Effect of corruption on Development of Towns In Metekel Zone
(Benshangul Gumuz region, Ethiopia)

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Abstract
This study was targeted on Assessing the effect of Corruption in Municipals on development of Towns in Metekel Zone (Benishangul Gumuz Region). The objectives of the study was to assess the effect of corruption on development of towns. To achieve the intended objective, data were collected in seven woredas of Metekel zone from the targeted population-local officials, elders and residents of capital towns of the woredas by means of structured and unstructured questionnaires. The questionnaires were supported by unstructured interviews. Self-administered questionnaire were distributed for 312 resident populations and 64 persons were interviewed. The finding shows that corruption in municipals negatively affected the development of towns through deteriorating thrust of community on government, infrastructural quality and expansion of illegal constructions, developing sense of rent seeking, confusion on rules and regulations, and concealing and eliminating of documents.

Key words: Corruption, effect, development and town

1. Introduction
Corruption devalues the quality of human life, robs schools, agricultural sectors, hospital and welfare services of funds. It discourages foreign investments leading to decrease in Foreign Direct Investment. It exacerbates inequality, decreases the rule of law and undermines the legitimacy and stability of democratic regimes. It slows down administrative processes thereby making the implementation of government reforms policies ineffective (Abiodun Elijah, 2007). Corruption reduces economic growth in a number of ways. It discourages investments and diverts public funds away from social expenditures (Ibid). He farther explained that, corruption undermines the institutional foundation on which economic growth depends, lowers the quality of public services and infrastructure, distorts government spending decisions, decreases tax and customs revenues, and damages confidence in the rule of law. Corruption undermines confidence in public institutions and exacerbates budget problems (Ibid).

The survey conducted by FEACC 2013 reveals that corruption is wide spread in public institutions though much of it is petty corruption. Other study of FEACC also shows the abuse of power, acceptance of undue advantages, illegal collection of taxes, undue delay of matters, granting and approving licences improperly, unexplained property, and the like are common in the country (FEACC 2013). The existence of different forms of corruption in towns of Metkel zone has been identified by previous researchers. For example Atnafu 2014, found that the prevalence of bribe, and other forms of corruption in the towns. However the clear effect that has been brought by corruption is still under investigation. That is way it has been encouraged to conduct study on the issues with the objective to identify the tangible effect of corruption on development of towns in Metekel zone.

2. Methodology
Inception of municipal in State of Benshangul Gumuze Region is a recent event. It is not more than age of ten year. Therefore, this study tried to explore illegal acts/ corruption/ practices for this matter/ in municipals since ten (10) years ago. It was found to be indispensable to consider information 10 years back to obtain frequently incidence and well structured information.

The data was collected in seven woredas of Metekel zone from the targeted population-local officials, elders and residents of capital towns of the woredas by means of structured and unstructured questionnaires. The questionnaires were supported by unstructured interviews. In fact unstructured
interview was time taking but was necessary to dig out data in depth. So, great effort was made to manage it. After each interview, summarizing the theme was undertaken as soon as possible. Thus, the mixed research method was employed in this study because quantifiable questionnaires and open ended interviews were the source of the data. When we say mixed method it refers to either qualitative approach to mixed methods or quantitative approach to mixed method or concurrently /equally/ qualitative and quantitative data are used. Qualitative approaches typically employ a mixed methods design in which qualitative methods are primary or central to the research design and .Triangulation is the most commonly cited reason that mixed methods are incorporated into research (Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber, 2010).
The collected data through questionnaire was tabulated and described by percentage. This was supported by interview and secondary data to generalize the finding for the whole population of the study area.

2.1. Sampling Techniques and Size
In Metekel Zone there are seven weredas; namely, Wenbera, Bulen, Debatie, Mandura, Pawi, Dangure and Guba. Now a day weredas have been given significant power by means of decentralized governance. As a result, major public services are being offered by weredas so that appropriate sample areas were wereda capital towns. All Wereda Capital towns (Debrezit, Bulen, Debati, GilgelBeless, Pawi, Manbuk, and Mankush) were purposely taken as sample because they provide services for larger number of population than none capital towns in the Weredas.

Within each capital towns the target population were local elders, local residents, wereda representatives, the then Metekel Zone anticorruption officials, Municipals and wereda justice office. The local elders were those who were supposed to have know how the detail of service delivery of municipals. So, local elders were selected by snowball method because it was difficult to find such people without use of this method. Officials were purposely selected for interviewing while local residents were selected too by available simple random sampling method from the total population in each woredas. The local residents were those who reside for 5 and above years in the towns in order to obtain viable data.

Sample Size
The estimated total population of urban house hold in Metekel was 13,778. Of this, 385 peoples were taken as sample population. According to (Ivan ,2003)-Canada chief statistician- method of determining sample size , for10,000 to 10,000,000 total population, 385 to 400 sample size is recommended at 95% of confidence level. Sample size for each town was determined by stratified sampling as shown in the following table. From the total sample size nine responses were rejected in the analysis because of inappropriate response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Sample Size</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manbuke</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mankush</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debrzit</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G/Beless</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debati</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulen</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawi</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>385</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S2. 2. Tools of Data Gathering
Structured and unstructured questionnaires and open ended interviewing were the principal sources of collecting data that feed this study. Self-administered questionnaire which was both objective and open ended questions were prepared and distributed for 321 resident populations to assess the type, degree and effect of corruption. From local elders 42 people (7wereda x 6 elders from each wereda), 7 wereda representatives, 1 Metekel Zone anticorruption official, 7 municipal Mayor and 7 wereda justice office
were interviewed to cross check the information obtained from self administered questionnaires. Finally 64 Persons were interviewed.

Primary data were supported by secondary documents/document analysis/ such as -Municipals annual reports, urban proclamations and regulations and other previous research finding.

2.3. Data Analysis
This study was analysed qualitatively. Those data which were obtained by self-administered questionnaires were described quantitatively using percentage where as those acquired through interviewing and open ended questionnaire were interpreted qualitatively by narrating the theme. Both methods were supposed to use in order to support one another. ‘When a researcher cannot rely on either qualitative or quantitative he/she uses both methods’ (Alan Bryman, 2004).

2. Major Findings
2.1. Effect of Corruption on Development of Towns
Development is a broad complex concept that could not be defined precisely. Nevertheless, many scholars agree that it is multidimensional which inculcates socio economic and political spectrum. Without denying this fact, for the purpose of this study the thrust of community on government, infrastructural quality and expansion, legality of constructions, sense of rent seeking and documentation condition were used as parameters to evaluate the effect of corruption on town development; because these have either direct or indirect effect on over all town development.

1 Eroding Communities’ Thrust on Government
Due to absence of quick responsiveness, transparency and justice, the trust of peoples on the government was being eroded. The responses to customers’ questions were very weak and related to personal benefits. This was manifested as:

A. Absence of equal treatment of citizens; for customers with the same kind problems different responses given.

B. Prolonged and redundant appointments; residents perceived that if servants in municipals respond timely and appropriately, ‘the source of their income’- corruption- could be dry. When servants stress customers, the customers were forced to pay informal fee to emancipate from the yoke of complex bureaucracy.

C. Usually you could not found responsible persons in offices for the services customers need to get.

D. Even though it was difficult to observe while bribe offered, it was possible to know indirectly based on situation. For example, the response for rich people was fast and positive while for questions of poor it was the reverse.

E. According to BGRS urban proclamation NO. 69/2007, municipals have an obligation to discuss with community. But due to fear for their injustice work, failure to response to community questions and due to perceive of that their secret may be known by community they do not invite community for open discussions. Thus there is transparency problem.

F. Another demonstration was the existence of fear and anger to respond for questionnaires during data collection: The culture of using justice office by communities to fight for their rights and informing for Ethics and Anticorruption commission was very weak. This was due to the fear of counter attack that could come from officials. Most residents perceived that officials exchange information among themselves so that information providers might be known and revenged.

Thus, communities claimed that let alone the operation of good governance in municipals, even they do not know what good governance means. BPR and BSC are professed for formality. Not single sentences of such regulation were operated in offices. Most residents conclude that you could not get service by following legal procedures. Because of lack of confidence on legal procedures in municipals, residents who have capacity were inclined to give informal payments to get service quicker.

In return this has repercussion on politics. Money residents perceived that giving bribe/benefits/ to officials, treating relatives of officials differently from others was the interest of the government though government preaches profoundly about its bad side. However, no government practically that
encourages corruption in his/her state. This image in the mind of community was developed by local officials.

2. Infrastructural Quality and Expansion
Incapability to use existing community resources/man power, finance, land/appropriately and failure to collect revenue had have direct and indirect effect on infrastructural development of towns. Unequal treatments of residents have also negative effect on infrastructural quality and quantity. Municipals were not collecting revenue in the manner it should be. For illustration, unlawfully occupied plots of land have no revenue contribution. If these plots of land were given by following rules and regulations there could be continuous income for government from construction and renewal of houses. Moreover, strategic commercial sites that could be hotels and shops which could have great contribution for increment of government financial capacity had became swallowed by illegitimate way. These created difficulties for provision of electricity, sufficient water supply, roads, and other infrastructures. Residents believed that road was one of indispensible component of urban infrastructure requirement. Accordingly, they used to request the right to intra roads construction and maintenance. The reaction to the questions of the residents by municipals seemed appropriate because there were frequent road maintenance and construction. What goes wrong was the quality of roads. The interviewed informants reported that it was better if not repaired and constructed since roads become worst than previous. By the cover of road construction embezzlement of public money took place. They evidence they provide was that they were under cloud of dust in winter and in mud during summer season. Concentration of infrastructure on particular section of towns was also another effect emerged from corruption. This problem pronounced especially in Bulen town. In the town; high school, local market and animal market centre, bus stations and different government offices were congested in one section. This results in unequal development distribution in the town. According to the information from interviewed local elders and some officials, these areas were private possessions of officials and their relatives before most of the sites for these infrastructures were determined. Consequently officials had influenced the planners in deciding the site of infrastructure because they believe land value increases more where infrastructure was available. Another event that affecting the infrastructure of towns was of significant number of local investors had no intention to invest in their respective towns because they were discouraged and not working hopefully. Instead they prefer to invest else where they thought better governance and provision of services.

3. Expansion of Illegal Construction
When urban land was illegitimately occupied by individuals, most of time they negotiate with officials to gain informal payment and make it as lawfully gained plot of land. The occupation of other people who have no special contact with officials were neither legalized nor destroyed. Except Debrezait town (wenbera) all most in all other towns ‘moon houses’/illegally constructed house/ are widely spread. Some get it legalized while others not for unknown reasons. Those who informally were able to contact higher officials could get illegal construction legalized. Here what was criticized is not the legalization rather the treatment was not uniform for all occupants. As one official of wereda explained ‘illegal constructions are uninterrupted/continuous source of income for some bodies therefore there was no control on illegal construction’. If benefit was not going to be get it could not be legalized even if regulation allowed the legalization. As a result, significant numbers of illegal construction were spread in the towns. See fig 4.6.
Source: field Observation

The expansion of illegal construction/ ‘Yecherka Betoch’/ had created challenges to expand infrastructure because it was not planned. According to municipals evidence, in G/Beles town there were 136 illegally occupied plots of land, but other interviewed officials evidence indicates it was 290. The illegal settlements/ occupations in the town were expanded around ‘Maremiya Bet’/ prison/, Catholic Church, stadium, finance and economy office and Gebreal Betekristian. For other towns exact figure was not known.

4. Expansion of Sense of Rent Seeking

Prolonged incidence of corruption has able to develop sense of rent seeking both in the mind of civil servants and residents. Servants desired additional payments for the services they offered and at the same time affluent residents want to give bribe to gain services without any bureaucracy and legal procedure. The amount of money required from customers was varying based on the nature of the service i.e. on the importance of the service. To gain permission for renewal of building, fence, approving of plans and the like inviting bottles of bear was sufficient. If the service was land allotment, reduction of cost houses during sale, and the like, payment in cash was required. As information obtained from semi ended questionnaires, 1000 to 5000 birr was required to gain plots of land for residence; however the payment rose to 7,000 to 20,000 if the plot of land was commercial.

In some towns the community has developed the sense of gaining services without waiting for legal procedures. In the condition when some new professionals or appointed mayors start to follow rules and regulations affluent individuals hated such officials. They perceived such peoples were rigid and conservative. They gave nick name ¾NÁpF ¾NÁ`pF ‘yemaybela yemayashela- wants to benefit neither him nor others. This might be due to that they want their work more than the amount they are paying to officials as bribes.

5. Confusions on Rule and Regulations

Concerning this issue, there was great confusion particularly on the leaze proclamation and regulations for both residents and officials. For example previously /before 2000 E.C/ possessed plots of land were creating conflicts in Deberezait town. As the mayor of the town said, In D/zait town about 300 residents were arguing we should not be treated by leaze proclamations because we possessed it before. Municipals on their side said they should be treated by the proclamation but unable to pursue the people because they were confused by themselves on the proclamation. Similar situation was also reflected in the rest of towns except G/Beless where leaze proclamation begun. One might ask that how this could be the effect of corruption. This was for the reason that man power is assigned through corrupted way so that they are incompetent and unable to understand rules and regulations easily and unable to create awareness among community.

6. Conceal and Elimination of Documents

Damaging document or hiding was a series problem in municipals. They do this consciously to be paid and then return the document in their former places. According to informants view documents were concealed and ruined for two reasons. The first one was to gain informal fee. If they were given bribe they developed a means and replace the document. The second was to disable anybody that might
question them based on the document so that they could not be accountable (Profile of Federal and Regional Ethics and Anticorruption, 2012).

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