

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE OVERLAPPING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FCTA AND AMAC:
IMPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

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Abstracts

This study examines the overlapping relationship between the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), with particular focus on its implications for the development of the city. The research explores how interactions between both institutions influence governance, service delivery, and the council's developmental trajectory. It also discussed the challenges and prospects of the FCTA–AMAC dynamic, thereby offering a holistic understanding of their impacts. The study employed a qualitative approach, relying on secondary data sources, and was anchored on Institutional Theory to explain how regulatory structures, organizational norms, and power relations shape intergovernmental interactions. Findings revealed that although the FCTA and AMAC function as tiers of governance within the Federal Capital Territory, the FCTA retains superiority over AMAC. This dominance has led to overlapping responsibilities, particularly in revenue collection, land administration, and infrastructural development, creating tensions and administrative inefficiencies. While the relationship has produced some developmental outcomes, it has also had adverse effects, especially for rural and peri-urban communities that depend on AMAC for grassroots governance. The study concluded that the FCTA's control significantly weakens AMAC's autonomy, limiting its capacity to respond effectively to pressing community needs. It recommends that constitutional provisions clearly delineating the responsibilities of FCTA and AMAC should be enforced to prevent overlapping duties. AMAC should be allowed to exercise its full autonomy as enshrined in the Constitution, while both institutions should foster genuine collaboration to ensure balanced and inclusive development. Effective coordination of their relationship holds strong potential for sustainable progress across AMAC.

Keywords: Development, Dominance, Governance, Intergovernmental Relations, Overlapping Responsibilities,

Introduction

The administration and governance of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, is running under a quasi or mixture of levels and layers of government bodies represents a peculiar administrative arrangement within Nigeria's federal system. Abuja the FCT unlike the other 36 states of the Federation is administered directly by the Federal Government through the body called the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), which is structurally placed under the supervision of the Minister of the FCT (Abuja Geographic Information Systems [AGIS], 2020). Within this framework are the other Six local government area councils which include, the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Bwari Area Council, the Kuje Area Council, the Gwagwalada Area Council, the Kwali Area Council and the Abaji Area Council. While the AMAC functions as one of these six area councils, serving as the primary tier of local government in the capital city centre (Ojo, 2019). Central to this paper is the concern by individual scholars and residents of the FCT that the FCTA is all over and the local government council perform none or minimal duties. That the FCTA remains the most recognised body when it comes to administration of the FCT and other area councils, that local government councils perform little or no functions which has hindered development in these local areas councils and seemingly remains ceremonial body.

Central to this concern is the AMAC, a local government council situated directly within or at the heart of the Federal Capital Territory. The overboard and prevalence of the presence of the FCTA has indirectly brought the AMAC into oblivion, that made some school of thought queried the importance or essence of the AMAC within the FCT. It has also hampered development in the AMAC towns and villages outside the city centre. While some noted jurisdiction fragmentation between the FCTA and AMAC. Therefore, the relationship between the FCTA and AMAC is often characterized by overlapping functions, administrative tensions, and fiscal competition (Ezeani, 2021). While the FCTA

exercises overarching authority in urban planning, infrastructure provision, and revenue management, AMAC plays a crucial role in grassroots governance, taxation, and service delivery at the community level. This dual structure has led to recurring conflicts over revenue allocation, land administration, and the scope of jurisdiction, thereby shaping the trajectory of development in the AMAC (Audu, 2022).

In this regard, the study examined the relationship between the FCTA and AMAC, as it is crucial to understanding the complexities of urban and rural governance, development planning, and service delivery and its implication for the development of Abuja and adjoining villages. The study also evaluates the nature and effectiveness of this relationship and how it directly influences the socio-economic transformation of the AMAC, especially in terms of infrastructure development, citizen participation, and local economic growth and overall development of the FCT and AMAC.

Literature Review

Understanding FCT and the FCTA

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) was created by the Federal Government of Nigeria via Decree No. 6 of 1976 (now codified as the FCT Act) to relocate the Nigeria capital city from Lagos to a more central location, aiming for national unity and alleviating infrastructure pressure on Lagos. FCTA (2024), The Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) was established to plan and develop Abuja and the surrounding area. Over time, governance of the FCT evolved; in 2004, the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory was reformed into the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), with new mandate secretariats created to enhance service delivery. According to (Audu, 2022) in his own description stated that the creation of the FCTA does not form part of the existing 36 states of the federation. By this, unlike other states in Nigeria which are governed by elected state governors, the president appoints minister to heads its administration. It is made up of six Area Councils within as

stated earlier, being much more centrally located as well as economically viable because it accommodates both major parts of the city center and numerous federal institutions (Ola 2018).

The FCTA acts as the admin of the FCT, manages urban plans, builds infrastructure, and handles public services for the federal government. The 1999 Constitution (Section 299) gives the National Assembly legislative power over the FCT which it uses control via the FCTA. As noted by Mabogunje (2011), the FCTA helped make Abuja's master plan widen road networks and offer housing schemes. But the FCTA runs with a central, top-down method. This often weakens local power and citizen input (Abubakar, 2014). While according to the (FCTA, 2024) reports its core mandates also includes providing effective administrative frameworks; infrastructure development; service delivery; ensuring a safe and secure environment, creating an enabling environment for wealth creation and poverty reduction and oversight of land use, environmental regulation, and oversees the local governance in the six area councils

Buttressing on the above Ezeani (2021) in his analysis of Local government administration and grassroots development in Nigeria posited that, the FCTA has control over land management, resource sharing, and project work has long caused stress with local councils like AMAC. The Abuja Municipal Area Council is the most famous of the six area councils making up the FCT. Its functions cover primary health care, local markets, sanitation, refuse disposal, and basic education. As a grassroots governance institution, this represents the closest contact between government and vast multitudes of population dwelling in satellite towns as well as peri-urban settlements.

From another perspective as submitted by Ojo (2019) in his work "Intergovernmental relations and urban governance in Nigeria: The case of Abuja Municipal Area Council" corroborated by the (Abuja Grassroots Development Network, 2023 and (The Abuja Inquirer, 2023) posited that the FCTA faces

multiple challenges arising from rapid population growth stressing infrastructure plans, proliferation of illegal settlements and buildings due to high rate of rural urban migration, poor maintenance of roads arising from overlapping responsibilities between the FCTA and AMAC, water, drainage, and utilities; inefficient service delivery; land allocation issues; delayed projects; low federal agencies; limited funding and weak internally generated revenue; security issues related to illegal revenue collectors; infrastructure decay; and gaps in service delivery across wards (Abuja Grassroots Development Network, 2023).

Understanding AMAC in the FCT

The Abuja Municipal Area Council popularly called (AMAC) was created as an administrative area in 1984, became officially recognised as an Area Council in 1989, the main aim is to provide local governance in the expanding and increasing Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria. The AMAC as stated earlier is one of the six area councils under the FCT with its headquarters in Garki located at the city centre. AMAC is the most populous among the six council and covering high-profile urban districts including the city centre, Wuse, Maitama, Garki, Central Business District, Asokoro (Abubakar 2014). While areas such as Lugbe and its environ, Paipe, Sauka along airport, Waru, Orosoro, Jaite and many other villages are begging for attention as they far lagging behind in development.

Furthermore, in the analysis of Adejoh (2013) whose view was corroborated by Ojo (2019) posited that the AMAC functions as a local government authority with jurisdiction, over many parts of the capital territory thereby sharing responsibilities with the FCTA, as one of the six area councils in the FCT, it is responsible for providing local services and addressing community needs within its domain. AMAC exercises significant responsibilities in land use, environmental enforcement, and revenue generation at the local level. AMAC's current executive chairman, Christopher Zakka Mai Kalangu, leads the council's efforts to fulfil its mandate while navigating the complex governance structure of the FCT. The

concern for AMAC in the study lies in the fact that AMAC is centrally located within the FCT and most of the towns that make up AMAC are being dominated by the FCTA, thus one could hardly point out what AMAC is doing as against what the FCTA is doing in the FCT, take for example the Garki, Maitama, Wuse and others are heavily dominated by FCTA. However, in the area of school administration, health care facilities and some others, AMAC has more presence. According to the Abuja Inquirer (2023) AMAC faces several challenges: interference from the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) in its administrative autonomy; overlapping jurisdictions with federal agencies; limited funding and weak internally generated revenue; security issues related to illegal revenue collectors; infrastructure decay; and gaps in service delivery across wards.

Methodology

This study adopts the qualitative research methodology, mainly relying on secondary data. The analysis is based on peer-reviewed Academic Literature journal articles, books, and policy reports relating to governance in Nigeria, institutional relations, and FCT development, supported by personal working experience as a director of administration in AMAC, which permits access to government documents, constitutional provisions, National Assembly debates, budget presentation and defense and policy statements on the FCTA and AMAC. The data generated were analyzed thematically to reveal areas of cooperation and differences between FCTA and AMAC. The Qualitative research design is done through content analysis. This method is found most appropriate because this study is historical, explanatory, descriptive and analytical in nature, which helped in generating an interpretive understanding of the interfacing relations between the two tiers of government and their implications for development in the AMAC and the FCT by extension.

Theoretical Framework

This study uses Institutional Theory as its framework. The basic assumption of the institutional theory emphasized how formal structures, rules, and norms come into play in channeling organizational behavior toward any policy outcome (North, 1990). In the context of the FCT, the FCTA and AMAC are two separate institutions whose interaction is defined by overlapping mandates and administrative authority above all competing for resources. The Institutional theory gained prominence in the 1970s through the works of scholars like John Meyer, Brian Rowan, Paul DiMaggio, and Walter Powell.

Their research challenged rational-actor perspectives by stressing the influence of cultural and cognitive frameworks on organizational practices. Influential works such as Meyer and Rowan's (1977) on Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structure as Myth and Ceremony and DiMaggio and Powell's (1983) in their book "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality" provided the basis for what is now referred to as sociological neo-institutionalism. This approach underscores the tendency of organizations to adapt to institutional pressures in order to secure legitimacy, even when such alignment does not necessarily improve efficiency, institutional demands without compromising operational efficiency. For instance, AMAC might adopt policies mandated by FCTA formally but implement them only partially due to resource constraints or conflicting local priorities.

Peters (2012) noted that indeed it is true that institutional arrangements do influence policy coordination, efficiency, and governance outcomes. In this respect, the centralized institutional dominance of the FCTA over AMAC reflects how federal structures mostly undermine local autonomy to produce governance inefficiencies. Institutional theory also offers very relevant perspectives on understanding why duplication and conflict rather than cooperation characterize the relationship. Therefore, the relationship between the FCTA and AMAC can be viewed through the lens of institutional theory, particularly by examining how the regulative, normative, and cultural-cognitive

pillars shape their interactions between FCTA and AMAC-these are problems that have direct bearing on the development of FCT.

The Institutional theory provides valuable insights and analysis into the FCTA-AMAC relationship by emphasizing legitimacy, isomorphism, and the pillars of institutions as the core determinant of the out of institutional relationships. However, critics points out that institutional theory weaknesses include its emphasis on structural determinism, neglect of power, and Western bias, which according to them suggest FCTA, as a federal entity, imposes laws and regulations on AMAC, creating coercive isomorphism. That AMAC may comply formally but decouple implementation due to local constraints. Therefore, there is the need for complementary perspectives. Therefore, Future research could integrate institutional theory with conflict theory.

This perspective helps to uncover the formal rules, shared values, and ingrained beliefs that shape governance processes between the two institutions. Applying institutional theory thus provides a deeper understanding of the complexities of this governance dynamic, offering insights into both cooperation and tension in the pursuit of development outcomes for the FCT and AMAC.

The Role of the FCTA in FCT Development

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) serves as the primary governing authority of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), carrying out functions on behalf of the federal government. Its responsibilities include urban planning, infrastructure development, and the provision of public services. In line with the 1999 Constitution (Section 299), legislative authority over the FCT is vested in the National Assembly, which exercises this power through the FCTA. As noted by Mabogunje (2011), the FCTA has played a central role in shaping and implementing Abuja's master plan, overseeing the expansion of road networks, and developing housing schemes intended to meet the needs of the growing population. Despite these contributions, the FCTA has faced criticism for its highly centralized and top-

down administrative approach, which many argue limits local autonomy and curtails opportunities for citizen participation in governance (Abubakar, 2014). Its strong control over land administration, resource allocation, and project execution has often created tension between the FCTA and local councils such as the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

The Role of AMAC in FCT Development

The Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) stands out as the most prominent and influential of the six area councils within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). As a grassroots governance institution, AMAC is tasked with responsibilities that directly affect the daily lives of residents. These include the management of primary health care services, supervision of local markets, sanitation and waste disposal, and the provision of basic education facilities (Adejoh, 2013). AMAC therefore serves as the closest point of contact between government and citizens, particularly for those living in satellite towns and peri-urban settlements, where access to the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) is often limited. However, AMAC faces numerous challenges in performing these roles effectively, ranging from unclear jurisdictional boundaries with the FCTA to insufficient financial and administrative capacity. Scholars and policy experts have recommended clarifying roles through legislative reforms, strengthening AMAC's fiscal and institutional autonomy, promoting joint planning mechanisms with the FCTA, and ensuring equitable resource allocation to rural and peri-urban communities (Olaleye 2016).

FCTA and AMAC Relations, Its implication on AMAC Development

The relationship between the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) has undergone considerable transformation since the establishment of the FCTA in 2004. This development marked a critical turning point in governance and administrative structures within Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The FCTA was instituted by President Olusegun Obasanjo to replace the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory, with the introduction of Mandate

Secretariats intended to improve efficiency, streamline governance, and minimize bureaucratic delays (Nnenna 2024).

In the years immediately following its creation, debates emerged concerning the distribution of responsibilities between the FCTA and AMAC, particularly in matters such as revenue collection and local governance. Although the Constitution vests local governance powers in Area Councils, conflicts persisted over overlapping functions. A notable example was the tension surrounding the collection of taxes and permits. To resolve these disputes and prevent double taxation, certain functions were assigned to the Department of Outdoor Advertisement and Signage (DOAS) as a harmonization strategy (Agbai and Okey 2024).

Historically, as put forth by Nnenna (2024) the interaction between FCTA and AMAC has also included initiatives to strengthen community engagement and align governance priorities with local development objectives. The FCTA's governance strategy underscores citizen participation and collaboration with local authorities as essential for fostering shared visions of development. This cooperative approach has been instrumental in addressing grassroots needs while simultaneously advancing broader developmental goals. By this submission she opined that the FCTA administration appeared elitist and attention is more concentrated at the city centres leaving the suburb under AMAC with little or attention.

The relationship between the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has largely been defined by efforts to promote collaboration and synergy in order to strengthen governance and improve service delivery within the Federal Capital Territory. Abdullahi Adamu Candido, the current Chairman of AMAC, has consistently emphasized the value of cooperative engagement, cautioning against conflicts that undermine the welfare of Abuja's residents (NaijaHouse 2024). He maintains that fostering constructive partnerships between the two institutions

not only enhances efficiency but also provides more sustainable solutions to the pressing challenges confronting the community (Abech 2022).

In the view of scholars above AMAC grapples with issues of inadequate financial autonomy, weak institutional capacity, and frequent FCTA interventions (Odeyemi, 2017). Therefore, it has not been able to deliver on service provision effectively even though it is constitutionally recognized as the local government authority. He argued further that FCTA and AMAC lay competing claims to vital sources of revenue, such as motor parks, land allocation, signage fees, and markets. This has resulted in inefficiency through duplication and also disputes.

Challenges with the FCTA and AMAC Relationship

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) face numerous challenges that hinder AMAC development efforts. Key issues as identified by Odeyemi (2017) who posited that, among the challenges include:

i. **Overlapping Service Delivery:** he argued that the institutions, both FCTA and AMAC simultaneously function in the sectors of sanitation, waste management, and education; hence there is duplication of responsibilities and confusion among the residents. This according to him does result in clashes of duties between both layers of administration. The issue of overlapping service delivery has continued to generate confusion among the residents of FCT and AMAC suburb in general mostly in the area of revenue remission.

ii. **Administrative Centralization:** The FCTA continuously usurps functions constitutionally belongs to AMAC in the area of market regulation and environmental sanitation. This they do by always laying claims to "capacity gaps" In effect, this further weakens the authority and potency of AMAC (Odeyemi, 2017). By this he explains that being at the centre of FCT administration with the minister reporting to the President directly and the AMAC chairman reporting to the FCT Minister makes up centralisation of

the FCT administration thereby hindering the recognition of AMAC chairman but put more recognition on the FCT Minister. The nature of government in power and party influence also determine who control what, hence influencing overall governance and development (Abdulkadir, 2022).

iii. **Revenue Disputes:** Buttressing on the challenges between FCTA and AMAC Agbai and Okey (2024) submitted that, the effects of this strained relationship between FCTA and AMAC on development in FCT and AMAC are overlaps and duplications create bureaucratic delays hence resulted governance inefficiency especially in the AMAC suburb towns. The duo submitted that, Revenue disputes hinder adequate financing by both institutions hence it resulted in fiscal strain in financing development projects.

iv. **Eroding of constitutional Duties:** Adejoh (2013) from his own view earlier posited that FCTA dominance and heavy presence in the FCT centers erodes the constitutional place of AMAC, by this it weakens grassroots democracy and put FCTA above AMAC in service delivery. While city centers get so much attention from the federal government, satellite towns under the control of AMAC fall into neglect because resources are poorly allocated. At the end of it all, he submitted that lack of clear institutional boundaries has limited both FCTA and AMAC from attaining their potential in delivering on their mandates.

v. **Inadequate Service Delivery:** Additionally, according to Abech (2024) in his analysis Of the role of local government in rural development in Abuja municipal area council of FCT pointed out that the local healthcare system remains underdeveloped, with many rural communities lacking adequate health services. Respondents from a study indicated that existing healthcare facilities are often poorly maintained and staffed, which exacerbates health issues within these communities. Buttressing this assertion was (Okah 2024) who opined that such systemic inadequacies demonstrate the pressing need for strategic interventions to address both immediate and long-term community needs.

While in a wider perspective Agbai and Okey (2024) further stated that the ongoing disputes over revenue collection and sharing between AMAC and FCTA further complicate its operational landscape, often leading to inefficiencies and a lack of resource allocation for critical projects they argued further that, the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) faces a multitude of challenges that hinder its development efforts. Key issues include governance challenges such as corruption, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient funding, and a lack of capacity within the local government hinders AMAC suburb towns development.

Also, recently AMAC and other five local government council went on about four months strike, pressing demands on implementation of national minimum wage and other issues regarding staff welfare and infrastructure development in the local council. Irrespective of the noted in their FCTA/AMAC relationship the two levels of administration shared interwoven responsibilities and cannot be separated from one and other as such they hold significant prospect working together. Prospects for the FCTA include better planning, improved governance, and modernization initiatives. Recently, exit from the Treasury Single Account (TSA) has freed up funds for greater fiscal autonomy; implementation of the FCT Civil Service Commission allows administrative promotions; infrastructure rehabilitation has been prioritized. Focus on area councils and grassroots service delivery is increasing; there are opportunities to reduce illegal settlements, improve security, upgrade urban infrastructure, and enhance liveability (AIT Live Report, 2024; Authority News, 2023) .

Also, to enhance its effectiveness, AMAC aims to strengthen revenue generation through digitization (e.g., e-registration of businesses), improve accountability, increase citizen participation, ensure transparent budgeting and service delivery, and leverage its urban centrality to attract investment. Opportunities also lie in partnership with federal, private, and civil society actors to improve infrastructure, health, education, and environmental sustainability in its jurisdiction

Buttressing the above scholar's analysis of the relations between FCTA and AMAC and their implications on AMAC development, I from personal experience as the director of administration noted that the relationship between the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) has had a mixed impact on development. On the positive side, the FCTA gives AMAC policy direction, technical support, and funding that allow AMAC to carry out projects in line with the Abuja master plan. This collaboration has made it possible for AMAC to deliver on infrastructure such as roads, schools, health centres, and environmental sanitation, and it has ensured that standards of development within AMAC are generally higher than in many other local governments.

Despite this coordinated relationship there still exist some differences, these lies in the fact that because AMAC operates under the authority of the FCTA, AMAC autonomy is restricted or hindered in making quick decisions or respond promptly to pressing community needs. In this regard, many of AMAC projects are delayed by bureaucratic processes which hinders development of the suburb towns under AMAC. Another major issue is that there are frequent overlaps in areas such as revenue collection and land administration, which sometimes cause friction. Another challenge is the imbalance in attention: while the city centre enjoys more focus, many rural parts of AMAC still lag behind in basic services and infrastructure. Premise on the mixed nature of the relationship, one could draw that the relationship has been both supportive and restrictive. It has helped AMAC to maintain coordinated growth across the FCT, but it has also slowed down its responsiveness at the grassroots. The overall effect on development depends largely on how well the two institutions are able to harmonize their roles and reduce areas of friction and conflict.

Discussions of Findings

Responsibility Clashes: the findings from the study indicates that relations between FCTA and AMAC are marked by overlapping services, weak administrative collaborations, persistent revenue disputes and erosion of AMAC constitutional duties, all of which have negatively affected its development. The duplication of services in the areas such as health, education, environmental management and provision of social amenities has led to inefficiencies, resources wastage and confusion over authority and accountability. Aiding this is the poor coordination and unilateral decision and actions by FCTA as it undermines AMAC planning and implementation capacity. Also, revenue encroachment by FCTA agencies further weakens AMAC financial autonomy, limiting its ability to fund and sustain development projects. In this regard, AMAC constitutionally assigned roles as a grassroots development body is hindered and diminished resulting in inadequate and uneven service delivery across communities within AMAC

The Relationship has a mixed impact on AMAC development: Findings from the study revealed that, the relationship between the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) and the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) has had a mixed impact on development. On the positive side, the FCTA initiative policy direction, technical support, and funding that allow AMAC to carry out projects in line with the Abuja master plan. This collaboration has made it possible for AMAC to deliver on infrastructure such as Roads, Schools, Health Centres, and Environmental Sanitation, and it has ensured that standards of development within AMAC are generally higher than in many other local governments.

There are drawbacks, arising from strict control of FCTA over AMAC which hinders AMAC autonomy: Also, in the course of the study findings revealed that, the relationship has its drawbacks. Because AMAC operates under the authority of the FCTA, thus, have limited autonomy to make quick decisions or respond promptly to pressing community needs. Many AMAC projects are delayed by

bureaucratic processes and administrative bottleneck from the FCTA. There also exist frequent overlaps responsibilities in areas such as revenue collection and land administration, which sometimes cause friction. Another challenge is the imbalance in attention, while the city centre enjoys more focus, many rural parts of AMAC still lag behind in basic services and infrastructure.

In a nutshell findings from the study showed that, the relationship has been both supportive and restrictive. It has helped AMAC to maintain coordinated growth across the FCT, but it has also slowed down its responsiveness towards the grassroots towns and village with Abuja metropolis. The overall effect on development on AMAC and FCT depends largely on how well the two institutions or levels of government are able to harmonize their roles and reduce areas of conflict.

Conclusion

The relationship between the FCTA and AMAC is essentially at the heart of governance and development management in the Federal Capital Territory. The two institutions have complementary roles to play, but centralization, duplication, and conflict have continued to undermine their contributions toward enhancing service delivery and citizen welfare in FCT. Drawing from institutional theory, this paper has established that structural ambiguities catalyze competition for authority thereby weakening governance in FCT. The realization of developmental potentials in FCT depends on instituting strong institutional collaboration, fiscal accountability, and democratic governance.

Recommendations

Drawing from the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed to strengthen FCTA/AMAC relations in order to crave development for AMAC and other area councils.

FCTA and AMAC should define their area of responsibility through a legislative reform. This would help to reducing duplication and overlapping of duties. Provide for capacity building and fiscal

autonomy of AMAC in its legislative reforms to strengthen local governance and service delivery at AMAC. Joint planning mechanism FCTA-AMAC development councils can institutionally ensure better coordination of urban projects which fall under two or even more jurisdictions. Open budgeting, participatory governance. Development policies should consider not only the city center but the peri-urban and rural areas within AMAC.

To improve institutional effectiveness, the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) should seek to strengthen its revenue base by adopting digital innovations such as electronic business registration and payment systems. These measures are expected to enhance efficiency, reduce leakages, and promote fiscal accountability. Equally important is the commitment to deepen citizen participation by ensuring transparent budgeting processes and delivering services in a manner that fosters public trust.

AMAC also aims to leverage its strategic urban centrality within the Federal Capital Territory to attract both domestic and foreign investment. Furthermore, opportunities exist for the council to expand partnerships with federal agencies, private investors, and civil society organizations in order to advance infrastructure provision, improve health and educational outcomes, and promote environmental sustainability within its jurisdiction.

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