

GHANA'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM AND DECENTRALISED WASH SERVICE DELIVERY

Introduction

The Local Government Service was established by the local Government Service Act, 2003, Act 656 with the objective to secure an effective administration and management of the Local Government in the country.

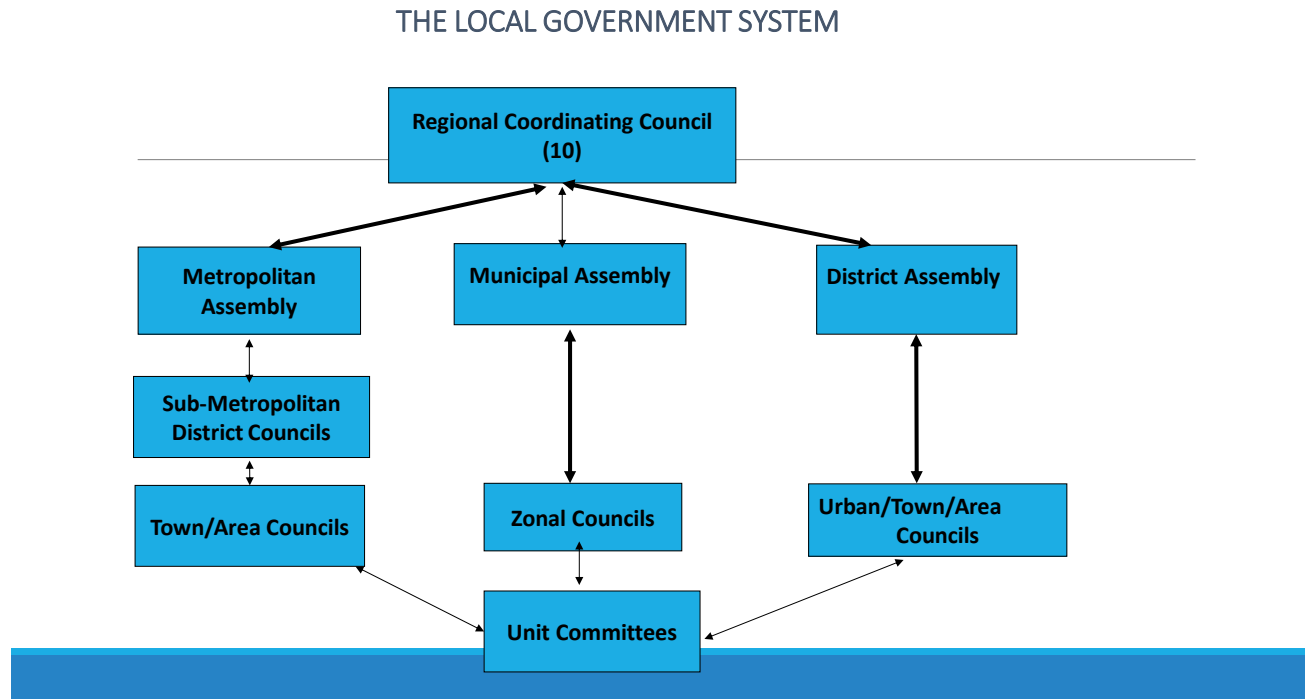
The Local Government Service (LGS) is made up of;

- Office of the Head of Local Government Service
- Regional Co-ordinating Councils
- Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
- Sub-Metropolitan District Councils
- Urban, Zonal, Town and Area Councils

Mission statement of the Local Government Service

The mission statement of the Local Government Service is “to support Local Government to deliver value for money services through the mobilization, harmonization and utilization of qualified, human capacity and material resources to promote local and national development”.

The Local Government System



Service Delivery Standards for Local Government Service

Six (6) Service Delivery Standards have been developed and approved by the Local Government Service Council and adopted by the Local Government Service. These include:

- Participation
- Professionalism
- Client Focus
- Transparency
- Efficient and Effective use of Resources
- Accountability

Ghana's Decentralisation and Local Government System

Ghana's Decentralisation and Local Government System had its roots from PNDC Law 207 of 1988 as part of the Structural Adjustment Programme. Decentralization was a major programme of Local Government and Administrative reforms as alternative development strategy. The 1992 constitution provided further impetus to the process.

Article 240 (2) of the 1992 constitution mandates that;

- Functions, power, responsibilities and resources should be transferred from the Central Government of Local Government units
- Measures should be taken to enhance the capacity of Local Government Authorities to plan, initiate, coordinate, manage and execute policies in respect of matters affecting the local people
- Local government units should have sound financial bases with adequate and reliable sources of revenue
- Local Government staff must be controlled by the local authorities; and
- There should be popular participation in local decision-making

Decentralisation

A process whereby functions, authority for decision making and resources are transferred to the District Assemblies as the highest political authority in the District. It is anchored on 5 main inter- related pillars including the following:

- Political Decentralization (Power and Authority to the DA's)
- Administrative Decentralization (Transfer of staff)
- Decentralized Development Planning
- Fiscal Decentralized (Finances follow the functions)
- Decentralized management of public – private sector partnership (Privatization of certain functions of DA)

There were transfer of power, transfer of competences and transfer of means as implementation strategies.

Functions of Assembly System and Management Requirements

- Executive, legislative, budgeting, planning and taxing authorities.
- Formulation and execution of programmes, strategies for effective resource mobilization.
- Levying, collection of taxes, rates, and fees.
- Initiate programmes for basic infrastructure
- Provide municipal works and services
- Facilitators of popular participation in governance
- Emerging needs: Local Economic Development, poverty reduction, environmental sanitation WASH activities, gender and disability/social issues

Decentralised WASH Service in Asutifi North District Assembly (ANDA)

The Local Government Act, 2016 (Act 936) mandates the Assembly to facilitate the operation of WASH Services in the District. The Assembly is also mandated to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 which include Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

The Local Government (Departments of District Assemblies) Commencement Instrument, 2009 (LI 1961) established Departments of the Assembly including the Works Department with a section focusing on WASH services in collaboration with other departments and sub-district structures.

Departments of the Assembly

DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED	DEPARTMENTS FULLY INTEGRATED
Central Administration	
Finance Department	
Education, Youth and Sports	
District Health Department	
Works Department	Works Department
Physical Planning Department	
Department of Trade and Industry	
Department of Social Welfare and Community Development	Department of Social Welfare and Community Development
Department of Agriculture	Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources, Forestry and Game and Wildlife Department	
Disaster Prevention	

The District Level WASH activities are Guided by the following Legislations and Guidelines

- Local Governance Act 2016, Act 936
- National Development Planning System, Regulation 2016 L1 2232
- Community water and Sanitation Agency Regulation, 2011 L1 2017
- National Drinking Water Quality Management Framework, 2015
- National Community Water and Sanitation Strategy, 2014
- CWSA, Project Implementation Manual, 2014
- CWSA District Operational Manual 2014
- Asutifi North District Assembly MTDP 2018-2021