NATIONAL DECENTRALIZATION COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION POLICY DRAFTING

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OUR PASTS
WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM AND WHERE WE WANT TO BE?

Main reasons for decentralization since 1975

- **1975 – 1995** – Political -Unity, peace, harmony and people integration
- **1995-2023** – Service delivery
- **2023 and beyond** – Demand for economic growth - Fiscal autonomy – 22 big economies for PNG
GENERAL BACKGROUND – THE CONTEXT OF DECENTRALISATION IN PNG

Historical background of decentralization

1884-1945 - Germany and Great Britain ruled - No formal government structure
1902-1975: Australia ruled PNG for 73 years
1949-LLGs - The first decentralised government established in the country
AUSTRALIA RULED PNG FOR 73 YEARS

• **1902.** Australia was formally mandated to rule this country by the League of Nations (United Nations). Two directives:
  • Unify the country and
  • Provide enabling to empower the citizens
• **Australia administered** - Papua and New Guinea Act (1949)
  ▪ Established judicial system,
  ▪ A public service and
  ▪ Local Level Government System throughout the country.
• **Legislation did not carter for:** schools, colleges, universities and health systems establishments
• **Australia did the opposite:** Foreign policy toward Papua & New Guinea *a gradual process of development*.
• This policy effectively suspended all *political, social, economic and infrastructure development* for nearly 63 years (1902 to 1965).
THE IMPORTANCE OF DECENTRALISATION IN NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

1. 1975 - One National Constitution
2. Decentralization is a National Constitutional requirements
3. Powers of the National and Provincial Governments are demarcated by the OLPG&LLG
4. No provincial governments have requested for powers beyond the powers given in the OLPG&LLG except for AROB – Autonomy
5. Decentralization unified this country
6. Decentralization is here to stay
TYPES OF DECENTRALIZATION PRACTICED IN PNG SINCE 1975

1. Political decentralization – Provincial & LLG Governments
2. Administrative decentralization – Provincial Administration
3. Financial powers decentralization – Provincial budgets, expenditure and investment
NATIONAL DECENTRALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Role confusion between state agencies responsible for Provincial Governments – Simply ignorance
2. Implementing straight from the OLPLLGG-Very weak monitoring
3. State agencies transfer of powers uncoordinated and disoriented
4. Provincial governments request for powers disorganized
5. Decentralization implementation uncoordinated and unsupervised
6. Unrealistic, unreliable data-social and economic service delivery data.
7. Use of terminologies – autonomy, greater power sharing, creating confusion, ill feelings, disunity, division among the people
NATIONAL DECENTRALIZATION COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION POLICY DRAFTING

- Sub-national governments request for power process
- State agencies transfers of powers and functions process
- Process of decentralization – Gradation approach
- Transfer of powers and functions in an orderly and transparent manner
- Coordinate, facilitate and institutionalize decentralization
- Establish systematic service delivery monitoring system
2023 Governors Conference Resolutions

• 26 resolutions – fiscal autonomy – growing 22 economies
• IGFA arrangement
• Bipartisan committee – NEC Approved
• Supported by TTT and PLLSMA Secretariat
• Review, Assess the reports, policies on decentralization
• Review of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments, Legislations and policies
• Outcomes – (1) Implement the 26 Resolutions - (2) Decentralization Policy Framework going forward into the future
CONCLUSIONS

- Our pasts tell us where we have began as a nation
- Our past mistakes will guide us create a better future
- Transfer of powers and functions disorganized and uncoordinated affecting national development
- Monitoring of decentralization ad-hoc and not good for national development
- DPLGA is developing National Decentralization Coordination and Implementation policy
- Guide use to transfer powers and function in an orderly and transparent manner
- You all will be consulted on the content of this Policy
THE END

WELCOME QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS