Governance, Transparency and Accountability:
A case study on Guyana

By
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INTRODUCTION

- Presenter a weekly columnist for local newspaper
- Column is entitled “Accountability Watch”
- Presentation deals with PFM and other related issues
- Covers the period 2011 to date
- Published in book form
PRESENTATION POINTS

- Democratic norms and values
- General PFM matters
- Budgetary matters
- Public procurement
- Corruption-related issues
- Concluding remarks and questions
DEMOCRATIC NORMS AND VALUES

- 2011 national elections and their impact
- Stalemate in budget approval process
- 2012 ‘budget cuts’ case and Court ruling
- Circumventing Parliamentary approval to incur expenditure
DEMOCRATIC NORMS AND VALUES…

✓ Threat of no confidence in the Government
✓ Prorogation and dissolution of Parliament
✓ Court ruling on ‘excess expenditure’
✓ Fresh national elections in 2015
DEMOCRATIC NORMS AND VALUES…

✓ Change of Government after 23 years
✓ Local government elections after 22 years
✓ Local Government Commission yet to be established
GENERAL PFM MATTERS

- Financial accountability local government organs
- Constitutional violations and creation of ‘parallel’ Treasury
- Creation of ‘parallel’ Public Service
- Implementation of IFMAS
GENERAL PFM MATTERS

- Consolidated and Contingencies Funds
- Need for effective internal audit in Government
- Auditor General as watchdog of public accountability
- Role of the Public Accounts Committee
GENERAL PFM MATTERS…

✓ Need for revision of the accountability cycle
✓ Introducing IPSAS for Government
✓ Forensic audit reports of State agencies
BUDGETARY MATTERS

✓ 2012 budget cuts case and Chief Justice ruling
✓ Excess expenditure and threat of no confidence
✓ 2015 Court ruling on excess expenditure
✓ Budget Transparency Action Plan
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- Estimated 15-20% leakages in public procurement
- Main contributory factors
- Constitutional amendment of 2001
- The Procurement Act 2003
- Procurement Commission established after 15 years
CORRUPTION-RELATED ISSUES

✓ Guyana a signatory to IACAC and UNCAC
✓ Integrity Commission as an anti-corruption mechanism
✓ Guyana’s standing on the Corruption Perceptions Index
✓ Amendments to anti-money laundering legislation
CONCLUDING REMARKS & QUESTIONS

➢ Pleasure to have been invited
➢ Guyana’s experience an important lesson in PFM
➢ Happy to respond to any questions!
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QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

✓ End of slide 6: Does your country have a minority government? Are there any difficulties in having the national budget approved?

✓ End of slide 9: Has your country introduced IPSAS, or in the process of doing so?

✓ End of slide 11: What is your best estimate of the extent of procurement leakages in your country? (1) 0-5% (2) 5-10% (3) 10-15% (4) 15-20% (5) over 20%

✓ End of slide 11: Is public procurement written in your Constitution? Does your country have a dedicated procurement law, as opposed to regulations?