

THE 3RD EDITION OF THE FORUM OF TERRITORIAL MANAGERS AND TRAINING INSTITUTES

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The 3rd Edition of the Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes targeting the local level in Africa was held in the Kingdom of Morocco at Al Akhawayn University of Ifrane from 10 to 14 June 2019. The 3rd Edition of the Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes targeting the local governance in Africa. I was invited to present useful insights on capacity building, peer learning, access to information and transformative leadership in local government. Since my research interest is about urban land governance, this forum provided a full opportunity for practice, learning and constructive dialogue. The theme of the forum was Financing Learning, Training and Capacity Building for Local Elected and Staff of Local Governments in Africa: for innovative and sustainable Mechanisms.

The presentation I gave is titled “The economy of corruption in African local government: Innovative strategies to tackling the cancer”. The main takeaways for my presentation was to emphasise the enablers of corruption in local government across Africa such as lack of honest leadership, bad institutional culture, non-existence of punishment for corrupt individuals and lowly paid staff. My presentation was well received and stimulated a lot of constructive discussion during my session and after.

The forum included 165 participants and invited 50 speakers from 41 countries across the globe. Delegates of the forum represented states, ministries, presidents of national association of local authorities, local elected officials, territorial managers, universities, training centres, international organisations, civil society, local government experts, students and the media. The forum provided me with immense learning experience. For instance, it was an excellent networking opportunity to get together, interact and exchange experiences with participants from other African countries and beyond. Through the 50 presentations and interventions at the forum, participants discussed and reflected deeply on both the African and global agendas such sustainable development goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063, SDG 16.5 on prevention and fighting corruption, New Urban Agenda, Sendai Framework and COP23.

The forum also provided me with the opportunity to promote the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), NELGA and the Cities of Integrity Urban Planning and Corruption in Africa. I was also able to establish and identify potential partners that NUST through NELGA could collaborate with in future.

