

MDF ROLES, FUNCTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

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**MINISTRY OF LANDS HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT**

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BACKGROUND

- The Government of Uganda has recognized the need to capture the positive impacts of urbanization, and seeks to devise a strategy to enhance competitiveness of urban sector in order to harness its potential as a driver of economic growth.
- The general objective of the decentralization policy in Uganda is to transform society by empowering citizens to take charge of the development agenda.
- The Government of Uganda in conjunction with its level development partners Cities Alliance, UNDP, the World Bank and the UN Habitat spearheaded the formation of the Municipal Development Forums in selected Municipalities following the launch of the Uganda National Urban Forum on 6th. May 2010.
- B&MGF support MDF formation in 8 MCs in FY 2012/13.

14/11/2015

WHAT ARE MDFs?

- MDFs are platforms established at the Municipal level for all stakeholders in the urban sector **to meet regularly to exchange views, Debate priorities and agree on common actions on matters pertaining to the urban sector.**
- MDFs are intended to bring together individuals and representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions, organizations of the urban poor, Professional institutions, Cultural Institutions, Religious institutions as well as voluntary organizations to discuss matters pertaining to urban development at the municipal level and other levels.

ABOUT MDFs...

- The MDFs have a major role in enhancing broad-based consultations on matters pertaining to the urban sector that will offer all the stakeholders an opportunity to;
- Contribute to the planning process in the MCs,
- Enhance sharing of experiences,
- And facilitating access to information with an aim of improving the performance of the urban sector in order to ensure sustainable urban development.

11/11/2015

THEME, VISION, MISSION

The Theme of MDFs

- “Sustainable urbanization: A collective responsibility”

11/11/2015

The Vision of MDFs

- Sustainable Urban Development through dialogue and participation.

The Mission of MDFs

- To empower urban stakeholders to participate in influencing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in order to ensure effective management of urban growth and sustainable urban development.

WHAT DO THE MDFs SEEK TO PROVIDE TO THE URBAN COMMUNITIES

- MDFs seek to provide a **platform for dialogue** at a Municipality level for all the stakeholders with an aim of promoting collective participation in devising strategies to tackle challenges facing the urban areas in order to lead to sustainable urban development.
- The MDFs provide an opportunity to **the urban poor to have a voice and make their input into policies that guide urban development and management in order to enhance service delivery**. The urban poor are a reality in the urban areas; the MDFs therefore recognize the existence of the **urban poor** and provides a forum for them to know their rights, responsibilities and obligations.

PRINCIPLES OF THE MDFs

1. Collective Responsibility of all stakeholders in ensuring sustainable urban development;
2. Integrated planning framework for sustainable urban development;
3. Effective coordination amongst all urban stakeholders enhances complementarity of roles;
4. Local cooperation arrangements and networking enhances local capacities and capabilities;
5. Bottom-up broad-based stakeholder participatory consultations ensures stakeholder empowerment and ownership;
6. Resource mobilization for sustainable and viable urban development.

OBJECTIVES OF MDFs

- 1) To provide space for dialogue amongst all stakeholders of the urban domain to influence policy and legal framework pertaining to planning and management of urban growth.
- 2) To increase awareness of stakeholders about collective action to influence the urban development agenda at the Municipality level.
- 3) To promote collaborative applied urban research to find sustainable practical solutions to critical urban challenges.
- 4) To improve coordination and networking arrangements among stakeholders in the urban domain for purposes of exchanging information, knowledge and experiences as well as mobilizing resources for implementation of urban development programmes.
- 5) To promote pro-active integrated participatory planning, development and management of the urban environments amongst urban actors in urban areas.
- 6) To organize regular conferences, Seminars, fora and training events for purposes of influencing legal and policy reforms for effective urban development and management.

FUNCTIONS OF MDFs/A

- Monitoring the implementation of resolutions from the Local Municipal Development Forums pertaining to policy and legal reforms;
- Undertaking lobby and advocacy campaigns to facilitate prioritizing of urban development issues on the regional, national and local development agendas;
- **Compiling information** on sustainable urban development initiatives and disseminate it to the stakeholders;
- Playing a coordinating role in **prioritizing identified local urban development initiatives and facilitating sourcing of funding and technical support at all levels;**
- Enhancing broad-based consultations to generate consensus on challenges of urban growth;

FUNCTIONS OF MDFs/ B

- Planning and organizing future annual and quarterly events at the Municipal Council level;
- Facilitating networking and applied research initiatives on planning and management of urban development issues;
- **Maintaining a website for purposes of disseminating** information and best practices and transferring of knowledge;
- Preparing **publicity materials to update members about developments related** to the urban sector in the Municipal councils;
- Disseminating and giving value added information related to urban development issues pertinent to the Municipal Councils including information on new fields of research, donor identification and professional exchange and training programmes;
- Recommending interventions aimed at addressing Urban Development issues in Uganda;

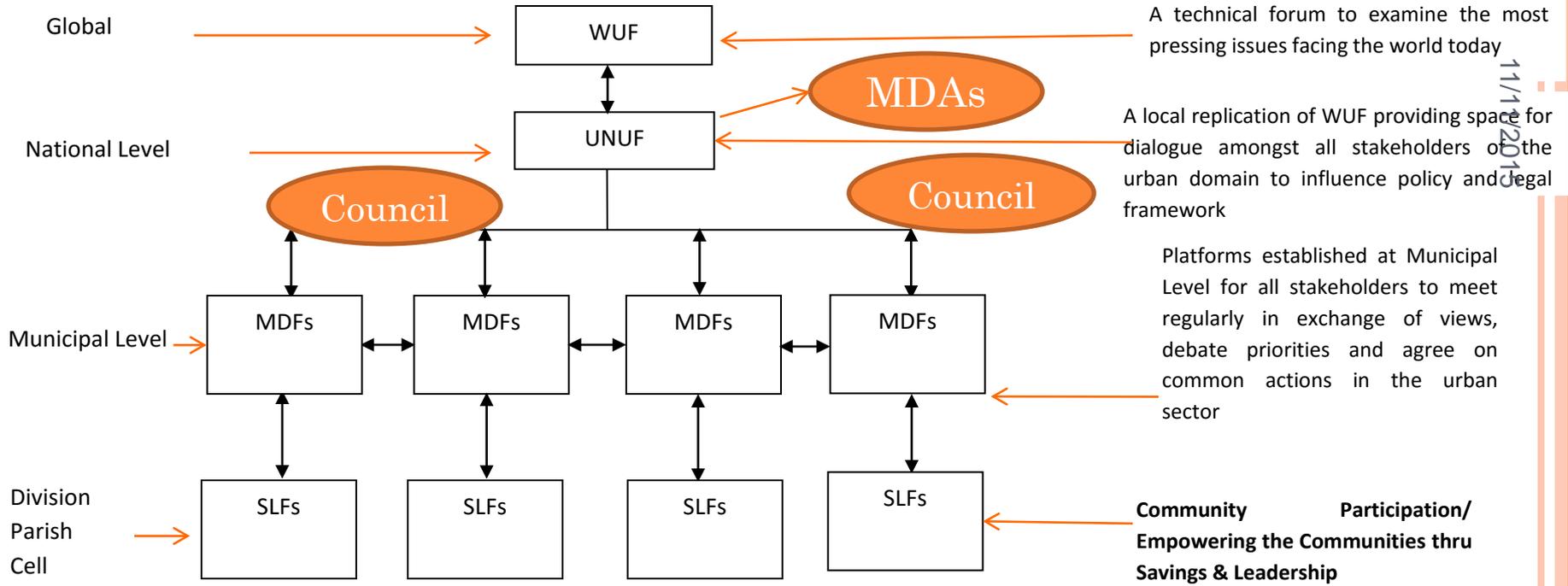
URBAN CONCERNS TO BE ADDRESSED BY MDF'S INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

1. **Population pressure**
2. **Building Orderly towns**
3. **Improving urban services**
4. **Accessing Urban land**
5. **Keeping towns clean campaign**
6. **Ensuring healthy urban environments**
7. **Providing decent and affordable urban housing**
8. **Ensuring a vibrant and competitive Urban economy**
9. **Reducing urban poverty and unemployment**
10. **Social Equity- homelessness and street children**
11. **Urban safety and security**
12. **Urban disaster planning, preparedness and management.**
13. **Preserving the Urban Heritage**
14. **Enhancing urban governance**
15. **Strengthening the monitoring and supervision**
16. **Beautifying the urban landscape and**
17. **Putting in place efficient urban transport systems.**

FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR MDFs

- GoU intends to extend this programme to the rest of the other Municipalities and Town Councils to enable increased community participation in devising strategies to the urbanization challenges in order to ensure sustainable urban development at the local level.
- Duration of the MDFs is permanent fora for networking, sharing and disseminating information, promoting cooperation amongst various actors in the urban sector to ensure advancement and sustainability of orderly urban development and advocating for prioritization of urban sector issues in the overall national development agenda and promoting integrated planning and management of urban growth.
- MDFs are established to stay because urbanization is a process that cannot be stopped but only needs to be planned for and managed in a sustainable way. Sustainable Urbanization is a collective responsibility: Play your part and together we shall achieve better and healthy towns. Republic of Uganda

INSTITUTIONAL FRAME WORK OF THE FORUMS

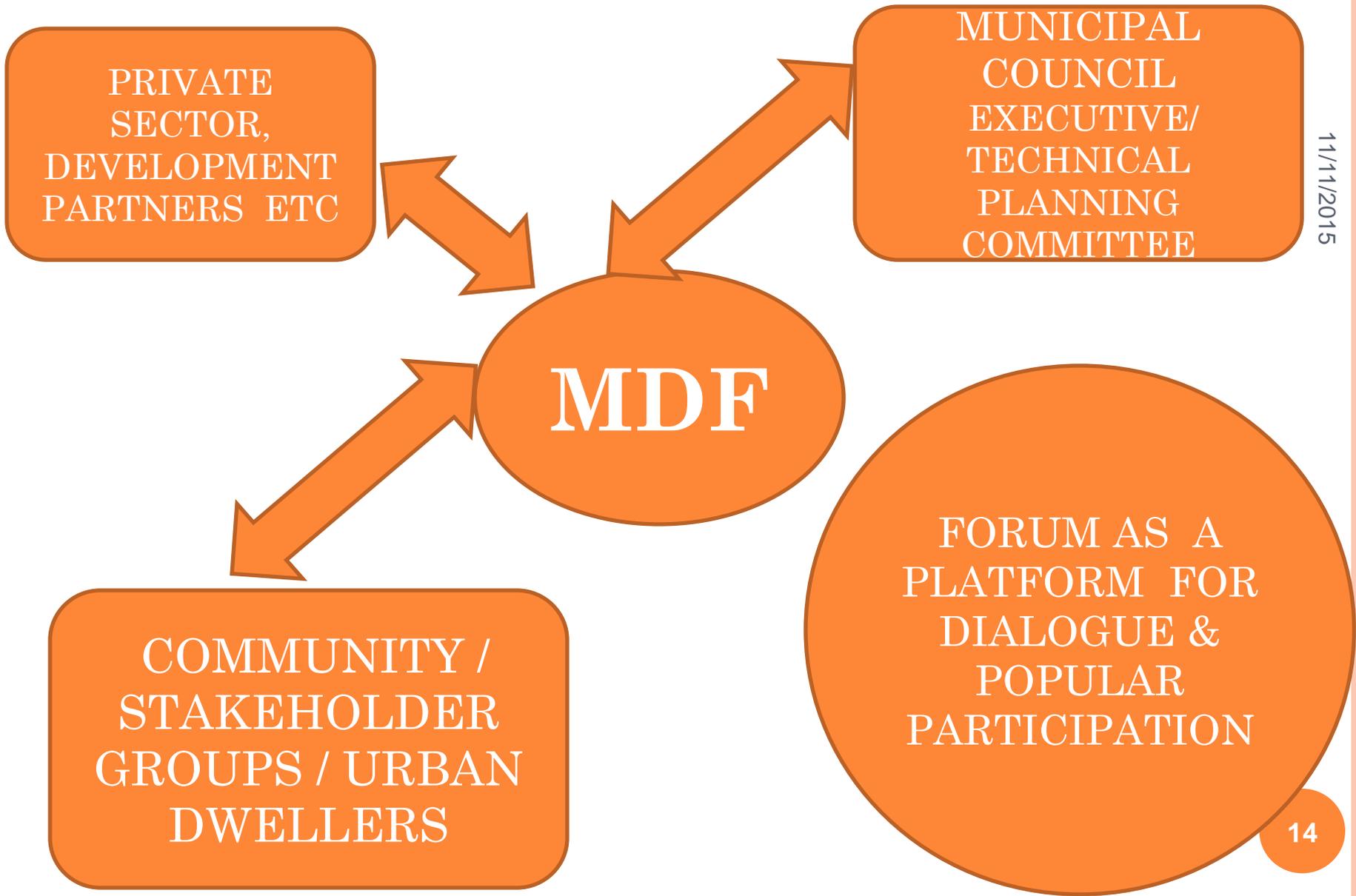


World Urban Forum
 Uganda National Urban Forum
 Municipal Development Forums
 Settlement Level Forums

Thematic Working Groups:

1. Governance
2. Environment
3. Infrastructure
4. Housing
5. Social Development
6. Urban Economy
7. Planning

11/1/2019



INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

- **Uganda National Urban Forum:** where the MDFs can forward issues and concerns that cannot be addressed locally e.g. Urban Research, Proposal Writing and Grant agreements, Policy and Legal framework issues while making bye-laws, issues which need National Political guidance and intervention.
- **Sector Ministries** e.g. MLHUD, MoLG, and other MDAs for policy, administrative and operational issues and measures for instance land acquisition and sensitization under MoLHUD.
- **Municipal Councils:** Where MDFs can forward urban issues and concerns for consideration, approval and action. These concerns normally come from the Communities since MDFs are a voice for the Communities. MDFs are expected to complement and not to compete with Municipal Administration including Council. **Councils make resolutions which are implemented at the MC level or forwarded to UNUF/ MDAs.**
- **Development Partners and Private Sector:** where the MDFs after exchanging views and agreeing on priority areas would (thru the Municipality) interface with Development Partners and private sector to respond and intervene in urban challenges and opportunities.
- **Communities Settlement Level Forums:** where MDFs thru settlement level forums would interact with community members in relation to their needs, concerns, roles, responsibilities and obligations to be addressed. And be a voice to forward them to the relevant stakeholders thru council. It is imperative to note that MDFs at that level will operate in close consultation with Parish Development Committees to ensure that MDFs are not competitors with the existing structures in terms of power.

NEXT STEPS/ INTERVENTIONS

1. More Training Seminars for the MDFs, SLFs.
2. NUP & Institutionalization of MDFs.
3. Revival of UNUF and linking MDF to UNUF.
4. Finalize and Publish the MDF Charters
5. MDF Work Plans and Action Plans
6. Sustainability Issues/ Plans
7. Exchange Programs – USMID, FCA, MDS etc
8. Rolling out MDFs and SLFs to other Urban Centres.
9. Documenting, General performance, success stories, challenges and Lessons Learnt.
10. Integrating MDFs in planning, budgeting and implementation of dev't programs.

OTHER KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONSIDER TAKE-HOME MSG...

- Thematic Working Groups
- Settlement Level Forums
- Simplified Documentation/Guidelines
(Reporting Formats)
- Spirit of Voluntarism
- Development Oriented
- Innovativeness and Creativity/ Resource
Mobilisation Strategies.
- Publicity and Awareness Campaigns
- Municipal Development Strategies -FCA

CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN CENTRES

- **This booming population has led to increased pressure on land,**
- **Environmental degradation and pollution;**
- **Inadequate land for industrial development and unplanned development**
- **Overcrowding, traffic congestion, growth of slums, informal settlements, dilapidated housing and poor sanitation**
- **The inefficient Urban Transport infrastructure;**
- **The degradation and encroachment of urban ecological systems and green spaces;**
- **The underdeveloped tourism and heritage facilities;/**
- **The poor and inefficient management of Urban land;**
- **The limited planning for urban disasters such as floods;**
- **The ineffective urban crime control mechanisms;**
- **The gender inequality and vulnerability of urban women, children and Persons with Disabilities;**
- **Urban Unemployment and Urban Crime;**
- **Increasing Decay and Degeneration of Urban Areas.**
- **The Informal and unregulated urban & peri urban Agriculture; and**
- **The inappropriate waste management practices.**
- **Urban Poverty & Other Social ills e.g. Homelessness, Street Families, HIV Issues,**

CONCLUSION

Where as the existing structures seem to promote participation this has proven not effective over time.

To achieve the objective of effective participation in the development process (planning, budgeting, implementation) we need to integrate MDFs in the decentralized management system to enhance inclusive representation of all stakeholder interests. MDFs act and will act as platforms for broad based consultations on matters pertaining sustainable urban dev't.

Municipal Management Systems and Development Processes should therefore embrace the MDF Philosophy for improved services delivery in Municipal Local Governments.

END

○ THANK YOU