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ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT OF UPPER WEST REGION, GHANA

JACOB DOMEKAKPIER DERY



2018

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ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT

IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT OF UPPER WEST REGION, GHANA

BY

JACOB DOMEKAKPIER DERY (BA. BACHELAR OF INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)

(UDS/MDM/0179/11)

A TERM PAPER SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT, FACULTY OF PLANNING AND LAND MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY FOR

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF

A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT



UNIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

FEBRUARY, 2018

Declaration

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that, this thesis is the result of my own original work and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Jacob Domekaker Dery

Index No.:UDS/MDM/0179/11

Candidate's Signature Date

Supervisor's Declaration

I, hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this thesis were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by the University for Development Studies.

Mr. Samuel Ziem Bonye



Supervisor's Signature Date

Abstract

There is no denying the genuine fact that, contemporary development practitioners, not excluding other major stakeholders in the development arena are certainly not oblivious of the simple fact that, policies of successive governments over the years in respect of local level development have either not been implemented or materialised as expected thereby accounting for the obvious under development at the local level. The study, therefore, sought to assess the role the Assembly Member in promoting local level development in the Lawra district.

The study sets out to actually assess the role played over the years by the Assembly Members regarding the promotion of development at the local level as it is obligatory on them to do so.

The data used for the analysis was obtained through qualitative and quantitative methods such as interviews including focus group discussions among others. The sampling procedure was generally purposive in nature particularly for the Assembly Members, Staff of the district assembly, the only paramount Chief and the five (5) divisional Chiefs and four (4) Pog Namine

(Queen Mothers). Simple random sampling was also employed for the other set respondents. The research design was partly descriptive and explorative.

It was revealed during the analysis that, majority of the people in the Lawra district have acknowledged and recognised the fact that, their Assembly Members are doing their very best in terms of promoting development at the local level which is line with their mandated roles and



responsibilities. Some of such roles include advocating and lobbying Central government, the District Assembly and other development partners for various development interventions for their communities, mobilising and taking part in communal labour, attending social gatherings among others. The study also discovered that there are, however, certain challenges militating against the assembly members in the discharge of their mandated functions as stated in the Local Government Act (Act462, 1993). Lack of motivation, lack of adequate resources to aid the timely execution of identified projects from Central government and the district assembly among others are some of the challenges assembly members are faced with in the performance of their duties.

Based on the above, therefore, the study recommends that the necessary resources be made readily available to assembly members to facilitate them to discharge their duties diligently in an effective manner to ensure and enhance local level development.



Acknowledgements

I have in actual facts recognised and acknowledged the enormous contributions in diverse ways made by various persons to the successful completion of this piece of work. Based on the above, Therefore, I wish to express my sincere and profound gratitude and appreciation in the first place, to the Almighty God, for my life and the spiritual empowerment. Secondly, I must convey my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Dr. R.D. Boye Bandie, former Co-ordinator, Graduate School, University for Development Studies, Wa Campus, who readily accepted to supervise me as one of his numerous students. Doctor, I am most grateful to you for the splendid guidance, critical and constructive criticisms. I equally wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to the revered Chiefs, Queen mothers and the good people of the Lawra District for their wonderful support and co-operation.

I am highly indebted to the officials and staff of the Lawra District Assembly, the Hon. Assembly and Unit Committee Members for their immense contributions and assistance. I should also be thankful particularly to Dramani Jua-Mbuu File and Sabul Samuel including all my course mates for their massive intellectual support. It was really great sitting in the same lecture hall with you.

Special thanks to my mother and the entire family for their prayers, love and support. For my



dearest partner of greatness (my wife), I express to her from the very secrete chambers of my innocent and pure heart, my sincere and profound gratitude and love for her rich words of advice, valuable ideas, encouragement and above all, understanding.

This acknowledgement cannot be concluded without me expressing my sincere thanks to my academic mentor, Mr. Samuel Ziem Bonye, Vice Dean, Department of Governance and Development Management, for his magnanimous mentorship. You are indeed a major source of inspiration to me. I am most grateful and wish everyone God's blessings and guidance.



Dedication

To my lovely wife, Vida Sogonir Gum, our son; Malcolm Nuota Dery and our daughters; Monka Mookaa Dery and Myriam Mwintirfu Dery, my mother, Theresa Sangber Dery Karbo and my late father, Henry Dery Tikurah.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS-ACONYMS

LDA	Lawra District Assembly
AM	Assembly Member
EA	Electoral Area
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
DA	District Assembly
GA	General Assembly
UN	United Nations
LI	Legislative Instrument
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
LDMTDP	Lawra District Medium Term Development Plan
DAC	District Assembly Concept
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
RCC	Regional Co-ordinating Council
CBOs	Community-Based Organisations
DACF	District Assembly Common Fund
PNDC	Provisional National Defence Council
DCE	District Chief Executive
DPCU	District Planning Co-ordinating Unit
DCD	District Co-ordinating Director
DFO	District Finance Officer
DPO	District Planning Officer



DBO	District Budget Officer
UCs	Unit Committees
UNCTAD	United Nations Council ON Trade and Development
FDG	Focus Group Discussion
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences





CHAPTER ONE

1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Development is a process and not an event. It would, therefore, require that holistic and concerted efforts covering a particular time frame so that the needed development at the appropriate levels could be achieved. Development is a broad phenomenon and as such involves a lot. Development has several aspects and levels to include among others local level development. Every country aspires to develop economically, socially, politically, technologically, culturally and in every other dimension that t one think about. Ghana is no exemption.

The concept of development could be seen to imply a favourable change, a movement from worse to better (Coetzee and Graaff, 1996:139). According to Kotze (1997:1), it can be defined as a positive social, economic and political change in a country or community. It is also a process whereby the members of a society increase their potentials and institutional capacities to mobilize and manage resources to produce sustainable and justly distributed improvements in their quality of life consistent with their own aspirations (Korten and Klaus, 1984 cited in Deyana, 2006:20).

Decentralization is imbued with attributes such as effectiveness, responsiveness, accountability, efficiency, empowerment and development (Oquaye, 2004). Decentralisation is a “deliberate change in the organisation of government involving the transfer of powers, resources and functions from the centre to units of government and administrators at lower levels”. The UN (2005) definition of decentralisation emphasises grassroots mobilisation and citizen participation.



It is the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities, to integrate these communities into the life of the nation, and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress. Decentralization is a process whereby the central government transfers political, fiscal and administrative powers to lower levels in an administrative and territorial hierarchy. Decentralisation empowers people in several ways; deprived and oppressed groups (including women, peasants, caste or ethnic groups) develop a sense of agency, usefulness or efficacy; people are enabled to shape decisions affecting them by expanding their autonomy and capability.

Decentralisation through the District Assembly concept has, therefore, been adopted by many countries in Africa including Ghana as most appropriate approach to providing and achieving development, particularly local level development. The implementation and practice of decentralisation over the past decades has led to the establishment of the various Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in Ghana. These assemblies have the responsibility of promoting local level development of their various jurisdictions including economic development in Ghana.



The Lawra District Assembly (LDA) in the Upper West Region is one of the very early districts in Ghana. The Lawra District was established in 1988 by Legislative Instrument (L.I.) 1434 of 1988. Lawra, the District capital was one of the three (3) local administrative seats of the British colonial administration in the then Upper Region. The other two seats of administration were Wa and Tumu (LDMTDP, 2014-2017). The District has been divided into 29 local government electoral areas so as to facilitate that easy access to local level development. Credible men and women are elected to run the affairs of their respective electoral areas by serving as links

between communities and the district assembly secretariat and other development institutions and partners. They are elected through elections in every four years. This is to ensure effective and efficient implementation and practice of decentralisation and as well as ensuring good governance and development to the local level populace. The District Assembly system within the context of decentralisation is one of the structures in the local government system and it is made-up of various structures that collectively function as a system. District Assemblies are run by Assembly Members (AMs), DCEs and the secretariat staff. Assembly members comprise 70% elected members and 30% appointed members done by the President of Ghana. However, the focus of this study is on the elected assembly members who represent their respective electoral areas. These AMs (Elected) perform various functions and responsibilities to ensure development of their electoral areas and the district at large.

Since the inception of the District Assembly Concept (DAC), Assembly Members have performed various functions that facilitated the successful implementation of the decentralisation process in Ghana. There is participation in the governance system by the citizens from community/local level to national level through the district assembly concept in Ghana. In this process, Assembly Members act as key facilitators, agents, and advocates of development in their electoral areas and the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) in Ghana.



1.2 Statement of the Problem

Globally, it has been acknowledged that, the development of every country must be felt by all its citizens from the local level to the national level. Even though underdevelopment is serious a challenge confronting most African nations including Ghana, it is more pervasive in the rural

areas which are at the local level when compared to the cities. Most of these local level areas in Ghana appear neglected, deprived and marginalised in terms of infrastructure and basic social amenities such as potable water, health care delivery, education, electricity, etc.

Ghana for the past decades have been practicing decentralisation through the district assembly system aimed at promoting local level development. As a result, there has been the establishment of various Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies in the country (Ghana) including the Lawra District Assembly. The Lawra District Assembly comprises twenty nine (29) elected assembly members, representing twenty nine (29) designated local government electoral areas, fourteen (14) government appointees, one (1) town council and three (3) area councils. This ensures effective and efficient implementation and practice of the decentralisation system in order to deepen democracy and above all, bring development to the door steps of the local people. Men and women are elected purely on non-partisan basis to represent their respective electoral areas in the District Assembly (DA). These assembly members are mandated by the 1992 Republican Constitution of Ghana and the Local Government Act (Act 462 of 1993), to perform certain mandated functions and responsibilities geared towards promoting local level development in the communities of their respective electoral areas. In this regard, it should be the case that the role of assembly members in the assembly are assumedly known by both the electorates and the assembly members; and as such assembly members are expected to perform these mandated tasks to the expectation of the electorates by developing local communities. However, it thus appear, that very little have been achieved and the role of the assembly member in promoting local level development in the Lawra District has not been well articulated by the electorates and the general populace in that regard. It is, therefore, against this background



that, this study seeks to examine the role of the assembly member in promoting local level development in the Lawra District of the upper west Region, Ghana.

1.3 Research Questions

1.3.1 Main Research Question

The main research question of the study is: To what extent has the assembly Member of the Lawra District Assembly contributed to promoting local level development in the Lawra District?

1.3.2 Sub-Research Questions

The following constitute the sub-research questions:

1. What is the understanding of the role of the Assembly Member (AM) in promoting local level development in the Lawra District?
2. How does the Assembly Member contribute to local level development?
3. How does the Assembly Member relate with his/her constituents?
4. What are the challenges militating against the effectiveness of the assembly member in the performance of his/her functions?

1.4 Research Objectives

1.4.1 Main Research Objective

To assess the extent to which the assembly member has contributed to promoting local level development in the Lawra District.



1.4.2 Sub-Research Objectives

The following also constituted the sub-research objectives which this piece of work sought to address;

1. To assess the understanding of the role of the Assembly Member (AM) in promoting local level development.
2. To assess how the assembly member contributes to local level development.
3. To assess how the assembly Member relates with his/her constituents/ electorate.
4. To explore and identify the challenges militating against the effectiveness of the assembly member in the performance of his/her functions at the local level.

1.5 Relevance of the Study

Structures of Ghana's Local government and the Decentralisation system has been in existence and practice for over two decades primarily to address developmental challenges and drawbacks at the local level in order to provide the needed development with the Assembly Member as a key agent and a facilitator. This study is relevant in the sense that, the ambiguities surrounding the extent to which the Assembly Member has contributed toward the promotion of local level development would be revealed by the findings of this study.

The findings of this study should obviously reveal how the AM has contributed to promoting local level development, how he relates with the electorates and what has been



achieved so far, the challenges and the way forward in order that much more successes could be achieved to improve the living conditions of the local level populace.

These findings will be very useful to the relevant institutions and authorities concerned in that, it would inform them adequately and draw their attention to the extent of which the AM has contributed to promoting local level development. It would also go a long way to prompt them as to what policy decisions to arrive at and implement successfully for the overall development of the local level. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD), the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), the Lawra District Assembly (LDA), District Assemblies (DAs) within the same fraternity, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), among others are such institutions and authorities.

Findings of this research work will also contribute tremendously to the existing world of knowledge, as well as serve as useful literature to potential researchers in the academia in a related field of study.

1.6 Scope of the study

The study will focus contextually on exploring and assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the role of the Assembly Member of the LDA in promoting local level development. The



understanding of the role of the AM, his/her relationship with the electorates and the challenges militating against the AM in the discharge of his/her responsibilities would be covered so that the appropriate recommendations can be made to address such challenges.

Geographically, the study's focus will rest on only the Lawra District (LD) located in the Upper West Region of Ghana. This is because; the Lawra District is one of the Local Government Structures which has been in operation over the past two decades with elected DA members performing their mandated roles.

1.7 Organisation of the Study

This paper is organised into five chapters. Chapter one constitutes the introductory overview of the entire research work. This includes background to the study, statement of the problem, research questions, and research objectives, relevance of the study, scope of the study and organisation of the paper. Chapter Two entails the research methodology and this includes a description of the study area, research design, sampling procedure, sample size, sources of data, methods of data collection, data analysis and presentation. Chapter three reviews relevant academic literature related to the study. The conceptual framework and issues bordering on development, decentralisation, local government structure and its sub-units among others have been discussed. Analysis and discussions of the results of the study is the focus of Chapter four. Finally, Chapter Five contains the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study.



CHAPTER TWO

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews relevant academic literature related to the phenomenon under study. In this chapter, significant efforts were made by seeking an understanding of the concept of decentralisation and the contribution of the assembly member in promoting local level development. The areas of keen interest involves; the concept of decentralisation, forms of decentralisation, local government system of Ghana, the structure of Ghana's local government system, the concept of the district assembly system, the legal framework, the roles and functions of the assembly member at the local level, functions of unit committee members at the local level, development, local level development, and the conceptual framework.

2.2 Decentralisation

Decentralisation according to Rondinelli & Cheema, (1983), refers to the 'transfer of authority to plan, make decisions and manage public functions from a higher level of government to any individual, organisation or agency at a lower level' (Rondinelli, 1981: 137)



The concept of decentralisation is premised on the fact that the task in development should be a sole duty of central government but through community mobilisation. It is also premised on the fact that locally felt needs can properly be identified only by local communities; and effectively plan the realisation of such needs. There is also the view that centrally formulated development schemes face risk of failure of execution and realisation or rejection at the local levels if the communities are not involved in the planning process.

Rondinelli et al (1983) defined decentralisation as the transfer of responsibility for planning, management, resource raising and allocation from the central government and its agencies to field units of central government ministries or agencies, subordinate units or levels of government, semi-autonomous public authorities or corporations, area-wide regional or functional authorities or non-governmental private or voluntary organisation. Smith (1985:1) also sees “decentralisation as the delegation of power to lower levels in a territorial hierarchy, whether the hierarchy is one of governments within a state or offices within a large-scale organisation”. Smith’s (1985) view does not recognise ‘functionally-based delegation’ (re-delegating an authority within a particular function), a conception that might not find favour with Rondinelli (1981).

Thus decentralization provides avenues for citizens to be involved in various aspects of governments’ agenda-setting and planning processes (Oquaye, 1995). In so doing, it generates the spaces for mobilizing grassroots efforts for development, decision-making, and for advancing citizens’ communal determinations to improve the well-being of their immediate environments. Decentralization also connotes the application of democratic principles and popular participation, responsiveness, equity, and accountability which are needed to enhance the voice and sense of ownership of government programs and policies among the citizenry (Agyemang, 2010; Sana, 2011). The case has been made that the degree to which local actors and intended beneficiaries of development programs are willing to engage in the decision processes, is a key determinant of the relevance of decentralization (Asante, 2000; Sana, 2011). The common principle of decentralisation is that; power is given to a local body to carry out functions within the locality.

Decentralisation ensures the maximum participation of the local people in the development process as it is supported by the statement that development is for the people, by the people and



with the people and therefore people are in the centre of any development project (Conyers & Hills, 1984). Even though Ghana has always practiced decentralization since independence, and the approaches until 1988, have largely been regional devolution and district focused public administration (Agyemang, 2010). The adoption and implementation of decentralization policy in Ghana moved governance away from centrally planned approaches to consultative processes at the local level.

This process was further strengthened by the coming to force of the Fourth Republican Constitution in 1992, and other institutional structures like the Local Government Act of 1993 (Act 462), the Civil Service Law of 1993, the National Development Commission Act of 1994 (Act 480), the National Development Planning Systems Act of 1994 (Act 482), and the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) Act of 1993 (Agyemang, 2010; Mpare, 2007). Key objectives of decentralization include creating efficient political, planning, and administrative institutions at the local level, especially, to boost the involvement of the grassroots, while facilitating the mobilization of support and resources for district development efforts (Abotchie, 2000).

2.3 Forms of decentralisation

For the purpose of this study, three popular typologies of decentralisation namely; deconcentration, delegation and devolution are identified.

Deconcentration is a form of decentralisation that involves only a minimum power transfer. It involves the shifting of workload from a central government ministry to its field staff without transferring corresponding authority to make decision on the spot (Asibuo, 1992). It is a redistribution of routine administrative functions between offices dependent on the central



government (Alfonso, 2001). It refers to the dispersion of activities, previously carried out by the central government, to local bodies, while the centre retains control over decision-making so that local officials remain accountable to the central administration. As a result, local authorities are able to make very few decisions without referring to the centre. The centre retains basic decision making powers in this limited horizontal distribution of functions.

According to Olowu (1988), the primary objective of deconcentration is the efficiency and effectiveness of the central administrative system, whereas the primary consideration of devolution is political-popular participation and empowerment. Deconcentration (or administrative decentralization) is said to occur when powers are devolved to appointees of the central government in the local arena.

Delegation refers to the transfer of decision-making authority from the central administration to local authorities for pre-defined activities. It usually involves the distribution of fiscal resources to the local level, accompanied by specific instructions about their allocation. Since the central administration retains the power of re-allocating resources, this form of decentralisation has some of the characteristics of a principal agent relationship, with the central government as the principal and the local governments as the agents. None of the units to which powers are either 'deconcentrated' or 'delegated' are elected institutions. They also do not have powers to reformulate policies that affect their status or position within the broader decision-making structure, and can only take decisions on subjects transferred to them.

Devolution refers to the transfer of significant fiscal and allocative decisions to local authorities who gain full responsibility for them, with no interference from the central administration (Mawhood, 1983; Olowu, 1988; Anderson, 1995). This type of decentralisation is qualitatively



different from the previous two because local authorities gain virtually complete control over resource allocation and generally become accountable to local constituencies which should increase decision-making responsiveness to local needs. Devolving powers to lower levels involves the creation of a realm of decision-making in which a variety of lower-level actors can exercise a certain degree of autonomy (Smoke, 1993).

Aside these three types, the World Bank (1999) identifies the fourth form of decentralisation as privatisation or deregulation. Privatisation or deregulation involves the transfer of responsibility to Non-Governmental Organisation in the private sector. It is important to stress on the fact that, in practice, decentralisation varies from country to country and that the practice of decentralisation has been a mix of the various types identified above.

The ability of local authorities and governments to make and implement decisions is the key feature of any effective decentralisation. This ability, which defines the responsiveness of local authorities, requires discretionary powers. Accountability or sanction beckons leaders to respond; responsiveness is a function of discretionary powers (Ribot, 2004). Decentralisation provides the opportunity for local populations to maintain and protect local resources as well as increase public-sector accountability and effectiveness in governance (Fox & Agranda, 1996; World Bank, 1997).

According to Conyers (2000:9), most decentralisation efforts have both explicit and implicit objectives. Those objectives likely to appeal to the general public, such as local empowerment and administrative efficiency, are generally explicitly stated, while less popular ones, such as increasing central control and passing the buck, are unlikely to be voiced.



2.4 Local Government System of Ghana

Local government in Ghana dates back to the pre-independence era through what was known as Indirect Rule, which centred on native authorities made up of Traditional Chiefs or local royalty (Ayee, 1999). Although both the pre and post-independence (1957) periods have witnessed several local governments, legal and constitutional amendments, the most significant was the 1988 Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC) Local Government Law 207, Legislative Instrument 1589. This was the landmark legislation that provided the legal framework for the beginning of Ghana's decentralised local government system. In the current Constitution (1992), the PNDC Law 207 has been strengthened as entrenched in Chapter 20, while Article 240 specifically provides the broad framework for Ghana's decentralisation. In the last decade, the passages of other relevant laws have also augmented Article 240.

Ghana's local government structure consists of Regional Coordinating Councils and a four-tier and three-tier Municipal/District Assembly system (see Figure 1.2). Within the structure, District/Municipal Assemblies (DAs) appear to be the most 'influential' as they are entrusted with wide political and administrative authority at the local level (Gyimah-Boadi 2009). For example, Section 10 (5) of the Local Government Act 462 (1993) stipulates that all programs and projects, including those approved under the District Development Plan and other development programs by Government Ministries and Departments and non-governmental organisations, are supposed to be coordinated and executed by/or under the supervision of the DAs. They also have responsibility for sole control over certain public services; and prerogative to make decisions regarding some executive and policy issues (Tettey 2006; Gyimah-Boadi 2009; Ofei- Aboagye 2009; Ahwoi 2010). Despite these powers, it is argued that, DAs seem to be controlled and used for various political manoeuvrings by the central government (Antwi-Boasiako 2010).



Even though the Constitution (Article 248 (2)) requires that DAs to be non-partisan, the system is highly politicised (Tettey 2006; Gyimah-Boadi 2009) which partly attributed to how Ghana's local government structure was modelled; where a 'partisan central government superimposes on a non-partisan local government system' (Ahwoi, 2010, p. 62). It is also attributed to the fact that Article 243 (2) of the constitution allows the President to appoint District Chief Executives (DCEs) rather than being elected (Tettey 2006; Antwi-Boasiako 2010).

It has been suggested that, DCEs should be elected through popular votes rather appointment by the President. In the view of the pro-amendment scholars (see Tettey 2006; Gyimah-Boadi 2009; Antwi-Boasiako 2010), this will make DCEs accountable and loyal to the local people. However, Ahwoi (2010) disagrees and argues that if DCEs were elected, the entire local government structure would be politicised, as political party cronies with little or no administrative experience would be voted to manage the system. While the Constitutional Review Commission has recommended election of DCEs, it is yet to be implemented.

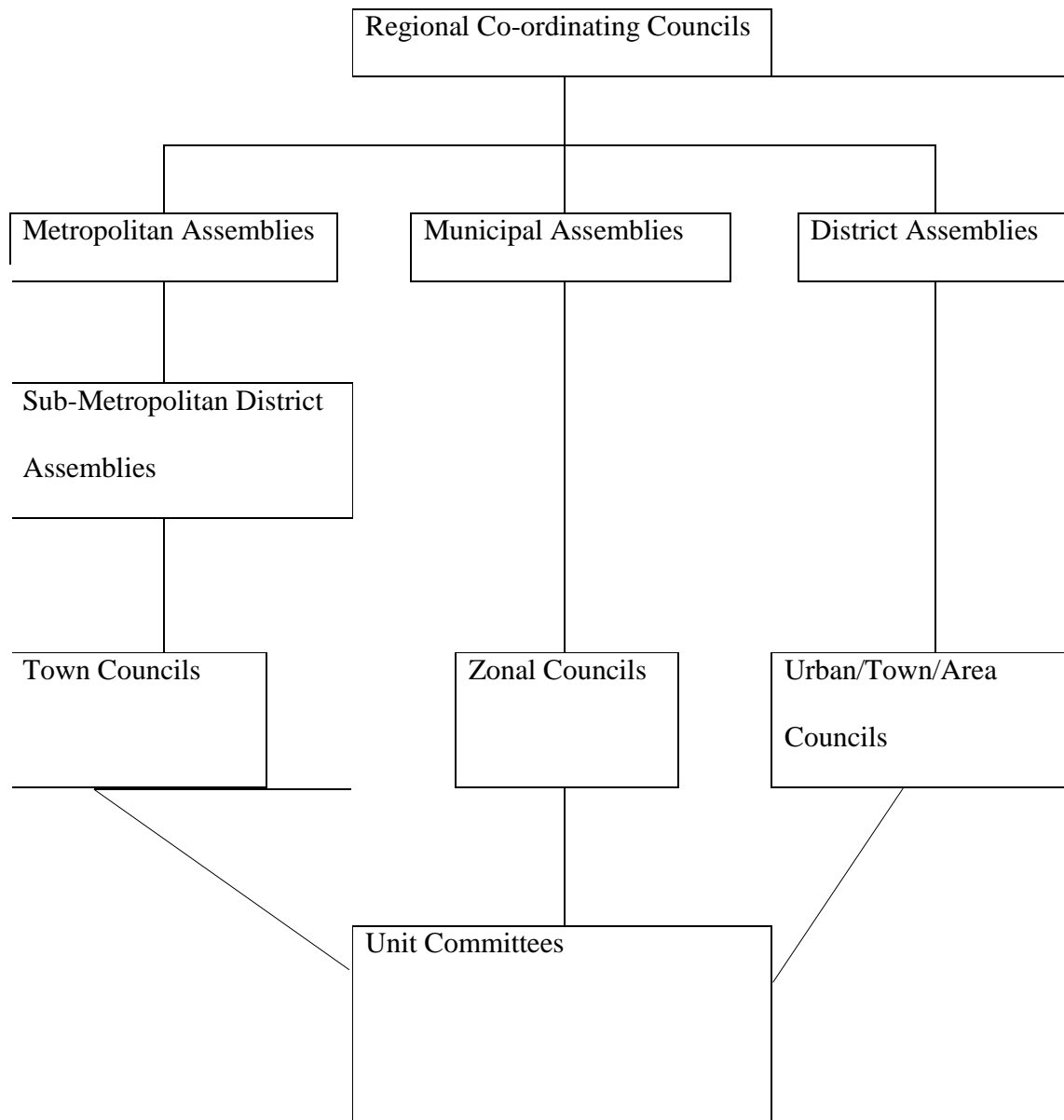
2.5 The Structure of Ghana's Local Government System

The presidency, cabinet and civil service are at the centre and connected to the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies through the ten (10) Regional Co-ordinating Councils.

Beneath the level of the Metropolitan Assemblies are the Sub-Metropolitan District Councils as well as the Town Councils. Under the Municipal and District Assemblies are the Zonal Councils and Urban/Town/Area Councils respectively. The very lowest level to the bottom is the Unit Committees which represent the last stage in the structure. It is generally called a four-tier system, even though that depends on the way you look at it. This is illustrated below



Figure 2.1: Local Government Structure of Ghana



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Source: Adopted from Local Government Act, 462, 1993

2.6 Regional Coordinating Council

The membership of the Regional Coordinating Councils vary from region to region owing to the differences in population, number of district assemblies, size of region among other factors even though Amanfo (2003:35) suggests that it is between 17 and 45 members. The Regional Minister

is the chairman of the council as legally required, the deputy Regional Minister is an ex-officio member, a career civil servant who is the Regional Administrative Officer (appointed), all Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives, all Presiding Members and finally, all Members of Parliament who are ex-officio members (1992 Constitution of Ghana: 141-142). Ex-Officio members only participate in deliberations but do not have the right to vote on matters that have to be voted for by the members because of controversies or lack of consensus.

2.7 Concept of the District Assemblies System

District Assemblies are the nerve centre of decentralization in Ghana. Not only are they planning authorities, they also exercise legislative and deliberative powers as conferred on them by the Local Government Act (Act 462 (1993)). Each district assembly comprises the District Chief Executive (DCE), two-third (70%) of the members directly elected by the universal adult population in the district on a non-partisan basis, and one-third (30%) of the members appointed by the president in consultation with the traditional councils and other interest groups in the district. DCEs are nominated by the president and approved by two-third members of the assembly present and voting. Presiding members are also elected from among members of the General Assembly by two-third of the assembly members. The Act spells out four major roles for the district assemblies as indicated below:



Planning: Act 480 of the 1992 constitution offers the legal basis for every DA to develop a focus plan that outlines strategic approaches to meet the development needs of the entire district. The District Planning Coordinating Unit (DPCU) is tasked to plan and implement the assembly's plans within the framework of the national development plan. Planning is done at all levels of the district assembly; starting with community involvement at the grass root level where individuals

make contributions through assembly members and sub-district structures. These initiatives are harnessed into the district plan which is directed into the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC).

Thus, the DPCU coordinates the development planning activities of all sectorial departments including the various units of the assembly itself. It is also tasked with the responsibility of formulating and updating the components of the District Development Plan. DPCU is the nerve center of all development planning (see Yankson, 2000).

Organizing: The district Assembly is responsible for organizing both human and material resources in the district. In the DAs, organizing involves the use of channels which require grass root involvement in setting priorities, and establishing development plans. In the end these plans are passed upward and integrated in the regional and national development plans. Thus, at all these levels, individuals and departments are engaged in evaluating the current stage of development, examining prospective development, making strategic choices, allocating resources, and providing the basis for monitoring future performance. However, national authorities sometimes interrupt by using top-down approach to select priorities for DAs and determine what should be done at the local level.



Coordinating: DAs are also charged with the responsibility of coordinating the efforts of the appropriate service institutions and organizations. These often involve identifying opportunities for cooperation and collaboration among actors within DA itself as well as important institutions outside it. In line with this, the DAs coordinate the process of planning, budgeting, financing and implementation of all its development programmes by monitoring all activities that have to be executed to ensure that different units work correctly and smoothly to achieve the organizational

goals. However, the thrust of this responsibility lies on the DCE and District Coordinating Director (DCD).

Allocating Resources: Linked to planning and coordination is the issue of allocating of resources from both government and non-governmental sources. In the current DA system, the power to allocate resource is vested in the grass root to ensure equity and accountability. Funds from the central government for example may be categorized while those from non-governmental sources may not be categorized. Take for instance, a development project to be implemented by the DA in which the central government is involved; in this project, the central government might have detailed the funding and even established performance standards. Therefore the DA upon its understanding of the district only has to transfer the whole package to sub-district structures of the target community for implementation. DAs still lack the exercise of autonomy in the sighting of the project and this provides little opportunity for local autonomy in the way funds are spent. In most cases, funds sent down to the DAs from central governments are tied and this means that, the system has not worked well in the transfer of resources to the localities. Even the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) that is given to the DAs is also tied and does not give autonomy to the assemblies to spend.



2.8 Constitutional Provisions

The objective of decentralisation was laid out unambiguously in Chapter 20 of the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, entitled 'Decentralisation and Local Government'.

This states emphatically that:

“Local government and administration ... shall ... be decentralized” (Article 240[1]), and that the “functions, powers, responsibilities and resources should be transferred from the Central Government to local government units” (Article 240[2]).

The DCE is the political head of the local executive, centrally involved in decision-making, with a District Co-ordinating Director (DCD) as the highest ranking civil servant.

As regards the financing of local government, the Constitution makes clear that the DAs “should have sound financial bases with adequate and reliable sources of revenue” [Article 240(2)], with an attempt to secure this through the establishment of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF). This is determined annually by Parliament, but with allocations “not less than five per cent of the total revenues of Ghana” [Article 252(2)]. This has since been reviewed to 7.5% of the total tax revenue of the State.

2.9 The Roles and Functions of Assembly Members (AMs)

Assembly Members are very important functionaries in the District Assembly. Most decisions made in the District Assembly are subject to the approval of the Assembly Members at the General Assembly. Assembly Members are the agents responsible for the articulation and realisation of the aspirations of the people. The composition of the Assembly Members is in two categories, namely, the 70% elected and 30% appointed. This group of people performs the legislative function of the Assembly, which is headed by the Presiding Member, as well as deliberative and executive functions.

As the representatives of the people at the District Assembly, Assembly Members have some responsibilities to perform for the development of their communities and the District Assembly. Assembly Members owe it a duty to report regularly to their electorates on national policies.



They are also required to present the interests of the people to the District Assembly and also advocate for development.

2.9.1 To the District Assembly

Assembly Members are obliged to actively participate in the deliberations on matters of the District Assembly. They are to participate in the election of the Presiding Member and the approval or rejection of the District Chief Executive. Other duties of Assembly Members to the progress of the Assembly business include:

- Attending General Assembly and sub-committee meetings to examine general financial position of the Assembly and proposals as well as identify infrastructural and developmental needs of the communities. Every Assembly Member is expected to serve on at least one committee in the Assembly,
- Participating in the work of the sub-committees of the Executive Committee, such as engaging in discourses and voting,
- Performing supervisory, advisory roles as well as informing Unit Committees on government policies and the decisions of the District Assembly,
- Collecting and collating views, opinions and proposals on matters affecting the district and present the issues to the District Assembly for appropriate actions,
- Contributing skills to the Assembly's work by putting at the disposal of the Assembly their skills, expertise, experience, competencies and knowledge that will facilitate the progress and development of the district,
- Proposing a motion for discussion at the Assembly.



2.9.2 To the Community

Most Assembly Members in the District Assembly are representatives of electoral areas without political party affiliation. Assembly Members are mandated to interact with their constituents at regular intervals. The roles and functions of the Assembly Member prescribed by Act 462 (1993) include the following:

- Assembly Members educate the communities on government policies and programmes and projects of the District Assembly
- They lobby the District Assembly on behalf of their communities and articulate the needs of their communities to the assembly
- They provide adequate information about their electoral areas to the assembly and other development partners
- They maintain close contact with their electoral areas and consult the people on issues to be discussed in the District Assembly and collect and collate views, opinion and proposals on matters affecting the district
- They report on the proceedings and general decisions of the Assembly and their Executive Committees and the actions they have taken to solve problems raised by residents of the electoral area
- They initiate and take part in communal and development activities in their communities.
- They liaise with public and private institutions and Non-governmental Organisations to attract resources and assistance to their electoral areas
- They assist in monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects in their communities.



2.10 Unit Committees and Decentralization

The sub-district and administrative structures such as Area Councils and UCs are established by law as the lower tiers of administrative and political decision-making in the districts. They provide a vital link between the DAs and the local institutions and resources. The area councils represent a number of community groups whose individual populations are less than 5,000. In terms of the general membership of these Unit Committees, five (5) members resident in the community and other ten (10) elected members form the membership of the Unit Committee (Amanfo, 2003:43). In other words, the membership of the Unit Committees should not exceed fifteen (15) members. They serve as a very important liaison between the communities and the DAs. The functions of the unit committees are specifically set out in the Legislative Instrument (L.I. 1726, 2003). The functions include:

- Supervision of staff of the DA assigned duties in its area of authority;
- Assisting to enumerate and keep records of all persons and properties;
- Mobilization of members of the unit for implementation of self-help development projects;
- Monitoring the implementation of self-help development projects;
- Taking lawful steps to abate nuisance;
- Provisions of local focal point for the discussion of local problems and remedial action where necessary or making recommendations to the DA;
- Making specific proposals to the DA for levying and collection of rates for programmes and projects;
- Taking responsibility under the guidance of the registrar of births and deaths, for the registration of births and deaths in the unit;



- Organization of communal labour and voluntary work especially with respect to sanitation.

2.11 Development

Therefore in this study, the concept of development shall be seen as a process which tends to improve the quality of life of all members of society in that they attain more complete satisfaction of their collective basic necessities.

According to Curry (1973:12)“development is the process of change through which a society evolves the values, political leadership and other forms of social organisation necessary to mobilise and utilise resources in such a way as to maximise the opportunity available to the majority of its members for the realisation to the fullest possible extent of their potential as human beings”.

2.12 Local Level Development

The conception of what is local usually depends on the degree of what is directly shared among the inhabitants and which directly concerns or affects a specific area rather than a region or nation as a whole.

Uphoff (1986:10-12) has identified ten levels of decision making activities ranging from international level to the level of individual level decision makers. Within this range, Uphoff distinguishes three different local levels which are nested within one another. These local levels are: locality level, community level and group level. With this differentiation, attempts have been made at explaining what the term local connotes. Uphoff (1992: 15) sees the term as referring to “a geographical area composed of a group of local government authorities that generally share an



economic base and are close together enough to allow residents to commutes between them for employment, recreational and retail shopping.”

In Ghana, Kokor (2001) identifies ‘local level’ as the District (group of communities), Area Councils, and Urban, Town, Zonal and Unit Committees as under the Ghana’s New Local Government System. In the context of this study, local level refers to the area from district (local government) level down to the individual household level. Hence, local level development refers to the development taking place from the local government level down to individual households where group or collective action is intensified with common identity; and sense of ownership and oneness (Kokor, 2001). For instance, a feeder road, which connects communities to the district headquarters, is of local concern because it affects the accessibility of those communities to the rest of the district and generates a feeling of ownership and affection from within the locality.

Local level development also means the process of change that enables people in a particular locality to take charge of their own destinies so as to realise their full potential. This form of development requires the use of social, economic, technological and institutional process to build in the people the confidence, skills, assets and freedom necessary to achieve their development aspirations. This is considered as development from below, attained principally through the efforts of the people themselves and not as a result of goodwill gestures of those who have excessive monopoly of decision making powers and resources. This is the basis of community involvement and it is human centered, coming from within, rather than imposed from outside



CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND STUDY AREA

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the study area and also describes the methodology adopted for the study in terms of the research design, sampling procedure, sample size, sources of data, and methods of data collection, data analysis and presentation.

3.2 The Study Area

The Lawra District is one of the eleven (11) Districts that make up the Upper West Region. The District was one of three local administrative seats of the British colonial administration in the then Upper Region. The Lawra District was created in 1988 with the coming into being of Legislative Instrument (L.I.) 1434 of 1988. It lies in the north-western corner of the Upper West Region of Ghana. It is bounded to the North by the newly created Nandom District, to the East and South by Jirapa District and to the West by the Republic of Burkina Faso. The total area of the District is put at 1,051.2 square km. This constitutes about 5.7% of the Region's total land area, which is estimated at 18,476 square km. The distance from Lawra, the district capital to Wa, the regional capital is about 57km. The District is estimated to have 157 communities with 95% of the inhabitants in the rural areas. The population density is about 89 per square kilometer, making it the most densely populated District in the region.

3.2.1 Traditional Political Organisation

The traditional political system in the Lawra District is made up of the Paramount Chief of the Lawra traditional area and the President of the Traditional Council. The Lawra Naa who is as



well the overlord and the only paramount chief has under his jurisdiction 5 divisional chiefs and other sub-chiefs who report to him. There are also 5 women chiefs known as Pog Namine (Queen Mothers). The Lawra Pog Naa is the paramount Queen Mother and for that matter the highest to whom the divisional and sub-pog Namine report to. It was only until recently, however, that the then women leaders known as Magazians have been formally recognised and given the official name title as Queen mother within the chieftaincy fraternity. The line of succession to becoming the paramount chief is clearly defined and is confined to indigenes of Lawra and particularly to the Karbo family. Lines of successions in the divisions and communities are equally clearly defined and this has minimised chieftaincy disputes in the Lawra District. Basically, one must be a Dagara and a legitimate member of the royal family in order to qualify to become a chief. Other minority settlers such as the Moshies, Wangaras, Walas, Ewes and the Akans have their chiefs presiding over the affairs within their jurisdictions. They, however, pay allegiance to the Paramount Chief and his sub-chiefs in their respective communities. In terms of ethnic groupings, the Dagara forms the major ethnic group in the district. The Dagara people are the Landlords owing to the fact that they were the first people to have arrived and settled in the area before the other smaller ethnic groups. The Dagara are the land owners and there has never been any form of controversy whatsoever over that unique traditional fact.



Kobine festival is the recognised traditional and official festive occasion which is celebrated annually after every cropping season by the people of the Lawra Traditional Area to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to the gods and ancestors for a bumper harvest and good health and to as well ask for protection, guidance and blessings in the subsequent years. Peasant farming traditionally is the major preoccupation and source of livelihood for the people of the Lawra

District. In times of grief such as a funeral, it is very common to see members of the entire community coming together without hesitation and delay to show that concern, solidarity and above all love to the affected family so that the deceased is given a befitting funeral celebration.

3.3 METHODOLOGY

3.3.1 Research Design

According to Neuman (2000:18), a research design is a plan that will be applied during the investigation in order to answer the research questions and aims at trying to ensure that the answers to questions are accurate. This study adopted the descriptive survey design which allows soliciting information through questioning of individuals from a selected group (sample) or a cross-section of the target population for their responses. The study also combines qualitative and quantitative approaches.

3.3.2 Sampling Procedure

According to Asamoah (2012), sampling is the process by which we select a sample from the population with which to carry out a study. It could also be described as the process of selecting a portion of the population with the intent that, that portion (the sample) accurately represents that population with which we conduct a study.

The study employed both probability and non-probability sampling techniques such as simple random sampling and purposive sampling respectively to select respondents. Probability sampling is essential because it allows for the generalisation of the research findings among the entire universe. On the other hand, purposive sampling allows the picking of interview objects that fit the focus of the study based on the judgement of the investigator (Osuala, 2001; Sarantakos, 2005).



Purposive sampling technique was used in selecting the District Chief Executive, Presiding Member, District Coordinating Director, District Planning Officer, three (3) secretaries to the Town and Area Councils, the Paramount Chief of Lawra Traditional Area and two (2) Divisional Chiefs, three (3) Queen Mothers, two (2) Unit Committee chairpersons for in-depth interviews. Simple random sampling was also used to select 124 respondents from the 29 electoral areas in the Lawra District for the survey. Respondents included the 26 elected assembly members and excluded the three members who died before this study.

3.3.3 Sample size

The study surveyed opinions from 124 respondents using questionnaires, 20 in-depth interviews with key informants and five focus group discussions were also held. The 124 respondents were randomly selected from the 29 electoral areas with four respondents from each electoral area. Four elected assembly members and four appointed assembly members were also randomly selected and questionnaires administered to them. Three assembly members were deceased at the time of the study and were not included in the sample population. Also, respondents for in-depth interviews and focus group discussions were purposively selected. Respondents were selected based on their in-depth knowledge and experience on the subject matter of the study.

3.3.4 Sources of data

Data was drawn from both primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected through interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation. On the other hand, secondary sources of data included minutes of assembly sessions, MTDP of the LDA, Composite budget of the LDA, books, journals, articles, and the internet.



3.3.5 Methods of Data Collection

Three notable methods, namely, Interview, Focus Group Discussions and Non-Participant Observation were adopted for data collection.

Interviews: In conducting the interviews, structured questionnaires were designed and administered to 124 respondents for their responses. In-depth interviews with some key informants such as District Chief Executive, the Presiding Member, the Paramount Chief, Divisional Chiefs, Queen mothers, District Coordinating Director, Unit Committee chairpersons, secretaries of Town and Area Councils were conducted using interview guide. The researcher had face-to-face interactions with respondents. Tape recordings were made during the interviews upon the permission of interviewees.

Focus Group Discussions: Participants for the focus group discussion were purposively selected based on their level of knowledge, expertise, and experience on the subject matter of the study. Five (5) Focus group discussions were held separately with unit committee members, women groups, youth groups, and men groups. Membership of groups ranged 8 to 12 participants (see Patton, 1990) and discussions were moderated by the researcher using a checklist. Participants were given equal chance to contribute and discussions were controlled by the researcher who prevents “one-man show” by some discussants. Tape recordings were made upon the consent of participants.

Non-Participant observation: The researcher also adopted non-participant observation by observing communal labour activities in Lawra and Yikpe communities. Other issues of interest were also observed in some other communities using observation checklist.



3.3.6 Data analysis

The data gathered on the field was edited and coded to ensure that all interviews and focus group discussions were completed and transcribed accordingly. The questionnaires were serially numbered based on the respondents and the communities they represented. The responses from the survey were analysed under themes using Microsoft Excel and presented in the form of tables, charts and bar graphs. The results from in-depth or key informant interviews and focus group discussions were presented through transcription, direct quoting and paraphrasing.



CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

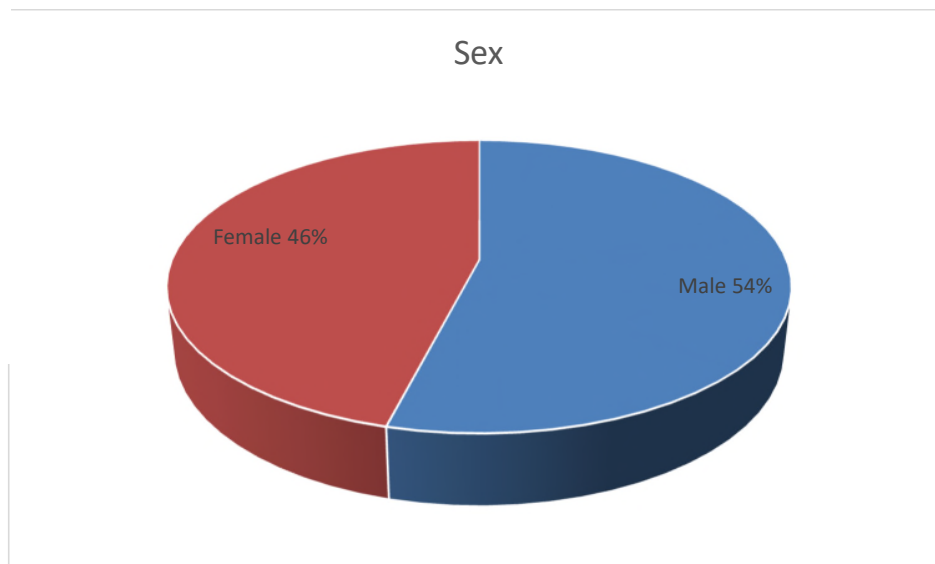
4.1 Introduction

This section of the paper presents the analysis of the data and discussions of the findings of the study. The analysis and discussion have been presented under their respective themes as follows:

4.2 Demographic characteristics

The sex composition of respondents is illustrated in the pie chart (Figure 4.1) below. It shows that majority of the respondents were males (67) representing 54% whiles 57 representing 46% were females. The dominance of male respondents is a clear manifestation of preference for male leaders (assembly members) in the Lawra district and as such local level development is mostly thought as responsibility of male leaders.

Figure 4.1: Sex Distribution of Respondent



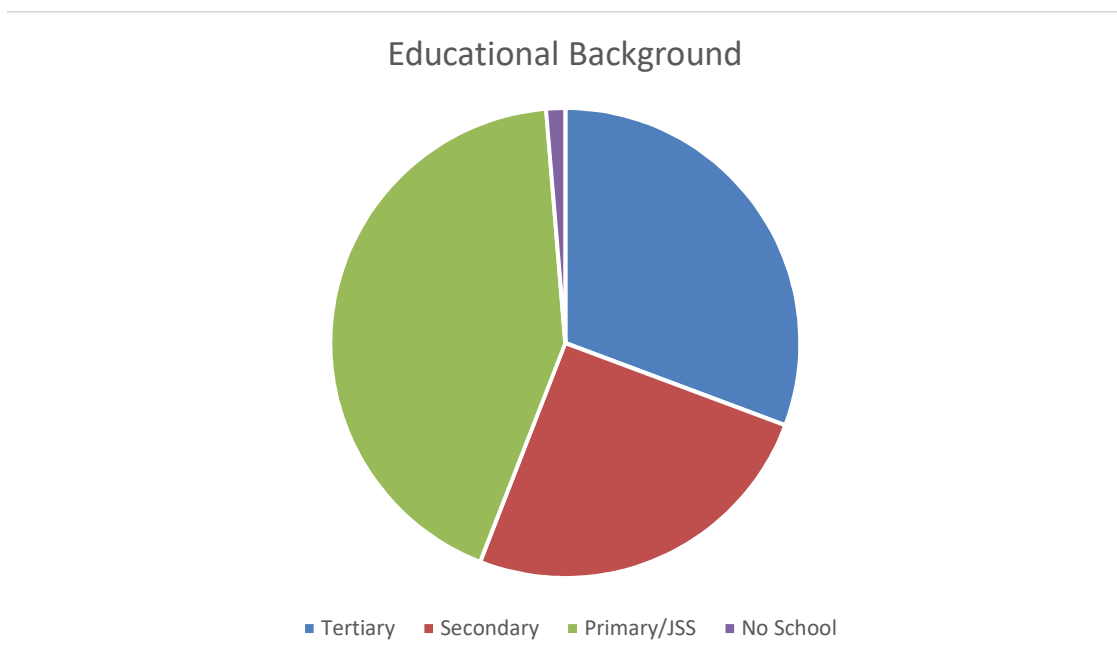
Source: Field Data, 2017



4.3 Educational Background of Respondents

In terms of the educational level of respondents, 35 respondents representing 28% had tertiary education, 29 respondents (23%) had secondary education, 39% representing 48 respondents had basic education while 12 respondents representing 10% did not have any formal education. This is shown in the figure (Figure 4.2) below. Low level of education of respondents reflected in their responses and understanding in relation to the mandated roles of assembly members as contained in the Local Government Act (Act 462).

Figure 4.2: Educational Background of Respondents



Source: Field Data, 2017

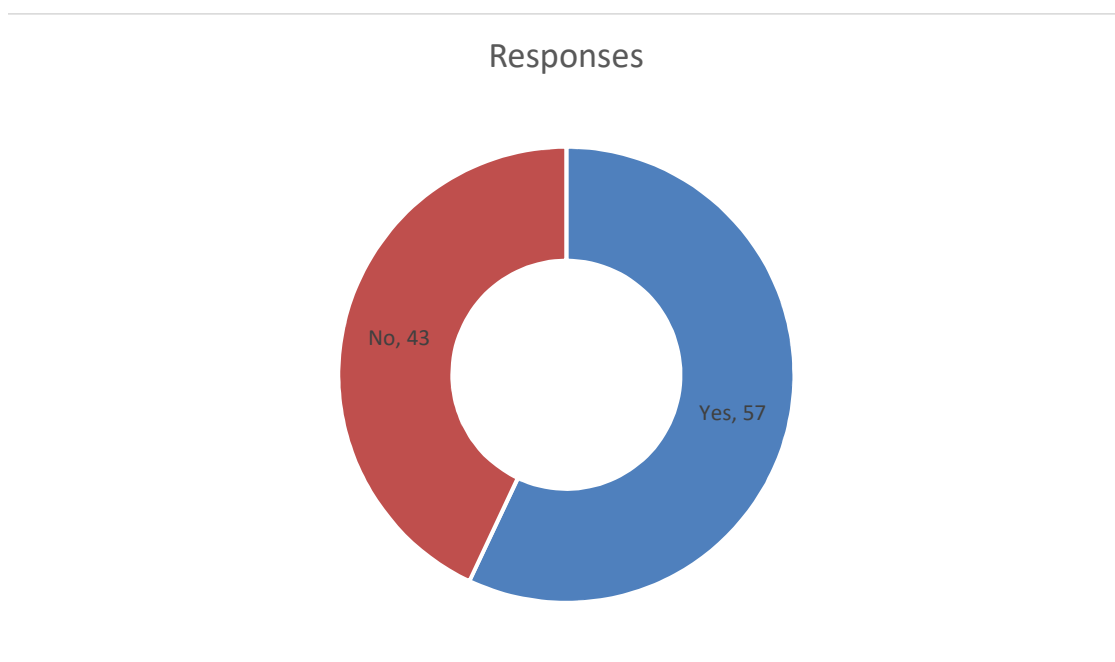
4.4 Roles of Assembly Members in promoting local level development

Every assembly is known to play important roles towards the development of the communities in his/her electoral area as specified in Local Government Act (Act, 462). It is however important



to note that not everybody knows the roles that assembly members are supposed to play. According to the survey conducted, 57% of the respondents said they knew the specific roles of assembly members while 43% did not know the role the specific roles of their assembly members. The pie chart below is an illustration.

Figure 4.3: Understanding of the role of Assembly Members by respondents



Source: Field Data, 2017



Not all the opinions or views of the electorates on the role of the assembly member however be viewed beyond what is stated in Act 462. The results from in-depth and focus group discussions reveal more roles for elected assembly members. Assembly members are seen as agents responsible for lobbying for development initiatives for communities in their electoral areas. A Queen Mother noted this during an in-depth interview session:

“The assembly man is our messenger to the district assembly to beg (lobby) for roads, bore-holes, hospitals (health facilities), schools, dams and electricity for us. He is the one we send to the DCE and the MP because we cannot all get up and go to the DCE or MP and say we want school, hospital, markets and other development needs” (Queen Mother, In-depth Interview, 2017, Lawra).

The above submission corroborates the role of assembly members as lobbyists in Act 462 on behalf of their people for development. It also suggests that many people especially opinion leaders have good understanding of the role of assembly members regarding the provision of development initiatives to communities. They also expect therefore that feedback should be given them concerning the efforts made towards getting a particular need.

During focus group discussions, the following came up as roles that communities expect their assembly members to play:

- Monitoring of all assembly projects within the electoral areas
- Leading and facilitating the planning and preparation of community and electoral area plans
- Helping poor parents in paying school fees, medical bills, and others
- Helping to resolve minor disputes among communities and individuals
- Mobilising communal labour through the collaboration of unit committee members and traditional leaders (Chiefs and Queen mother’s)
- Educating the electorates on activities and policies of assembly and/or government

These corroborated the views of key informants during in-depth interviews. The Paramount Chief noted this during an interaction with him in his palace;



“Coming from a background as a planner, the role of every assembly member includes planning with his/her electorates in a participatory manner towards identifying the basic development needs of every community in the electoral area. Let me emphasise on community participation... the active involvement of the people will lead to what exactly the community members want and not what other people think they need. The assembly members are expected to lead and facilitate these through community fora which will be compiled as a plan for at least the next 3-4 years for every community. These community plans can be consolidated to be the medium term plan for the Electoral Area and also further harmonised as a medium-term plan for their respective Town and Area Councils. We expect to see these done by our honourable assembly members” (Paramount Chief of Lawra Traditional Area, In-depth interview, 2017, Lawra).

The above submission by the paramount chief is in conformity with Abotchie (2000), Conyers and Hills (1984), Agyemang (2010), Sana (2011) and Ahwoi (2010) who noted that the essence of decentralisation (district assembly system) was to ensure active popular participation of grassroot people on governance. Rondinelli (1981) also added that locally felt needs can be properly identified only by local communities and effectively plan the realisation of such needs.

This agrees with the above submission by the Paramount Chief.

Assembly members also play a key role in revenue mobilisation in their respective electoral areas in the Lawra District. Results from in-depth interviews with secretaries of the Lawra Town and the Area Councils indicate that assembly members have been very helpful in mobilising revenue for their respective Town and Area Councils and consequently improving the Internally-generated Funds (IGF) of the Lawra District Assembly. It was common among all the secretaries



interviewed that they as well as the revenue collectors enjoy cooperation from community members especially market men and women, and other business people during collection of market tolls, cattle rates, etc.

4.5 Contributions of Assembly Members to local level Development

The result of the study demonstrates that assembly members contribute greatly to development of communities and so are integral parts in community development agenda of their electoral areas. The table below shows responses of respondents on some of the contributions assembly members make towards community development.

Table 4.1: Contribution of Assembly Members to Local Level development

S/n	How Assembly members contribute to local level development	Frequency	Percentage
1	Lobbying for development initiatives	43	35
2	Mobilising community labour for self-help projects	21	17
3	Attending assembly meetings	36	29
4	Education and sensitisation on policies	24	19
Total		124	100

Source: Field Data, 2017

From the above table, 35% of the total respondents believed that their assembly members had contributed to the development of their communities by lobbying for development projects such as health facilities, bore-holes, school blocks, roads and electricity. Also, 29% believed their assembly members have done well for participating regularly in General Assembly and sub-committee meetings that have resulted in their communities benefiting from some social



interventions. 19% of the respondent thought assembly members have carried out educational and sensitisation programmes in their communities on some policy issues, while 17% said their assembly members were able to mobilise community members for communal labour on some projects.

These results were validated by results from in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and observations. It was observed during interactions that many assembly members have not met their electorates to explain to them some policy interventions by Government and/or the Lawra District Assembly. For instance, many young men and women did not know much about ‘Planting for Food and Jobs’ programme by government. They were not well abreast with the processes of enrolling onto it to become a beneficiary. Many thought it was meant for only members of the governing New Patriotic Party.

However, some of the beneficiaries praised their assembly members for lobbying for them to be a part of the “planting for food and jobs” programme. They said it has helped them to access fertilizer without difficulty and that has resulted in better yields of their farm crops. A young man remarked this during a focus group discussion in Babile;

“For the first time in my farming history, I did not struggle for fertilizer. I have enough for my farm and even loaned out some to friends. I have more harvest than any other year. I thank the assembly man very much” (Focus Group Discussion, 2017, Babile).

One of the assembly members noted during an interaction that the movement of energetic young men to southern Ghana for jobs during the farming season was reduced due to the introduction of the Planting for food and jobs programme by the government. He noted that



“I have been able to lobby for the programme for all the communities in my electoral area. Many of the young men registered for it and surely the inputs were brought to them. Farming this year has been good because beneficiaries have access to enough fertilizer for their farm crops. Also, when the Fall Army Worm came, I quickly liaised with the Department of Agriculture and National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) and farmers in my electoral area were assisted with pesticides and spraying” (Zombo Assembly Member, 2017, In-depth Interview, Zombo).

The District Chief Executive (DCE) for Lawra District praised the assembly members and noted that he has been enjoying effective collaboration and cooperation from all the assembly members especially the elected assembly members. He said the development in the district would not have been achieved without the assembly members. He revealed that;

“the contribution of the assembly members to the development of the district has been very immense. As the DCE, I cannot visit all the communities in the various electoral areas within a short period and so, I rely very much on the information the assembly members bring from their respective electoral areas to also lobby for development initiatives from government and other development partners such as NGOs” (DCE, 2017, In-depth interview, Lawra District Assembly).

Assembly members were also found to have contributed to maintaining peace and unity in their electoral areas by relating and collaborating well with traditional authorities and other stakeholders. The results show that there was cordial relationship between assembly members and other stakeholders such as the chiefs and queen mothers. Some misunderstanding that could



degenerate into disputes between communities and individuals were said to have been amicably resolved through the mediation of assembly members and traditional rulers. The assembly member for Yikpe Electoral Area noted that “*we have very cordial relationships with our chiefs, queen mothers, youth and women groups, the DCE, the MP and other stakeholders in development*”.

This relates to the views of Asante (2000) and Sana (2010) that the key determinant of decentralisation is to provide a peaceful environment development partners, local actors and intended beneficiaries of programmes to willingly and peacefully engage in the decision making processes.

The findings reveal that some assembly members have paid school fees for some students whose parents could not afford and this ensured their stay in schools. Some of these students, especially girls, have been linked by their assembly members through the District Assembly and Ghana Education Service, Lawra District office to NGOs such as Camfed for scholarships.

4.5 Relationship between Assembly Members and their constituents/electorates

The table below illustrates some responses from the survey on how assembly members should relate or are relating with their electorates.



Table 4.2: How Assembly Members relate with their constituents

S/n	Ways to relate with electorates	Frequency	Percentage
1	Living with the people in the electoral area	41	33
2	Attending social functions such as funerals, outdooring, wedding, etc	49	40
3	Periodic meetings with electorates	20	16
4	Visits to project sites, households and traditional rulers	14	11
Total		124	100

Source: Field Data, 2017

From the table above, it is shown that majority of the respondents (49) representing 40% believed that assembly members could better relate with their electorates through social gatherings such as funerals, outdooring ceremonies of Chief, Queen mothers and newly born babies and also festivals. Other respondents representing 33% believed that, assembly members need to live within their electoral areas to ensure regular contact with communities and people of their electoral areas. Meanwhile, 16% of the respondents thought assembly members should hold periodic meetings with their constituents, while 11% said assembly members should make visits to Chiefs, Queen mothers and households in their electoral areas as a way of relating with people that elected them.

According to the respondents, going to sympathise with people who lost their relations affords assembly members the opportunity not only to sympathise with the deceased family but to interact with other sympathisers as well. A woman in Eremon noted during focus group

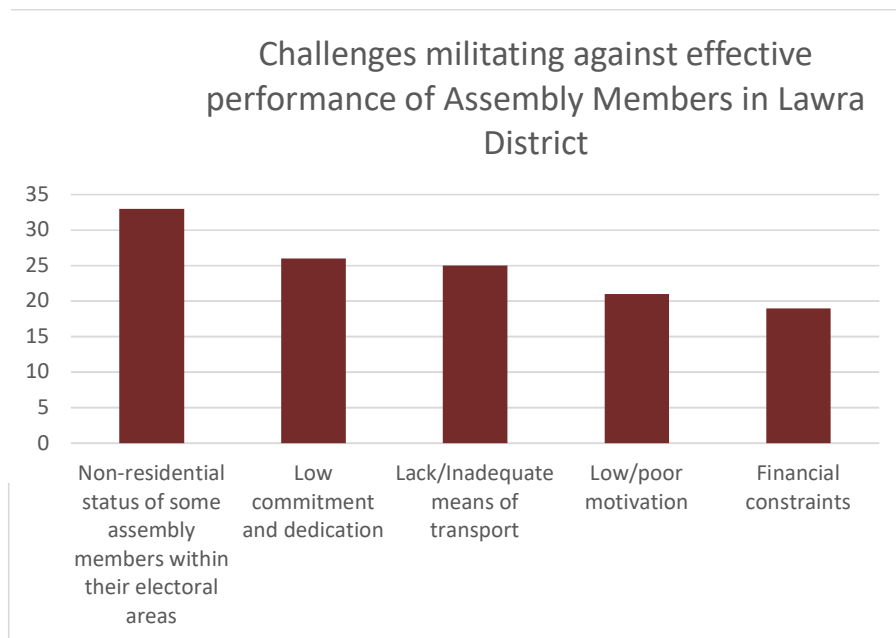


discussion that assembly members who attend funerals and outdoor ceremonies in their electoral areas were well abreast with the development issues of the communities because he/she interacts frequently with his/her constituents in those functions.

4.6 Challenges militating against effectiveness of Assembly Members in performing their functions

The work of the assembly members comes with some challenges that militate against the effective delivery of services to communities and constituents for which they were elected to represent them in the District Assembly. From the survey conducted, five challenges were identified which were corroborated with results from in-depth interviews with key informants and focus group discussions. The figure below is an illustration:

Figure 4.4: Challenges militating against effective performance of Assembly Members



Source: Field Data, 2017



Evidenced from the above figure is that, the non-residential status of many assembly members within their electoral areas was a major challenge militating against their effective delivery of services to respective communities. It shows that 27% of the elected assembly members stay outside their electoral areas and so they are unable to hold regular meeting with their constituents before and after General Assembly sessions. This corroborated my observations on the field. It was observed during three sub-committee meetings, which I was privileged to sit in to observe, that some assembly members could not attend because they were staying outside the district and some also came late when the meetings were about to end because they had to come from outside the district or outside their electoral areas where they work. Lack of commitment and dedication on the part of assembly members came as the second most important challenge with a percentage of 21% and 20% of respondents believed lack/inadequate means of transport was also a challenge to effective discharge of duties by assembly members. Lack of/poor motivation accounted for 17% of the respondents while 15% of the respondents said financial constraints was one of the factors militating against the effective performance of assembly members in their respective electoral areas.

It is important to note that the functions or work of assembly members require frequent or regular movement to communities and meeting with the community members and opinion leaders particularly the traditional authorities. However, many assembly members are unable to do this on regular basis and may attend general assembly meetings without meeting their electorates to gather or solicit their opinions on some key important policies and programmes of the assembly. They are also unable to report to the people on what transpire in their meeting after general assembly meetings. This has been attributed to lack/inadequate logistics such as means of transport for assembly members. It was observed that many of the assembly members were



using their personal motor bikes to go round their electoral areas and to attend general assembly and sub-committee meetings. There has not been source of fueling these private motor bikes too except from their own pockets.

An interaction with the Presiding Member during an in-depth interview session revealed that some assembly members rely on public transport system to travel from their communities to attend assembly meetings due to either breakdown of their personal motors which they cannot repair or there is no means to fuel the motor bike. He said this

“It is very disturbing to see an assembly member having to wait at the roadside in his/her community to join public means of transport to Lawra to attend assembly meetings. Many of them, except we those who served in the previous assembly, are using their personal motor bikes. Some do not even have at all. Those with motor bikes including we those who were also given motor bikes under the previous government have issues with repairs, maintenance and fueling. Assembly members are not paid like Members of Parliament... meanwhile they expect us to perform better than the MPs... Is this possible? We work more than MPs in the sense that we are always with the people and collate all their concerns (challenges) and send them to the assembly for deliberation. The MPs usually rely on our information to carry out their work. If MPs are paid huge salaries, allowances, means of transport and Common Fund, why can't assembly members be treated similar way? I have been an assembly member for more than 12 twelve consecutive years, but can you see any change in me? I use a wretched motor bike which I spend from my own pocket to repair and fuel. So, assembly members are just sacrificing for their electoral areas”

(Presiding Member, 2017, In-depth interview, Lawra)



The submission by the Presiding Member also reveals that members are not only challenged by means of transport but also they are challenged by financial constraints. This affects their ability to repair, maintain and fuel their personal means of transport to do their work. This was corroborated by what the Divisional Chief of Eremon said;

“We cannot blame the assembly members for not coming to our communities on regular basis because they are financially constraint. They do not receive salaries and I learned their sitting allowances are also low per sitting and may not even be readily available for them after sub-committee meanings. Perhaps, government should consider paying them like the Mps” (Eremon Divisional Chief, 2017, In-depth interview, Eremon).

Results from focus group discussion however point to the fact that many assembly members were non-residential within their electoral areas and they are unable to meet them on regular basis. Some discussants in youth and women groups said they could not remember the last time they had a meeting with their assembly members since they were elected. This also came up during a discussion session with some unit committee members. A woman during a discussion session lamented that the assembly members were only regular in their communities during the campaign season when they were contesting the elections, but after they have won, decided to stay away from them. As a result, such assembly members are unable to monitor and make follow-ups on projects within their electoral areas at the assembly. This was also linked to the fact that assembly members have not shown enough commitment and dedication to the positions as assembly members or representatives of the grassroots people in the Lawra District. This was found contrary to the provisions of Act 462 (1993) that emphasise on electing committed and dedicated men and women that will interact with the grassroots people on regular intervals.



Another challenge, albeit controversial, was that the non-partisan position of assembly members does not encourage people in communities to attach seriousness to their duties and activities unlike Members of Parliament and party executives. They noted, party politics have come to stay and that there was nothing like non-partisan assembly concept when the DCE is partisan as well as the 30% government appointees to the assembly. Some assembly members corroborated this during interactions. They again noted that, it was difficult organising meetings as assembly members unlike organising party meetings or rallies. The enthusiasm people attach to party activities far outweighs what is attached to community activities through the assembly members. Thus, people are more rooted in party politics that even many of the assembly members were elected based on the fact that they all belong to the same party. It was observed in most cases that, in electoral areas where a particular political party dominated, the assembly member was a sympathiser to that party. As a result, many discussants including the traditional authorities are suggesting that local level elections should be made partisan so that elections of assembly members could include that of District Chief Executives too. They were of the opinion that, that process would make assembly members and the DCE more accountable to the people since performance of all of the (assembly members and DCE) would be measured against their party promises. There would not be an excuse for blame game between assembly members and DCE.



This opinion was however contrary to that of Ahwoi (2010). He noted that, the entire local government system needed not be politicised and so assembly members should remain non-partisan while the DCE is partisan and appointed by the President. Tettey (2006), Gyimah-Boadi (2009) and Antwi-Boasiako (2010) on the other hand disagreed with Ahwoi. They argued that the assembly system was highly political contrary to provisions of Article 243(2) of the 1992

constitution of Ghana and so DCEs should be elected by the people as assembly members or vice-versa.

It was also generally observed that, all the electoral areas do not have Electoral Area and Community Medium-Term Development Plans. They rely on the District Assembly Medium-Term Development Plan prepared by the District Planning Coordinating Unit (DPCU). Interactions with the District Development Planning officer and the District Coordinating Director corroborated this observation. This was also raised by the Paramount Chief of the Lawra Traditional Area and in that regard; the people are denied participation in the development planning process of their communities. Community Plans and consequently Electoral Area Plans would reflect and well articulate the needs of the people and how they can be achieved since the process would be driven by the community members themselves. So, therefore, assembly members should consider developing community and electoral area development plans for their respective designated electoral areas.



CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This concluding chapter of this piece of work concerned itself with the findings emanating from the analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data collected from the field through the application of various data collection methods, some of which includes interviews, focus group discussions and non-participant observation. Conclusions were drawn emphatically following the analytical views and opinions of the respondents arrived at based on the results of the analysis carried out. This chapter has not left out the recommendations which are of course supposed to be made after everything else has been done. Therefore, some recommendations have been made.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The study sought to assess the role of assembly members in promoting local level development in the Lawra District of Upper West Region. In doing so, the study examined how ordinary people including opinion leaders have understood the role of assembly members in their respective communities in the Lawra District. The findings showed that majority of the people knew the specific roles of assembly members as stated in the Local Government Act (Act 462, 1993). Advocating for development for communities, bringing development partners to communities, assist in resolving misunderstanding between communities and individuals and other were noted as some of the roles of assembly member.

The second issue the study sought to find out was the contributions of assembly members to local level development in the Lawra District. The findings indicated that, assembly members



have contributed immensely to local level development by lobbying for development projects such as bore-holes, roads, health facilities, school blocks, electricity, etc for communities. Some members have also mobilised communal labour for self-help projects; attending meetings and deliberating on relevant matters, and undertaking education and sensitisation on policies and programmes of the district band government.

Thirdly, the study sought to find out how assembly members were relating with their constituents in the Lawra District. It was found out that, they relate with their electorates by attending social functions such as funerals, outdoorings and weddings, through periodic meetings with electorates in their communities, some living in within their electoral areas and occasional visits to project sites by some assembly members.

Finally, the study sought to find out some of the challenges militating against effective delivery of services by assembly members in the Lawra District. Quite number of challenges came up including non-residential status of some assembly members within their electoral areas, low commitment and dedication among assembly members, lack of and/or inadequate means of transport, poor motivation and financial constraints.

5.3 Conclusions

In conclusion, people in the Lawra District have appreciable understanding of the role of assembly members in promoting local level development and so are able to hold them accountable for what they were promised during electioneering campaign. They assess assembly members based on the number of development projects that are brought to communities and the number of engagements they have with them through social functions such as funerals, community durbars/fora etc. There were, however, some key challenges that militating against



the effective delivery of services by assembly members to their constituents as captured in the previous chapter which needed to be addressed.

5.4 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made:

The government through the Ministry of Local government and rural Development should provide Assembly members with motor cycles and fuel to make them mobile which would enable them to carry out their duties in their respective electoral areas timely.

Assembly members should try as much as possible to reside within their electoral areas or distances that are not very far from their electoral areas. This will make them easily available and approachable for their electorates in times of need

Assembly members should exhibit that high level of commitment and dedication to their duties as assembly members. They should see their job as rather sacrificial as a rewarding type.

The district assembly should set up a motivation package for assembly members to boost their interest and moral in serving their people. This can take the form of better sitting allowances, regular supply of fuel to all assembly members and an annual award system for hard working and dedicated members.

Lastly, the district assembly should broaden its revenue mobilisation base and also provide the necessary logistics for revenue collectors in order to strengthen and enhance its revenue mobilisation strategy.



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APPENDIX A

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR ELECTED ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

This questionnaire is to be administered as part of a study on the research topic: “ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT”. This research is purposely for pure academic work and every bit of information provided shall be treated with much confidentiality.

Background Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex..... Male Female
2. Age..... (1) 18-29 (2) 30-39 (3) 40-49 (4) 50-59 (5) 60 and above
3. Marital status..... (1) Single (2) Married (3) Widow (4) Divorce
4. What is your level of education? (1) Primary (2) JHS/Middle (3) SHS/Technical/Vocational (4) College (5) Polytechnic (6) University (7) None
5. Religious Affiliation..... (1) Christian (specify)..... (2) Moslem (specify)..... (3) Traditional (4) others (specify)
6. Which E/A do you represent?
7. Are you resident in the E/A? If no, why?
8. How long have you been an assembly member?
9. Which Town/Area Council do you belong?
10. What motivated you to contest in the local assembly election
11. What actually accounted for your election success?
12. What is your role as an assembly member in promoting local level development?
13. To what extent have you contributed in promoting development in your electoral area?
14. What are some of the development needs of the people of your E/A
15. Please, mention some of the development projects you have initiated and implemented so far
16. How is the DA complementing your effort in the provision of the development needs of your people?
17. What is the nature of relationship between you and your electorates? Explain your answer



18. How many times do you normally meet with your electorates before and after every general assembly meeting?
19. Do you organise communal labour in your E/A? Do you take part in the communal labour? How many times in a year?
20. What are some of the development challenges facing your E/A?
21. What steps can be taken to address them?
22. What in your opinion is local level development? How can local level development impact politically, economically and socially on the lives of the people of your E/A and the District as a whole?
23. Is your DA financially viable?
24. Do you attend general assembly sessions regularly?
25. Which of the sub-committees are you serving on?
26. What are some of your achievements and failures?
27. In your view, are you meeting the development needs of the people of your E/A in your capacity as their elected AM?
28. Would you seek re-election?



APPENDIX B

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR APPOINTED ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

This questionnaire is to be administered as part of a study on the research topic: “ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT”. This research is purposely for pure academic work and every bit of information provided shall be treated with much confidentiality.

Background Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex..... (1) Male (2) Female
2. Age..... (1) 18-29 (2) 30-39 (3) 40-49 (4) 50-59 (5) 60 and above
3. Marital status..... (1) Single (2) Married (3) Widow (4) Divorce
4. What is your level of education? (1) Primary (2) JHS/Middle (3) SHS/Technical/Vocational (4) College (5) Polytechnic (6) University (7) None
5. Religious Affiliation..... (1) Christian (specify)..... (2) Moslem (specify)..... (3) Traditional (4) others (specify)
6. Do you reside in the district?
7. Which Town/Area council do you belong?
8. Which E/A do you belong?
9. Why have you been appointed?
10. How long have you been an appointed AM?
11. How different is the role of an appointed AM from an elected AM?
12. What is your relationship with your elected AM?
13. How are you complementing the effort of your elected AM?
14. What would you do differently to promote LLD if you were an elected AM?
15. How are you discharging your duties as an appointed AM?
16. What are some of the challenges that you are facing in discharging your responsibilities?
17. What measures should be put in place to address these challenges?
18. In your view, what are some of the development needs of the people in your district?



19. What is your understanding about the role of your AM in promoting LLD in the district?
20. To what extent has the AM contributed to the development effort of your E/A?
21. What are some of the development projects initiated and implemented by your AM?
22. What has been some of the challenges militating against your AM in the discharge of his/her duties?
23. How can the challenges faced by your AM in the discharge of his/her functions be resolved?
24. How many times do your AM meet with his/her electorates in a quarter?
25. Does your AM meet with his/her electorates before/after every general assembly meeting?
26. Does your AM take part in communal labour?
27. What is the relationship between the AM and the electorates?
28. How effective and efficient is your AM in the performance of his/her functions?
29. Do you have an idea regarding the relationship between your AM and the DA? If Yes/No, why?
30. In your own opinion, what is development? What constitute local level development?
31. How can the performance of your AM be enhanced?
32. Do you take part in communal labour in your E/A?
33. Do you attend meetings organised by your AM before/after assembly meetings?
34. Is your AM always available for most social gatherings in the E/A?
35. What are some of the achievements and failures of your AM?
36. Are you satisfied with the performance of your AM?
37. Will you vote in the next assembly election?



APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR DISTRICT ASSEMBLY CORE STAFF

This questionnaire is to be administered as part of a study on the research topic: “ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT”. This research is purposely for pure academic work and every bit of information provided shall be treated with much confidentiality.

Background Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex..... (1) Male (2) Female
2. Age.....(1) 18-29 (2) 30-39 (3) 40-49 (4) 50-59 (5) 60 and above
3. Marital status..... (1) Single (2) Married (3) Widow (4) Divorce
4. What is your level of education? (1) Primary (2) JHS/Middle (3) SHS/Technical/Vocational (4) College (5) Polytechnic (6) University (7) None
5. Religious Affiliation..... (1)Christian (specify)..... (2) Moslem (specify)..... (3) Traditional (4) others (specify)
6. Please, indicate your designation.....
7. How long have you been at this post in the district?
8. What has been the relationship between you and your assembly members?
9. Explain your answer
10. How will you assess the performance of the AMs (Elected and Appointed) of your assembly?
11. What is your understanding about the role of your AM in promoting LLD in the district?
12. To what extent has the AMs contributed to the development effort of their E/As in the district?
13. What are some of the development projects initiated and implemented by your AMs in the district?
14. What has been some of the challenges militating against your AMs in the discharge of their duties?





15. How can the challenges faced by your AMs in the discharge of their functions be resolved?
16. How effective and efficient are your AMs in the performance of their functions?
17. What is your assessment of your AMs participation in the preparation of the assembly's MTDP?
18. What is your assessment regarding presentations made by AMs during general assembly sessions in respect of the views, opinions and proposals of their electorates?
19. Do you periodically organise capacity development workshops for your AMs?
20. How many times in a year if the answer to the above question is yes?
21. What are some of the factors that determine the allocation of development projects in your district?
22. What in your view, should the AMs do differently in order to promote LLD in the district?
23. What is your candid assessment in respect of the lobbying skills of your AMs?
24. Are all your AMs resident in the district/E/As?
25. Are majority of your AMs regular and punctual during general assembly sessions?
26. What is the level of knowledge of members of your assembly regarding their role in promoting LLD in the district?
27. How many of your AMs are technocrats?
28. What is the level of participation of your AMs regarding sub-committee meetings?
29. Do you attend meetings organised by your AMs for their electorates?
30. How many times in a quarter, if your answer is yes.
31. If the answer is no, why?
32. Are you aware whether or not members of your assembly do organise and take part in communal labour in their respective E/As? If no, why?
33. Do you attend meetings of the various Town/Area councils?
34. What general comments can you make about the present caliber of members who constitute your general assembly?

APPENDIX D

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND ELDERS

This questionnaire is to be administered as part of a study on the research topic: “ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT”. This research is purposely for pure academic work and every bit of information provided shall be treated with much confidentiality.

Background Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex..... (1) Male (2) Female
2. Age..... (1) 18-29 (2) 30-39 (3) 40-49 (4) 50-59 (5) 60 and above
3. Marital status..... (1) Single (2) Married (3) Widow (4) Divorce
4. What is your level of education? (1) Primary (2) JHS/Middle (3) SHS/Technical/Vocational (4) College (5) Polytechnic (6) University (7) None
5. Religious Affiliation..... (1) Christian (specify)..... (2) Moslem (specify)..... (3) Traditional (4) others (specify)
6. Is your AM resident in the district/E/A?
7. Is your AM accessible?
8. How long has your AM been representing your E/A at the assembly?
9. What are some of the development needs of the people?
10. Is your AM development oriented?
11. What is your understanding about the role of your AM in promoting LLD in the district?
12. To what extent has the AM contributed to the development effort of your E/A?
13. What are some of the development projects initiated and implemented by your AM?
14. What has been some of the challenges militating against your AM in the discharge of his/her duties?
15. How can the challenges faced by your AM in the discharge of his/her functions be resolved?
16. How many times do your AM meet with his/her electorates in a quarter?



17. Does your AM meet with his/her electorates before/after every general assembly meeting?
18. Does your AM take part in communal labour?
19. What is the relationship between the AM and the electorates?
20. How effective and efficient is your AM in the performance of his/her functions?
21. Do you have an idea regarding the relationship between your AM and the DA? If Yes/No, why?
22. In your own opinion, what is development/local level development?
23. How can the performance of your AM be enhanced?
24. Do you take part in communal labour in your E/A?
25. Do you attend meetings organised by your AM before/after assembly meetings?
26. Is your AM always available for most social gatherings in the E/A?
27. What are some of the achievements and failures of your AM?
28. Are you satisfied with the performance of your AM?
29. Will you vote in the next assembly election?



APPENDIX E

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR HOUSEHOLD HEADS

This questionnaire is to be administered as part of a study on the research topic: “ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT”. This research is purposely for pure academic work and every bit of information provided shall be treated with much confidentiality.

Background Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex..... (1) Male (2) Female
2. Age..... (1) 18-29 (2) 30-39 (3) 40-49 (4) 50-59 (5) 60 and above
3. Marital status..... (1) Single (2) Married (3) Widow (4) Divorce
4. What is your level of education? (1) Primary (2) JHS/Middle (3) SHS/Technical/Vocational (4) College (5) Polytechnic (6) University (7) None
5. Religious Affiliation..... (1) Christian (specify)..... (2) Moslem (specify)..... (3) Traditional (4) others (specify)
6. Is your AM resident in the district/E/A?
7. Is your AM accessible?
8. How long have your AM been representing your E/A at the assembly?
9. What are some of the development needs of the people?
10. Is your AM development oriented?
11. What is your understanding about the role of your AM in promoting LLD in the district?
12. To what extent has the AM contributed to the development effort of your E/A?
13. What are some of the development projects implemented by your AM?
14. What has been some of the challenges militating against your AM in the discharge of his/her duties?
15. How can the challenges faced by your AM in the discharge of his/her functions be resolved?
16. How many times does your AM meet with his/her electorates in a quarter?



17. Does your AM meet with his/her electorates before/after every general assembly meeting?
18. Does your AM take part in communal labour?
19. What is the relationship between the AM and the electorates?
20. How effective and efficient is your AM in the performance of his/her functions?
21. Do you have an idea regarding the relationship between your AM and the DA? If Yes/No, why?
22. In your own opinion, what is development? What constitute local level development?
23. How can the performance of your AM be enhanced?
24. Do you take part in communal labour in your E/A?
25. Do you attend meetings organised by your AM before/after assembly meetings?
26. Is your AM always available for most social gatherings in the E/A?
27. What are some of the achievements and failures of your AM?
28. Are you satisfied with the performance of your AM?
29. Will you vote in the next assembly election?



APPENDIX F

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR TOWN/AREA COUNCIL SECRETARIES

This questionnaire is to be administered as part of a study on the research topic: “ASSESSING THE ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY MEMBER IN PROMOTING LOCAL LEVEL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LAWRA DISTRICT”. This research is purposely for pure academic work and every bit of information provided shall be treated with much confidentiality.

Background Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex..... (1) Male (2) Female
2. Age..... (1) 18-29 (2) 30-39 (3) 40-49 (4) 50-59 (5) 60 and above
3. Marital status..... (1) Single (2) Married (3) Widow (4) Divorce
4. What is your level of education? (1) Primary (2) JHS/Middle (3) SHS/Technical/Vocational (4) College (5) Polytechnic (6) University (7) None
5. Religious Affiliation..... (1) Christian (specify)..... (2) Moslem (specify)..... (3) Traditional (4) others (specify)
6. How many E/As are under your Town/Area council?
7. How many government appointee assembly members are in your Town/Area council?
8. How many of the elected and appointed AMs are members of your council?
9. Are all the elected AMs under your council resident in the district/their various E/As?
10. What is your understanding about the role of your AMs in promoting LLD in the district?
11. To what extent has your AMs contributed to the development effort of their E/As?
12. What are some of the development projects initiated and implemented by your AMs?
13. What has been some of the challenges militating against your AMs in the discharge of their duties?
14. How can the challenges faced by your AMs in the discharge of their functions be resolved?
15. How are your AMs complementing the development effort of your council?
16. Do they take part in the activities of the council?



17. Do they regularly attend meetings of the council?
18. How many times do your AMs meet with their electorates in a quarter?
19. Do your AMs meet with their electorates before/after every general assembly meeting?
20. Do your AMs take part in communal labour?
21. Do you attend meetings organised by your AMs before/after assembly meetings?
22. Is your AMs always available for most social gatherings in the E/A?
23. What are some of the achievements and failures of your AMs?
24. Are you satisfied with the performance of your AMs?
25. Will you vote in the next assembly election?





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