

Democracy from the Bottom Up

Presentation to



Democracy and Governance 2008 Partners Conference

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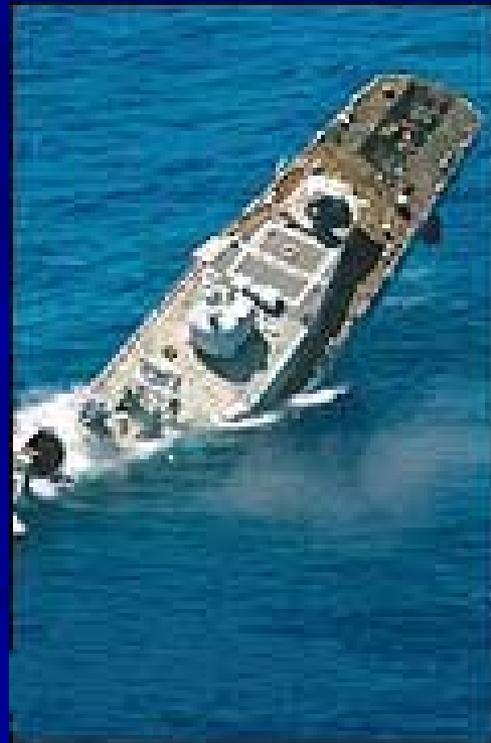
The Question—

'Why are Political promises not translated into results?'

Major Qualifications to be Mayor:

Get more votes than the other guy

We sometimes expect too much. We cannot blame good people who fail in good faith.



Evaluating Mayors/Local Elected Officials



The Same Evaluation of Staff Can Be Made



Motivations for Mayors

- Local Officials Live It
- Less Likely to Be Totally Political
- They must be accountable—people know them and see them each day.
- The lives they impact are their own—and their families

Scale Interventions—Rowboats, Not Aircraft Carriers

- Identify High Profile, Low Risk Interventions
- Success breeds credibility—don't start too high
- Focus on issues that most impact citizens

Citizen Expectations Are Simple

Is My Life Getting Better?

- Is the trash being picked up?
- Are my streets passable?
- Does my house flood?
- Do I have clean water?
- Do I have electricity?

Building Blocks

Drinking Water

Electricity

Street Maintenance

Trash Collection

Public Areas

Simple—But Critical

- These core issues seem to be almost too basic—but consider
- Ditch Cleaning
 - Health/Disease
 - Global Warming
 - Flooding
 - Dislocation
 - Employment (Training)
 - Education
 - Disaster



Trash Collection



Drainage



Streets



Community Centers

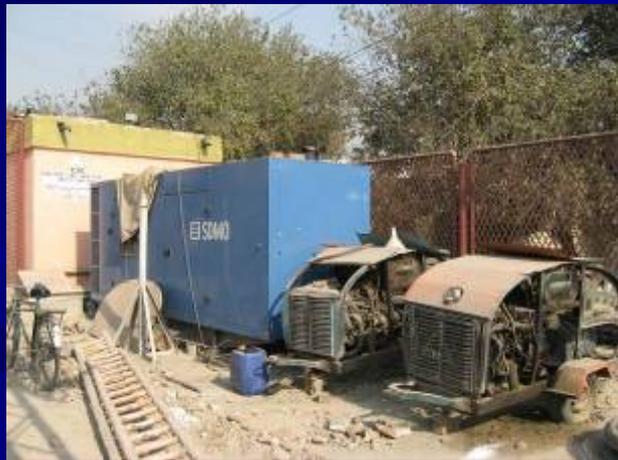


Water



Electricity—Scale is Everything

(And it's really hard for a local government)



Surveys—Making Sure The City Hits the Target



- Understand that Mayors don't know all the answers, and it can be a sign of weakness to ask.
- If we ask citizens first, we build credibility when the answer is provided.



The Key is Building Credibility for Local Officials—*Show them the way to Success*

