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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Management, University of the Witwatersrand, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Management (in the field of Public and Development Management).

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ABSTRACT

The basic principles of democratic governance may have been captured in policy documents but do not guarantee the transformation to an equitable and socio-economically viable society in South Africa and other developing countries. Hence NGOs as an entity of civil society have a role to foster democratic governance with its guiding principles in order to build an equitable and just society at local, national and international levels. The purpose of this case study was to explore and provide a common insight about the meaning and nature of democratic governance and the role of NGOs, in this case IDASA and AWARD, in local governance.

The main findings of the research were that IDASA and AWARD have played substantial roles in democratizing local governance, providing social services, institutional development and capacity building, policy research and advocacy. Nevertheless, the above thematic issues require further multi-disciplinary research and collective action to promote the role of NGOs in local governance.

DECLARATION

I declare this report is my own, unaided work. It is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Management (in the field of Public and Development Management) in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

Gebremedhin Belete Signature ---------- 22 November 2005

DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this research report to my wife Sonja Belete who has inspired and provided me with incredible support for the study and research completion.

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ACRONYMS

ANC	African National Congress
BSCS	Balance Score Card System
AWARD	Association for Water and Rural Development
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDF	Community Development Forum
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DPLG	Department of Provincial and Local Government
DPSA	Department of Public Service and Administration
FBO	Faith Based Organization
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IDASA	Institute for Democracy in South Africa
IDP	Integrated Development Programme
MPACD	Ministry for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development
NCOP	National Council of Provinces
NEPAD	New Partnership for African Development
NGO/NPO	Non- Governmental Organization/Non- Profit Organization
PCAS	Policy Co-ordination and Advisory Service
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RBA	Rights Based Approach
REFLECT	Regenerated Freirean Literacy through Empowering Community Techniques
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SALGA	South African Local Governments Association
SANGOCO	South African Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition
SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

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