AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

The role of local government is crucial for federal systems because it is a key interface between the state and civil society and a base for democratic structure. Local governments are increasingly required to play larger roles in providing services, alleviating poverty, and facilitating development. However, in most federal systems, there has been more emphasis on institutional realities than on operational realities. Consequently, there are some major challenges before federal polities with respect to local governments. The central objective of this study is to evaluate the extent to which the local government authorities are performing their functions in accordance with the mandates they have been granted by the regions. The study relied on secondary data. The study found that in all the regions, local governments are providing effective public services to the residents. It however, found that their authority on revenue and spending is very limited which is inconsistent to the constitutional grants. Moreover, the block grants are mismatched with their mandate. There is also overriding of powers in civil service administration by the regional states and zone administrations. The researcher recommends that local governments have to be granted real power to administer their jurisdiction.

Keywords: Decentralization, City administration, Local Government, Woreda

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Meridian Centre, 258 Kingsland Road, Hackney, London E8 4DG, England, United Kingdom.
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