



REVIEW ARTICLE

Youth Monitoring and Evaluation of Government Work through Open Government Data Public-Private Partnership with Telecom Companies in Africa

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Abstract

This conceptual policy project discuss a case of Telecom companies' public and private partnership which would permit youth monitoring and evaluation of government work through open government data. This is hoped to be achieved through institutionalization of an infrastructure for convenient youth mobile participation towards improving youth-government engagement for their participation in the governance process with in Africa. We will continue to have passive youth if avenues through with these youth feel comfortable to be engaged are not tapped. Telecommunication and related applications have dominated the lives of youth and it's high time to benefit from these new technological advancements in Africa through the Public-private sector Partnership arrangements.

Background and Rationale

Research has indicated that few young people participate in governance through voting, volunteerism/ activism and some youth don't even participate at all. This kind of participation for the few who do, allow them to directly influence their governments periodically during voting time, however there is limited volunteerism by these same youth in government monitoring and evaluation due to insufficient initiatives to engage youth on a National level.

This policy framework for telecom company shared work with the government in the governance process in Africa would create room for projects that seek to address an understanding of failed direct youth participation in monitoring and evaluation of their governments. Through assessing significance of those who participation in voting, to daily interaction through civil society activism channels in influencing government business as well as improving avenues for a youth-based awareness towards boosting their role in transparent participating in the governance process in Africa.

Definition of Concepts

- “Public” means: The Open Government Data principles specify the conditions public data should meet to be considered “open.”
- “Data” means: Electronically stored information or recordings.
- “Reviewable” means: A contact person must be designated to respond to people trying to use the data.

Theoretical Frame Work: Stakeholders' Theory

The stakeholders' theory by Freeman [1] which identifies four major stakeholder groups to include main shareholders, employees, customers, and the general public, The 'stakeholders' are those groups without their support, the organization would cease to exist and it may equally mean any group or individual that can affect, or is affected by, the achievement of the organization's purpose. This theory is a best match to explain a better approach to integration of Telecom Companies communication in governance role of

government. This will be geared to reaching all youth in the already entrenchment business clientele of the networks within the society in respective African countries to access government data through mobile use. This approach would enable the youth as customers who are enthusiastic to technological advancement to embrace the function of several applications of mobiles geared to their participatory in the governance process. In addition, this would widen reached of youth participation in rural and urban centers where government engagement channels might be limited for their participation across the Nations of Africa which are decentralized without institutionalization.

Objectives of the Policy Framework PPP Projects

- To address increase of electro corruption that undermines youth full participation in voting process through technological monitoring.
- To address and transform limitations in activism and volunteerism among youth through their Civil Society in monitoring and evaluating government work through the telecom company PPP
- To expand possible means of engaging youth through public private partnership for democratic consolidation through Government-Telecom companies Public-private partnership

Methodology

This policy framework project proposal would base significantly on secondary data gathered from the library such as books, articles, international and domestic instruments, internet sources and the writers' observation from the various implemented projects through PPP partnership across the world and there testing with interview between the Telecom companies and Selected National Youth program. An inclination to public service engagement of the youth for their participation role will be made through PSP (private sector participation) models. An understanding of government data accessibility to youth in PPP arrangement for their participation will be treated with Government data conceptualization in this

research project proposal will be treated as being considered open if it is made public in a way that complies with the principles as follow; Complete, All public data to be made available, with a view that public data that is not subject to valid privacy, security or privilege limitations.

Primary, Data as one collected at the source, with the highest possible level of granularity, not in aggregate or modified forms. Timely, Data that would be viewed as one made available as quickly as necessary to preserve the value of the data. Accessible, Data as one available to the widest range of users for the widest range of purposes. Machine process able , Data as one reasonably structured to allow automated processing. Data as available to anyone with no requirement of registration. Non-proprietary, Data as available in a format over which no entity has exclusive control. License-free, and lastly Data as one not subject to any copyright, patent, trademark or trade secret regulation.

Conceptual Development of PPP and Nature Suitable for Youth Government-Telecom Engagement for Participation

There are many definitions of PPP. Most versions of PPP are very similar, although the degree of control shared by the partners, and several other characteristics of the partnership may receive different emphasis from definition to definition. Thus, PPP is an "arrangement in which the private sector supplies infrastructure assets and services traditionally provided by governments" [2].

Other terms for PPP include: PPI (private participation in infrastructure); PSP (private sector participation); in the UK, the term used is PFI (private finance initiative). Other variants include the build-transfer-lease (BTL) and build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) options. This research project proposal will focus on the Build-Own-Operate-transfer model as the chosen one for the partnership between government cooperation with the telecom companies in this proposed youth engagement avenue.

Understanding of Failed Youth Engagement and Transformational Reactivation through Government-Telecom Company PPP

To address the Increase of Electro Corruption Undermine Youth full Participation in Voting Process

Though there is a global expansion of multiparty elections during the last thirty years in Africa, it has brought corruption to the forefront of democratic development and governance. Electoral corruption and fraud are clearly the gravest forms of electoral malpractice, and inhibited many youth to make right decisions or take part in the election due to apathy against democratic development and known results despite their efforts to participate. According to Freedom House, 2010, 26 countries were considered as emerging democracies with lowest levels of liberty rights. Their elections were classified as „Not Free“ by Freedom house among many which are African countries.

To Address How Activism and Volunteerism of Youth through Youth Civil Society Activism Limited their Monitoring and Evaluation role in Government Work

The youth civil societies have had profound impact on the political, social and economic development the world over. Nowadays, the youth civil societies not only delivers development assistance, but also provides an alternative voice on various issues that affect human development. Indeed, the youth civil societies has developed ‘soft law’ through formulations of guidelines and recommendations which in some cases which have crystallized into hard law thus influencing domestic and international legal regimes., Credited the strength of democracy in the United States to the proliferation and advocacy of many citizen oriented associations in the country. Similarly, a recent study by Putman on the relationship between civic participation and governance found high public conscientiousness and compliance with the rule of law by the governors in societies with active civic participation. The youth civil society resolve, is informed by the statement of Woodrow

Wilson “the citizens and not governments that can remove the shackles to the realization of individual and collective liberties”. In order for the youth civil societies and activism in Africa to accomplish their goal, they need to be vigilant and proactively engage with the governors and the governed and formulate new approaches to promoting good governance, for example, through monitoring and evaluation of public projects and activities

To illustration of Possible means of Engaging youth through Public-Private Partnership for Democratic Consolidation through Telecom Companies

Through Public and private partnership in Africa as a new growing arrangement between the African governments if institutionalized for purpose of youth engagement through technological advancement of mobile networks, this would promote transparency, empower youth, fight corruption, and harnessing new technologies to strengthen youth participatory in the governance process. This in addition would encourage their involvement in the best practices, innovation and maintain high standards of government transparency and ownership or belonging. The telecom companies’ partnership with government in several strategies would avail data to youth mobile users introduced as an engagement channel to participate directly in government work. This open Government Partnership arrangement would be a new multilateral initiative that could aim at ensuring a concrete commitment from governments to promote transparency, empower youth, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance through a shared approach with the already establishing communication channels of networked companies among the youth populations.

Recommendations

To ensure efficiency of youth engagement PPP project under government and Telecom Company, I am in agreement with

Hardcastle C and Gidado, K, [3,4] who states that the following should be considered. Conducting a readiness analysis of private sector organization in the area of this specific areas for Government youth engagement to invite private sector. Knowing exactly what the government want and expect from the arrangement or scheme. Knowing what the various partners want and expect to provide. Working to build trust among partners in the initiation, implementation geared to finalization of the youth participatory PPP project. Putting together a solid risk management process, with clear accountability and understanding of the risks faced how they are allocated, and how risk is to be priced for government overall security purpose. To be as specific as possible about Public sectors role and responsibilities with the private sector. Familiarize with public sector (government) the nature and operations of international financial institutions and agencies, for more funding to the project. Making sure government do a feasibility study and conduct due diligence. Ensuring that existing relationships are utilized to serve as an easier first step in addition to Deciding on what valuation techniques could be appropriate (for example, internal rate of return, social benefit net present value, adjusted present value, and real options) [5].

References

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Conclusion

This policy framework of a PPP arrangement towards youth engagement can offer a win-win situation for both the government and telecom companies in contributing to full youth engagement by improving their participation in the governance process in Africa. It should be noted that with globalization, there has come an emergence of new economies with scarce resources where by the public sector in many economies needs private sector partners. PPP has proved to be a unique opportunity for the two diverse sectors to learn how to work together as evidenced in prospering countries where private sector come in to assist government in ensuring government service delivery on time with quality. In this case, this would be a new theory on the continent to have a PPP arrangement of Telecom company with the governance process due to their overall communication role and reach all over Africa to an extent that many youth in rural and urban area un able to feel presence of the government in their areas have continued to benefit from this technological advancement on the continent. This wide spread passion for technological reception among the youth needs to be utilized as a new approach to boost their participation in respective governments in Africa through open government data access and response by mobile phones.

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