

1. Introduction

The DLGP is a three-year, US\$ 7 million program, aimed at fomenting financial decentralization in Suriname, while strengthening the administrative capacity of local governments. The Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB) declared the DLGP eligible for funding on November 27, 2002. The National Assembly approved the Interim Law Regulation on Financial Decentralization on March 25, 2003¹. The law became effective on October 15, 2003². By executing the Interim Law, the Government of Suriname announced by state decree (S.B. 2004, No. 117) the creation of five pilot districts: Wanica, Para, Nickerie, Commewijne and Marowijne

The broad goal of the Program

To empower local governments in Suriname with the core legal framework and institutional capacity necessary for financial self-management.

More specifically, the Program aims at:

a) Promulgating new enabling legislation for autonomous revenue generation and budget management by District authorities; b) Putting in place a core package of basic municipal management systems in each of the Districts; c) Improving the capacity of key central government stakeholders, particularly in the Ministry of Regional Development; and; d) Undertaking pre-investment activities in preparation for an expanded follow-up effort by the Government. Conceptually, the DLGP is designed as the first phase of the decentralization process. Activities that will be financed under DLGPI are intended to prepare the way for a second decentralization program (DLGPII).

This document foresees in the need of the international community in Suriname, following the decentralization process strictly, and the interest of the International Organizations in the region showed in 'the lesson learned' aspects and the progress of this comprehensive politic-sensitive program of the Government of Suriname (GoS). This document provides also information to the actors, the stakeholders, the national and international consultants getting more and more involved in the programs concerning the public sector reform. If there is any question or one needs more information, don't hesitate to contact the DLGP-Project Office.

The DLGP-Managing Director,
Basharat Ahmadali

¹ S.B. 2003, # 33; S.B., replacing the Governmental State Decree of May 2, 2000 (S.B. 2000 # 53) concerning the Fiscal Decentralization.

² S.B. 2003, # 91