

functions they have to undertake;

(iii) Creation and decentralisation of a resource base to finance development programmes;

(iv) Unreservedly recognising local government as a sphere of governance capable of implementing effective development initiatives and giving them appropriate leeway for innovation;

(v) Removing unjustified control of local officials by decentralising the hire and fire responsibilities to local councils; and

(vi) Putting in place effective human resources development, training strategies and other forms of capacity building.

Though there are negative situations that exist in some Commonwealth countries i.e the manner in which local government is viewed and or treated; there are also some positive developments worth pointing out.

Some Emerging Local Government Practices in Africa.

After the ravaging civil war which crippled the economy, destroyed urban and rural infrastructure in Uganda during the Idi Amin era, which saw the total disruption of local government and the rest of civil society, the present government must be commended for the policies it put in place which include the constitutional recognition of local Government in the 1993 national constitution. This helped to overhaul the system. Today, the people of Uganda look more to local government for their needs than central government giving the latter ample space to deal with other pressing national issues than worrying about uncollected garbage and collection of dog licences or market fees.

Perhaps one of the major lessons to learn from the Ugandan example is the devolution of development resources to the districts. Resources collected in a particular locality are apportioned in a manner that a sizeable percentage is invested in the area.

Council officials who were appointed by the centre hitherto, and as such owed allegiance to the centre; there is now a process of localising appointments through the Local Authorities Service Commission. Uganda made bold decisions regarding the human resources development at the local level (both councillors and appointed officials); through exchange visits, decentralised cooperation programmes, local and externally based institutional training programmes. Local authorities were facilitated by government to visit progressive local government systems in Africa and elsewhere in the world in order to learn .