





## NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

<b>General information</b>	
<p><b>Name of the Organisation:</b> Institute for Democratic Governance (IDEG)</p> <p><b>Report Prepared by:</b> Dr. Lehlohonolo Tlou</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p><b>Signature:</b></p> <p><b>Report Approved by:</b> Dr. Emmanuel Akwetey</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p><b>Signature:</b></p>	<p><b>Contract Ref. No.:</b> 01/Pro/30/IDEG</p> <p><b>Report Period:</b> January – June 2006</p> <p><b>Report Date:</b></p> <p><b>Contact Tel. No.:</b> 021-506466</p>
<p><b>Introductory note on the bi-annual narrative progress reporting</b></p> <p>We seek your information on progress in order to inform discussions between Grantee and PMT. We will also use the information for identifying useful capacity building activities for the RAO sector, as well as for reporting to the donors for accountability purposes.</p> <p>All boxes are self-expanding. The information could serve for G-RAP's public communications strategy, though we of course seek your consent for any public reference to your organization. Please note the ticking boxes at the right bottom side of each box!</p>	

**1. What changes did you see in pro-poor government policies (in design, implementation or review)? How did such change come about and what is your interpretation of the changes?**

Adaptations seem to stem from economic, social and political policy reviews. At first, policies to accelerate economic growth initially focused on promoting a “golden age of business.” Currently, the achieved 5.3% growth rate has been viewed as insufficient for meeting poverty reduction objectives embedded in the MDGs, MCA, NAPRM and GPRS II. To meet the poverty reduction goals, President Kufour has called for an increased rate of 8%. Second, GPRS II policy interventions in the social sector seek to promote greater access to quality education, health care and HIV/AIDS preventive care, especially to women, the vulnerable and the poor. Third, the promotion of accountability through good democratic governance is evidenced by the NAPRM country review report/programme of action and a renewed commitment to the decentralisation action plan, which aim at empowering people at the local levels to participate in decision-making processes. Many of these policy adaptations are a result of more open public policy dialogue at the local, national and international levels to consider more viable and sustainable policy options.

## 2. Collaboration and networking

### 2.1 Indicate changes or progress in your working relations with the Parliament, Government Services, MDBS Partners, Donors, NDPC, District level Authorities or Services etc.

IDEG's mission is to generate knowledge and enhance the capacity of citizens to influence public policy choices, in order to consolidate democracy and good governance. Towards this end, IDEG has endeavoured to work with Parliament, Government services, the NDPC, development partners, donors, and district level authorities:

(a) The Institute was instrumental in maintaining some modicum of calm in the house of Parliament, by arranging and promoting dialogue between the high-ranking members of the two main political parties, when minority members undertook a boycott of sittings in the house of Parliament, regarding the "**Representation of the People's Amendment Bill**"—ROPAB (now law), which was introduced by the majority ruling government.

(b) The **Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MOFEP)** worked with IDEG to raise awareness about the district budget, in the 26 GIF districts, under the theme, "Civic Participation in the 2007 Budget Process." The **Ministries of Public Sector Reform and Local Government, Rural Development and Environment** and the **Ghana Statistical Services** lent their staff to and participated in IDEG's public policy dialogue programmes.

(c) IDEG met with the **NDPC** and Chairperson of the **Poverty Reduction Committee of Parliament** to discuss follow-up activities to meetings with Parliamentarians in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2005. Discussions were also held with NDPC to meet with the **Growth and Poverty Forum—GPF**—(a 30-member network of national and international civil society organisations), in order to explore a more collaborative relationship with Civil Society in reviewing the GPRS.

(d) Progress was also made when IDEG, as convener and coordinator of the GPF, lined up a series of activities in preparation for the **Consultative Group** meeting in June. Technical teams of the GPF met to develop the group's position paper and review the Annual Progress Reports of the GPRS I. The GPF created a platform for members to dialogue with development partners, under the theme, "*Harmonising Partnerships in Support of the GPRS II: Development Partners and Non-State Actors Perspectives.*" It was the first time a coalition of civil society had initiated such a meeting with development partners, which led the latter and Government to extend an invitation to the GPF, to present its position paper at the CG meeting in June 2006.

(e) Collaboration also occurred with **IBIS-Ghana** to expand IDEG's Governance Issues Forum (GIF) into the northern sector of the country where citizens from the IBIS-sponsored Public Participation in Local Government (PPLG) districts and others received training in public deliberation from IDEG in 2004. Formally the GIF operated in 22 district and 5 regions; now it is in 26 districts of 7 regions, where citizens are proactively engaging their public officials in setting development priorities and influencing the determination of the allocation of district resources.

### 2.2 How has collaboration been strengthened (i.e. joint campaigns, collaboration, networking) with other RAOs / CSOs / CBOs?

Collaboration has been strengthened by networking and advocacy campaigns for civic inclusion in the public policy-making process. Through the **GPF**, RAOs and CSOs have joined the campaign to promote civic participation in the GPRS II process and have worked on the GPF technical teams to develop a viable civil society position paper.

Within the **GIF programme**, there are a good number of CBOs that have joined to form regional networks, involving 26 districts, in the promotion of civic participation in the district decision-making and resource allocation processes, regarding their priorities on more effective basic social service delivery and youth employment generation.

Sections 2.3, 3, 4 and 5 are not shared