

OpenSpace Report on

How to enforce accountability in the public and private sector?

2) Person suggesting Topic & Group Participants

Marianne Sulzer, 5 participants

3) Summary of Discussion

Hands on discussion of how to practically facilitate mechanisms that ensure mutual accountability:

- Political structures that separate legal, executive and enforcement power
 - o Example from Tanzania: Auditor General appointed by a multi party parliament, publication of auditing reports via mass media to the public, sub committees who are responsible for the implementation of the recommendations from the reports, dissemination of progress of implementation again via mass media
- Role of media in exposing good and bad examples of performance in government and in the private sector, response mechanisms for stakeholders to respond to issues raised, benchmarking and suggestions on how to improve
- Ombudsmen: highly recognised personality who mediates between the stakeholders, who points to good and bad practice and to whom the public listens to
- Peer review mechanisms that enforces consultative accountability between civil society organisations, traditional government structures like wards and the formal government structure: provision of capacity building to representative groups from the different stakeholders, assessment of progress of implementation of concrete projects via peer review mechanisms and mass media (radio), awards to reward the most effective group
- Theatre for wider unorganised public to explain what local government is busy with, get a response from government on issues raised by the public and feed it back via theatre performances

4) Conclusions

Concrete recommendations to peer review mechanism implemented on one of the poorest municipalities in the Eastern Cape province, South Africa:

- Engage provincial government to monitor progress and work of representative groups
- Include not only the civil society, but also market forces such as taxi associations, informal traders
- Plan replication mechanism right from the beginning and document experiences/highlights/challenges that come out of the pilot activities
- Raise it with SALGA and other provincial and national government for replication and roll out
- Involve expertise that advises on criteria for assessment of performance of representative groups
- Hold Swisscontact accountable to report back on the outcomes of these pilot activities in 18 months time ☺

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