



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT ON THE FUNCTIONALITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (LGPACS)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Local Government District Public Accounts Committees (LGPACs) are established under the laws of Uganda to provide important checks on corruption and mismanagement of public resources by Public Officers. Specifically, they are empowered to ensure that public officials are accountable for the use of public funds, and help to prevent corruption and mismanagement of public resources. In line with the Decentralization Policy being implemented in Uganda, the powers of the Parliamentary Accountability committees under Article 163 (4) and (5) of the constitution of Uganda were delegated to LGPACs under section 88 of the Local Government Act CAP 243.

The Local Government Public Accounts Committees are mandated to examine the reports of the Auditor General, chief internal auditor and any reports of commissions of inquiry. Hence, they are important for promoting accountability, transparency and good governance at Local Government level hence ensuring that public funds at the district level are used efficiently. The LGPACs are assigned to examine financial reports, ensure compliance with laws, and scrutinise public resource use. Through their oversight role, they provide an important check on corruption in local governments and improve local government's management of public resources to promote development

Despite their role, the functionality and effectiveness of LGPACs is a pressing concern in many districts across the country as this affects the effective functioning of local governments and the overall development of a country. The ACODE Policy Briefing Paper Series No.58 (2020) on the LGPACs, highlights that many LGPACs struggle with operational challenges, including insufficient budgets and inadequate training, which limit their ability to conduct audits and enforce accountability measures.

In this regard, UNNGOF and ACFIM with support from Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands and Ireland seek to commission an assessment on the functionality of 18 District Public Accounts Committees in the 14 subregions of Uganda. This assessment will provide actionable insights to address existing gaps and strengthen LGPACs, contributing to improved governance and service delivery.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT.

The overall objective is to assess the functionality and capacity of the LGPACs in performing their mandate. Specifically:

- 1) **Assessing the Structural and Functional Challenges of LGPACs:** Identify the specific challenges, such as inadequate funding, staffing shortages, limited capacity, and governance issues, that hinder the effectiveness of LGPACs in fulfilling their oversight role.

- 2) **Evaluating Compliance and Implementation of Legal Mandates:** Examine whether LGPACs adhere to their statutory mandates as outlined in the Local Government Act, CAP 243, and to investigate the extent to which local government authorities implement LGPAC recommendations.
- 3) **Identifying Effective Interventions to Reactivate and Strengthen LGPACs:** Propose practical and sustainable interventions (such as capacity-building programs, improved funding models, and institutional reforms) to enhance the performance of LGPACs and re-establish their oversight role in local governance.

SCOPE OF WORK

- a) Undertake a desk review of existing literature on the functionality of the district public accountants' committees.
- b) Assess the structural and functional challenges of all 18 Districts Public Accounts Committees (LGPACs) in the 14 subregions of across the country.
- c) Identify the drivers and constraints affecting the effective performance of the Local Government Public Account Committees.
- d) Propose practical and sustainable interventions and policy recommendations to improve the functionality of the LGPACs.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The study will cover 18 LGPACs in the districts of: Mbale, Soroti, Lwengo, Bushenyi, Kabale, Jinja, Pallisa, Lira, Gulu, Kabarole, Kagadi, Kapchorwa, Moroto, Nebbi, Abim, Kanong, Napak and Kotido.

APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

UNNGOF and ACFIM will engage a consultant to support in undertaking the assessment. The Consultant is expected to utilize the personnel of UNNGOF member organisations on the ground in all the selected districts who shall provide personnel to serve as research assistants for the consultant including setting-up meetings for the lead researchers. The consultant will undertake a desk and literature review as well as conduct interviews and focus group discussions on the functionality of the DPACs. The assessment will be undertaken in 18 districts within the 14 sub regions of Uganda.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Qualifications and skills

- a) Master's degree in development studies, Social Sciences, Economics, Public Policy or any other relevant
- b) Demonstrates analytical, report writing skills and presentation skills.

Professional experience

- a) The consultant should be knowledgeable about Uganda's governance and accountability structures. Previous experience in studies on LGPACs in Uganda will be an added advantage.
- b) A minimum of 5 years' experience in undertaking similar assignments
- c) A clear understanding of the Local Government context and frameworks in Uganda.
- d) Proven experience in research and policy-related analysis on operations of the District Public Accounts Committees.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- An Inception report
- A detailed report on the functionality of DPACs.

DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment should be completed within two months (60 days) agreeable between UNNGOF and the consultant during the inception meeting.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Interested parties should submit their proposals, including:

- A technical proposal outlining the approach and methodology.
- A financial proposal with a detailed budget and workplan.
- CVs of the consultant(s) highlighting relevant experience.

Proposals should be submitted to the Executive Director by email to procurement@ngoforum.or.ug no later than **Monday, 27th January 2025**.