

Practical Action; A local government and community level perspective

Vishaka Hidellage



Mechanisms

- Local administration/ local authority to obtain community inputs and facilitate community participation
- Community to provide inputs and participate



Context

Rural

- 85 villages
- Rasnayakapura District Secretariat division
- Nikaweratiya Pradeshiya Saba
- Population: 21223
- Small tank based paddy farming

Urban

- Kotte, Wattala, Galle, Kurunegala
- In selected low income settlements
- Community organisation
- Capacity building
- community participation highly politicised

Getting Community Participation...

➤ At village level

- Awareness and mobilisation
- Village level committees
- Participatory data collection/ problem identification and analysis

➤ Divisional level

- Chairpersons of “Prajā Sabha”
- Review plans with divisional level stakeholders
- Agree on operational plans
- Agree on roles and responsibilities
- Monitoring plan

➤ At small localities level

- “Prajā Saba” with village leaders advisory inputs from village level officials
- Participatory needs identification and prioritisation
- Participatory development planning



Participation of Urban Poor

Settlement level

- Participatory data collection/problem identification and analysis
- Participatory needs identification and prioritisation
- Participatory development planning
- Presented to MC through Review plans with municipal stakeholders
- Agree on operational plans
- Agree on roles and responsibilities
- Monitoring plan



Response of Local/ Administrative Authority



- Accepted community participation
- Included other divisional level key stakeholders
- Inputs from government officials in the locality
- Reviewed priorities and plans proposed by the community with them
- Developed a joint programme for implementation
- Set up Divisional Operational Committee to implement plan
- Agreed to community roles and responsibilities in implementation
- Acknowledged community role in monitoring development initiatives
- Accommodated community inputs within government

Municipal Council Level



- Prajamandala existed in Kotte Municipality area
- Exposure on to other MCs on Prajamandala and setting up
- Representation of poor in Prajamandala
- Prajamandala reviewed community priorities and plans
- MC supported community initiatives
 - Resource allocation by MC

Learning

Community Governance can work

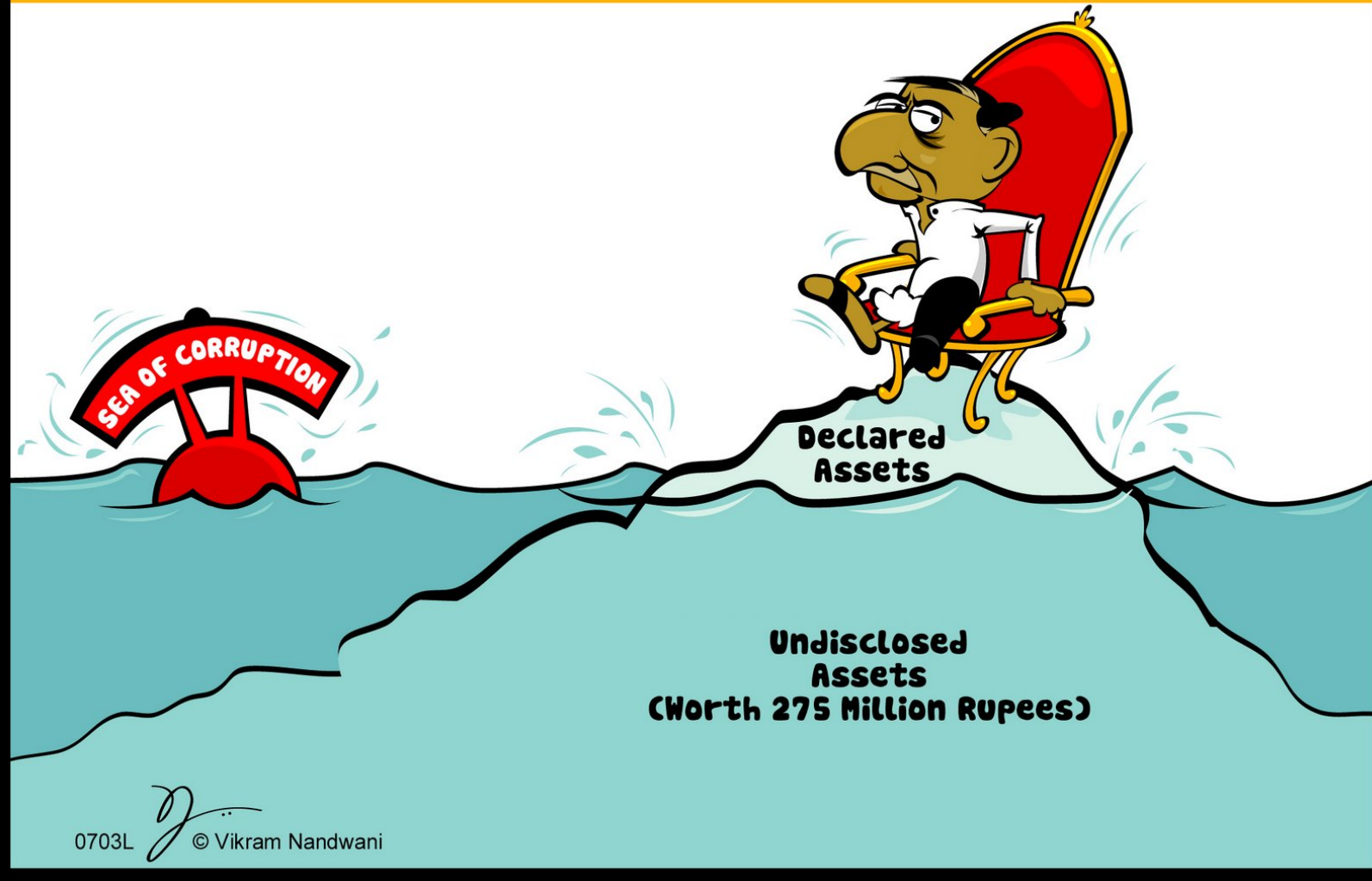
Community can be facilitated to work together on common interests

Politicians can be sensitised to be interested

Officials are less enthusiastic

.pOINT_bLANK

- Vikram Nandwani



Contributed to reduce corruption ?

Community Governance contribution to:

- ✓ Prioritising I & S for as political favours
- ✓ Inappropriate delivery
- X Commissions

Community Governance has potential for more



Challenges

Political Commitment and Attitude changing

- Officials and local level administrative systems and authorities

Community to assume responsibility

Capacity building

- Community
- Officials (local and national level)

Systems

- Systems and procedure to accommodate participatory development
- Legal

Conclusion

- Addressing Corruption is a priority
- Community Governance can contribute reduce corruption at local level
- Challenges
 - acceptance
 - capacity building
 - community organisation

Thank you