore, the CDD-Ghana's post-2020 election survey revealed that majority of Ghanaians support the election of MMDCs (71%) on nonpartisan basis. Only 20% of Ghanaians, prefers the contrary. Citizen participation in governance is crucial in mitigating marginalization, promoting political and social inclusion and strengthening democracy and governance. According to the evidence so far, Ghanaians have differing opinions on how to democratize the current local government system and multiparty constitutional democracy.

In this regard, the IDEG On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2022 IDEG held an engagement with the leadership of MUSIGA, the Ghana Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild themed **“Reconstructing Local Governance and Multiparty Democracy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Republic: The Role of Musicians and Actors”**, at the IDEG House, East Legon. This was to discuss IDEG's strategic constitutional amendment agenda and the compiled set of reform proposals in order to mobilize informed and strong public support for popular approval of the local governance reform. Specifically, the engagement sought to proffer the following outcomes; (I) participants will give indication of their position on multiparty local governance, (II) Lend their support to local governance reforms. (IV) Offer valuable insights on how to pursue the reforms. MUSIGA, the Ghana Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild represent a credible and influential group with millions of followers. This makes them crucial in the advocacy, education and dissemination of information on the topic to ultimately build broad based consensus.

The topics discussed included: (I) Challenges affecting Local Governance System in Ghana, presented by Mr. Kwesi Jonah, Senior Research Fellow, IDEG (II) Proposals for Transformational Local Governance, presented by Dr. Kofi Asante, Senior Research Fellow, IDEG and (III) Strategic Approach to the Amendments of the 1992 Constitution, presented by Dr Emmanuel Akwetey-Executive Director, IDEG.

## **1.0 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Mr. Okine took the opportunity to welcome participants to the engagement. He further expressed that the purpose of the engagement was to discuss the constitutional amendment agenda and the role of actors in pushing this advocacy. After that, all participants were introduced.

### **1.1 PURPOSE OF GATHERING**

Patricia Konadu Kwakye welcomed participants and provided a brief background on the President's agenda to strategically reform the 1992 Constitution, via the amendment of Articles 243 (1) and 55(3), which was unsuccessful since the referendum to amend Article 55(3) was cancelled due to inadequate public education and lack of national consensus on the matter. She further touched on the lessons to ensure the success of the strategic constitutional amendment agenda in the second attempt; firstly, the need to focus more on the proposals to reform the local governance system, secondly the need to focus on educating and sensitizing the public on the benefits of the reform and thirdly the need to be more inclusive of the stakeholders and the public in the constitutional amendment process. Hence, the need for IDEG's engagement with MUSIGA, Ghana Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild to discuss IDEG's proposals for reforming the local government system as well as the perspectives on the proposals.

### **1.2 OPENING REMARKS (FROM THE LEADERSHIP OF MUSIGA, THE GHANA ACTORS' GUILD AND SCREEN ACTORS' GUILD)**

The President of Ghana Actors Guild was opportune to express the Actors and Screen Actors Guild's delight to be part of the engagement to discuss reforming local government and multiparty democracy. It was expressed that actors are usually left out of these relevant discussions that impact them, ultimately, as citizens of the state. Therefore, IDEG's decision to include the Guild in the list of stakeholder groups to be engaged is appreciated.

The acting President of MUSIGA also expressed the delight of MUSIGA to be engaged by IDEG on the matter. Furthermore, it was stated that MUSIGA will help further the agenda to success by contributing some ideas, music etc.

## **2.0 PRESENTATION**

### **2.1 CHALLENGES AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM IN GHANA, PRESENTED BY MR. KWESI JONAH, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, IDEG CURRENT STATE OF GHANA'S LOCAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM (BY MR. JONAH)**

In his presentation, Mr. Jonah touched briefly on the history of the local government during the PNDC noting that the current system in our 4<sup>th</sup> Republic is an adaptation of the system that was implemented in the PNDC and after almost 30 years. A review of the current system

is needed due to the persistent challenges of the system. It also is imperative to reflect on how the current system has served the people as well as what can be done to improve its service to the public.

This led to IDEG's strategic constitutional amendment agenda, which was initiated before the NPP began their pursuit of the constitutional amendment, to reform the system to ultimately bring forth the outcomes desired by the public. This will be done via the amendment of Article 243(1) to allow the electorate elect MMDCs, as well as the amendment of Article 55(3) to allow political parties to participate in local government.

It was explained that with our political system being a multiparty democracy, it is imperative to allow parties to participate in local government. Hence, IDEG's position is to not only amend both articles but to reform the system entirely thereby, correcting all the social, governmental and political issues of the current system.

Furthermore, the state powers bestowed upon the President to allow for inclusion of, women, chiefs, and other stakeholders that can contribute significantly, in local governance, have not been used to achieve their intended purpose. Rather, these state powers are used by the president and ruling party to dominate the local government.

Additionally, the shortcomings of the current system that are associated with the winner-takes-all system and the exclusion of smaller political parties from local level governance were discussed. The appointed MMDCs only feel accountable to the President and not the electorate. This impacts the performance of the MMDCs in a rather negative way since they practically do not deliver the needs of the public. Again, the marginalization and exclusion of Chiefs in local governance matters such that the appointment of MMDC has resulted in their call for 30% government appointees to be set aside exclusively for Chiefs. This grievance is one of the contributing factors to the opposition of the December 2019 referendum, by the National House of Chiefs.

Moreover, the marginalization of women and PWDs has led to the underrepresentation of women (about 6%) and PWDs (almost 0%) in local government. Women and PWDs face difficulty in participating in local government due to the fact that they are not offered the same support as the male politicians.

Last but not the least, the lack of adequate resources to propel local development remains one of the most constraining factors in local development. This is because local government is totally under central government control. Despite the constitutional provision of not less than 5% of tax revenue to be paid into District Assembly Common Fund for local development, disbursement in recent years has been 3% or less, with delay and inconsistencies in the allocation of the funds. This ultimately impedes or halts development projects in the districts.



*Plate1: Mr. Jonah discussing the challenges affecting the local government system in Ghana*

## **2.2 PROPOSALS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNANCE, PRESENTED BY MR. KOFI ASANTE, SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, IDEG**

He acknowledged the popular demand for the amendment of Article 243(1) and explained that the amendment of both Articles 55(3) and 243(1) accompanied by the implementation of IDEG's proposals are imperative to bring forth not only the desired substantial reforms demanded but also ensure that the political parties are regulated and reformed.

The reformed system will minimize duopolistic system and the winner takes all system, allowing for a co-governance system where the tradition of power sharing, dialogue and consensus building will be highly essential in order to develop the local communities. Hence, ultimately shifting the focus of political parties from the elections to the development of local communities.

The proposal will also bring forth the establishment of state bureaucracies such as the Multiparty Democracy Commission (MDC) and the strengthening of existing state bureaucracies, by investing more resources and granting them autonomy. Hence, ensuring



effective execution of their oversight as well as the enforcement roles and render them immune to politicization. These state bureaucracies will ensure that the political parties co-govern effectively without sabotaging each other. Political parties, although initially expected to be agents of development, have over the years been election centric. The establishment of the MDC would ensure that political parties are regulated and facilitated, campaign financing rules are enforced and the electoral cycle is regulated to allow for national cohesion to be built after elections.

Additionally, the implementation of the proposal will improve public service delivery in the sense that more state funds will be allocated funds to the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) and will arrive on time. The reformed system will see elected MMDCs take action to ensure that the allocated are disbursed on time and used to develop their local communities. State institutions will also see to the proper monitoring of the disbursed funds to prevent embezzlement and corruption.

Furthermore, the proposals will curb marginalization and exclusion via the introduction of the Mixed Member Proportional Representation (MMPR) system and the Council of Local Development and Governance (CLDG). The MMPR will allow marginalized groups such as women, youth, alternative political parties and PWDs to be adequately represented and also to assume their rightful role in political decision making at the local level of governance respectively by reserving a percentage of seats or positions for each group. This system will also allow all political parties to have their members in the various assemblies provided they meet the prerequisites. The CLDG, consisting of Chiefs and other eminent persons, will guarantee the participation of traditional leaders by allowing them to play a substantive role amongst other duties, without jeopardizing their reverence.



*Plate 2: Dr. Asante discussing the proposals for transformational local governance*

### 2.3 STRATEGIC APPROACH TO THE AMENDMENTS OF THE 1992 CONSTITUTION, PRESENTED BY DR EMMANUEL AKWETEEY-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IDEG

He began his presentation by providing the background to the inauguration of the 1992 constitution. To him, the promulgation of the 1992 constitution gave birth to the establishment of significant institutions such as the CHRAJ, NCCE, EC etc., It was also noted that due to the rushed implementation process within the short interval, there has been an issue of mandate overlaps.

He further elaborated on the timelines for process of amending Article 55(3) as well as the structure of the governance system that ought to be once the proposals have been implemented. In order to open up the local government to political parties and enable developmental dividends, it is imperative to choose to implement the reforms between 2022 and 2023. It was explained that reforming local govt to allow for the participation of political parties will require the establishment of a process and a body to work on the democratization of local government as well as consensus building at the national level. In 2019 the Ministry of Local Governance as well as the NCCE were tasked to handle the referendum prior to its cancellation as well as the democratization of local government. However, the issue with the state institutions currently is the fact that they are impartial. It was added that the new structure if implemented will bring forth a more inclusive and transparent system where roles can be executed impartially.

He further elaborated that prior to the referendum for the amendment of Article 55(3), stakeholder groups including MUSIGA as well as the Actors and Screen Actors Guild will be involved in the process of raising public awareness on the need for the constitutional reforms and the proposals. There will also be workshops organized to train and equip individuals for public education on the agenda. The implementation of the proposals will commence after the referendum has taken place. All of which would take about 6 months.

In his conclusion he explained that the engagement of stakeholder groups to build their support of the advocacy is imperative to compel the government to commit to the reform of the constitution and the local government system.

### 3.0 INTERACTIVE SESSION (QUESTIONS & ANSWERS)

This section presents comments, questions and responses that prevailed during the engagement.

#### Question 1

With regards to the creation of the MDC, who is going to be a member of the group, who will do the appointment?

#### Answer:

The members of the Multiparty Democracy Commission (MDC) will constitute eminent persons as well as stakeholders such as CSOs. There will be an established broadly

consultative process for the selection and appointment of members of the MDC. The appointment process will be designed to ensure that impartial individuals are selected and appointed. The appointment will be merit based rather than based on party affiliations. The president will be responsible for appointing the chairperson of the MDC however, he will not be responsible for the selection of the chairperson nor the removal of the chairperson.

### **Question 2**

How long will it take for the system to be implemented?

#### **Answer:**

Public education will take place for at least 6 months ahead of the Referendum which will take place in 2023. Afterwards, state institutions will be established strengthened and autonomized also, civil servants party members etc. will be trained to undertake their roles in the new system. The election of MMDCs will commence after the 2024 election.

### **Question 3**

With regards to the structures and space, will this be from scratch? Will this plan be accommodated into the current system or will there be an overhaul?

#### **Answer:**

That will be dependent on what the government decides to implement from the proposals

### **Question 4**

Will the referendum be included in the electoral calendar or will a separate structure of elections be created?

#### **Answer:**

The overlap of elections in our current system was touched on. Furthermore, it was explained that originally it should have been a two-year interval however we have drifted from that interval because of financial reasons which cause postponement and rescheduling of elections, and economic reason because it is cheaper for government, others have said it is confusing differentiation the national from the local elections.

### **Question 5**

Where do the creatives fall in this system? What is their role and will they get a chance to be part of government?

#### **Answer:**

With regards to the role of creatives, it was explained that the MUSICA and Actors Guild can be influential in advocating for change in the current system. The creatives can play an extremely important role in public education by communicating with the public on the need for constitutional reforms and mobilizing public support for the agenda. However, there is not a defined role specifically for MUSICA and Actors Guild in the reformed local government system. Nevertheless, it is imperative that ideas on the role of creatives in the reformed system be shared, as well as how MUSICA and Actors Guild can help further the agenda.

#### **Question 6**

Regarding the government not having scrutiny over their activity, is there a way of ensuring that government (political party) will be scrutinized mid-term, during their tenure rather than waiting for them to complete their term?

#### **Answer:**

The layout of state institutions and accountability bodies are such that, strong media are required to bring issues of violations to light. So, the proposals to strengthen state institutions will ensure that the incumbent government is performing their duties as they ought to. Also, allowing the electorate to elect MMDCs is a strong accountability mechanism.

#### **Question 7**

Regarding the donations to political parties, will there be a rule prohibiting anonymous donations?

#### **Answer:**

The proposals will outlaw anonymous donations because anonymous donations can be a conduit for corruption and does not give transparency with regards to entities with potential influence over government.

#### **Question 8**

Are there any plans for the strengthening of the Police service?

#### **Answer:**

Ghana police service is one of the key institutions that will be reformed. A lot of the indiscipline over the years is due to the fact that the police have not been proactive. This is either because of the fear of victimization if they enforce the law against affiliates of the ruling party.

#### **Question 9**

How different is IDEG's proposal for the establishment of the MDC different from the NDC's proposals?

**Answer:**

The MDC is a comprehensive institution which will not only ensure the regulation of the political parties but will also create an opportunity for all parties, especially the smaller parties, to build their capacity as democratic institutions. Whereas the NDC's proposals only focus on the regulation of political parties. Establishing the MDC without granting it autonomy will prevent the state institution from fulfilling its duties.

**Question 10**

What is IDEG's expert opinion on the constitutional amendment?

**Answer:**

IDEG wants the system reformed in a radical way. IDEG is advocating for the strengthening of our democracy and seeks the involvement of citizens in this advocacy to democratize our local government system.

**Question 11**

Would an elected MMDCE not feel accountable to his/her political party if their political party happens to be the ruling party?

**Answer:**

The reason for advocating for all other political parties to get into local government is so that the MMDCE role will be won by candidates of various political parties in the various districts. This will mean that the President and the elected MMDCEs will have to work together to develop the local communities. Hence a multiparty system at the local level and the executive arm of government.

**Comments**

1. Dissatisfaction was expressed in the fact that priority has not been placed in creating a space for MUSIGA and Actors Guild to actively participate in the reformed governance system, even though their influence and capability is acknowledged and needed to push the campaign and educate the public on the need for constitutional reforms and the reform of the local government system.
2. It was expressed that it is imperative to also look at mainstreaming the creative sector into national development. Individuals in the creative sector are interested in participating in national development affairs. This will grant the opportunity to ultimately ensure that the creative sector is included in developmental plans.

3. It is imperative to assess the issue of our governance system holistically as well as ourselves as individuals, as we work towards reforming the current system lest we will get nowhere with the constitutional amendment agenda.
4. The strengthening of state institutions will ensure that the right amount of funds from the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) are allocated and at the right time they ought to be.
5. There should be measures put in place to ensure that when candidates are elected into office their political parties do not influence their roles as MMDCEs.
6. It is imperative to appoint musicians, actors and professionals from other fields, as members of the CLDG, in order to enable them assist at the local level.

#### **4.0 WAY FORWARD (THE ROLE OF MUSICIANS, ACTORS)**

The musicians and actors have a good relationship with the public and they have a huge and powerful fanbase hence they will use that to push the agenda forward.

For this agenda to be successful, unity is imperative hence we must be organized with one voice to convey all messages. The actors and musicians called for involvement in the decision-making process rather than just using their voice and influence to push the agenda. They believe this level of involvement will ensure the effective push for the implementation of the agenda.

The inclusion of actors and musicians with regards to decision making at local government level is important. This level of inclusion will ensure that MUSIGA, the Ghana Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild are included in the budgets for the local communities to ultimately help develop young musicians and actors.

Furthermore, it was expressed that a communications strategy to push the agenda forward is imperative. It was urged that the actors and musicians get actively involved so as to help build the industry in the reformed government system. It was urged that the musicians and actors organize themselves and make themselves relevant. Also, imperative is getting the right representatives for the actors and musicians to represent the creative industry in the reformed local government system.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

The leadership of MUSIGA, the Ghana Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild acknowledged the importance of the agenda and expressed their support for IDEG's advocacy. They called for a more active role in the reformed system to ensure that they will be able to influence policies and decisions, to ultimately provide an opportunity for the industry to be funded and grow. Furthermore, they proposed providing their proposals to IDEG to be incorporated into IDEG's proposals.

## REFERENCES

- Concept Note on the Engagement with the leadership of MUSIGA, the Ghana Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild Conversation on “Reconstructing Local Governance and Multiparty Democracy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Republic: The Role of Musicians and Actors”
- Transcripts of the Engagement with the leadership of MUSIGA, the Ghana Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild Conversation on “Reconstructing Local Governance and Multiparty Democracy in the 4<sup>th</sup> Republic: The Role of Musicians and Actors”

## APPENDIX A: PARTICIPANT LIST

No	NAME	GENDER	INSTITUTION	DESIGNITION
1.	Paa Kwesi Holbrook-Smith	M	Musicians Union of Ghana	Member of the Arbitration Committee
2.	Rev Eddie Eyison	M	Musicians Union of Ghana	incoming treasurer
3.	Thomas Harry Yawson	M	Musicians Union of Ghana	Acting Vice President, Musicians Union Of Ghana
4.	Abena Ruthy	F	Musicians Union of Ghana	2nd Vice Presidential Aspirant
5.	James Gardiner	M	Screen Actors' Guild	Actor
6.	Fiifi Coleman	M	Screen Actors' Guild	Executive Member
7.	Sandra Osei-Nti	F	Screen Actors' Guild	Secretary
8.	Mrs Kalsoume Sinare-Baffoe	F	Screen Actors' Guild	welfare executive
9.	Kofi Falconer	M	Actors Guild	Actor
10.	Gloria Naa Quarshie	F	Actors Guild	REGIONAL WELFARE OFFICER, GAG.
11.	Samuel Fiscian	M	Actors Guild	President
12.	Oscar Provencal	M	Actors Guild	Chairman of the Constitutional Committee



13.	Samuel Kofi Agyemang	M	Musicians Union of Ghana	National treasurer
14.	Bessa Simons	M	Musicians Union of Ghana	Acting President
15.	Prince David Osei	M	Screen Actors' Guild	Actor
16.	Ahuma BOsco Ocansey	M	Musicians Union of Ghana	Director of Communications and Special Projects
17.	Daniel Kojo Delong	M	Screen Actors' Guild	Actor

**Total number of Participants: 17**

**Total number of Females: 4**

**Total number of Males: 13**

## APPENDIX B: PICTURES OF PARTICIPANTS











