

Capacity Building to Strengthen Good Financial Governance in Southern and Eastern Africa - The World Bank and GIZ/ 2010 – 2014

Results examples

Seychelles

1. Establishment of the Government Audit Committee

As of Oct. 10, 2013, based on the PAC recommendation, the Government has set up a Government Audit Committee responsible for dealing with the reports of the Finance and Public Accounts Committee and the recommendations made in the PAC reports. In June 2014, the PAC report on the 2011 AG report was tabled. The committee will be following up with recommendations' implementation status. The assessment of the committee success can be made in one year.

2. Establishment of strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders

From 2013, based on the PAC recommendation, representatives of the Financial Intelligence Unit, Office of the Attorney General and other law enforcement agencies designated one person responsible for contacts with the PAC. The designated officers are responsible for providing any information/ clarification that the PAC may require for its proceedings.

3. PAC reports

Since 2013, the PAC of the 5th Assembly has produced more reports than any previous PAC. The feedback on the PAC reports are proving to be very positive. The recommendations are being implemented and many improvements have been made in the governance structures to improve accountability, for example the implementation of the Public Finance Management Act in 2013.

South Sudan

1. Establishment of National Procurement Office

In 2013, the PAC initiated the bill to establish the National Procurement Institution to oversee procurement all over the country taking it away from the Ministry of Finance. It is expected that it will be established by the end of 2014.

2. Performance audits

The PAC recommended to Auditor General Office to introduce performance audits. In order to achieve that, the Auditor General brought to the Parliament a new Bill which will be considered by mid-2014. PAC believes that the Bill will be passed by the Parliament as most of the MPs are interested to have the performance audits introduced.

2. Establishment of strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders

The PAC has initialized the process to introduce the necessary legal framework for the anticorruption agency to establish the prosecution department in order to instantly prosecute the corruption cases.

3. Establishment of the Committee on Governmental Assurance

Since 2013, the PAC is lobbying to establish the Committee on Governmental Assurance responsible for following up the PAC recommendations. This requires changing the Conduct of Business Regulations in Parliament. The Committee might be established in 2015 after the next elections.

4. Improving relations with media

Since 2013, the PAC Clerks has established direct contact with media representatives in order to secure the proper information transfer between the PAC and the media.

5. Strengthening the role of the Auditor General to audit the Judiciary

In 2014, working together with the AG the PAC managed to lobby the Parliament to conduct the audit of the judiciary which refused to go through the process.

Swaziland

1. Establishment of strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders

Since 2013, the representatives from the police/ fraud department; anticorruption bodies, accounting general office, public service office, procurement office and internal audit the PAC are present during the PAC meetings. Their responsibility is to provide additional information to PAC and to clarify the contrasting statements during the PAC hearings. Based on the AG reports findings, they can also identify the loop holes in their own respective institutions.

2. Increased cooperation between the AG Office and the PAC

Since 2013, the AG recommendations are included in the PAC report to the Parliament together with the PAC recommendations AG expertise and a better insight into the audited issues has improved the quality of the final PAC reports.

3. Improving the PAC hearing proceedings

Since 2013, the PAC started to call independent experts to the PAC hearings in order to improve the quality of hearings.

5. Improvement of the PAC recommendations follow up procedure

Since 2012, as suggested by PAC, the Parliament has passed a resolution requiring the Ministries to create Task Teams responsible for providing answers to the PAC recommendations. The PAC Clerk has been responsible for following up on the PAC recommendation with the respective institutions. As a result the Ministries are following up with the PAC recommendations within the given deadline.

Uganda

1. Developing relations with other relevant accountability stakeholders

In 2013, the PAC established an Accountability Working Group composed of representatives of PAC and other major accountability stakeholders (Office of the Auditor General, Accountant General,

Director of Public Prosecution, Secretary to Treasury, Inspector General of Government and Public Procurements & Disposal of Assets). The first meeting was held in Dec. 2013 for purposes of coming up with a way forward towards improving accountability and transparency in Uganda with particular interest in ensuring that Parliamentary resolutions and recommendations regarding Public Finance Management are acted upon by the responsible offices.

The goal of the group is to discuss the progress of the implementation of the PAC recommendations. The group will also discuss the shortcomings of the PAC recommendations in order to improve the recommendations for the future (i.e. cases of prosecution - in some instances the Prosecutor might require more information/ evidence to prosecute a specific individual). Additionally, the Group will provide information for the Public Procurement Office (information on contractors who should be blacklisted) and on the Accounting Officers who are inefficient and should not be reappointed. The next meeting was scheduled for mid-2014.

2. Procurement

Since 2013, the PAC started to look deeper on every query on procurement in order to eliminate financial misuse.

3. Improvement of the PAC recommendations follow up procedure

A new follow up mechanism has been included in the new Public Finance and Accountability Act which will come into force in 2014. The Ministries' accounting officers will be required to submit the budget plans for the next financial year together with the PAC recommendation implementation status. Only once the report on the PAC implementation will be reviewed in light of the proper recommendation follow up, the budget can be discussed.

Namibia

1. PAC reports

Since 2013, the PAC reports have been shorted and simplified in order to enhance the PAC operations,

2. Establishment of strategic partnerships with relevant accountability stakeholders

In 2012, the Public Accounts Committee passed a resolution to establish a forum with other accountability actors in order to improve relations and intensive cooperation. The report from the conference was tabled in March 2014. It is expected that the forum will be established 3-6 months from May 2014