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Author: Elayah, Moosa Abdo Ali
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PROPOSITIONS

Belonging to the Ph.D. dissertation

Donors-Promoted Public Sector Reforms in Developing Countries and the Local Knowledge Syndrome (LKS)

by Moosa A. A. Elayah

1. Contrary to claims made by many public choice theorists, LKS provides plausible theoretical arguments that aid programs and projects, even with a complex set of development goals, can work and achieve satisfactory results in recipient countries with a poor governance structure.

2. Dutch Aid Policy makers should tailor their policies of change to recipients’ particular problem-solving circumstances, their needs and time.

3. Taking into account local knowledge implies that the time-span for aid programs to work is much longer than the three to four years which are the generally-accepted norm at this moment.

4. Donors should realize that, to be successful, it is better to incorporate local knowledge in their aid policies than to hide it under the risk factor.

5. Donors should consider that some countries do not yet have the capacity to develop sound policies and strategies to implement internationally-adopted reform programs themselves, especially weak and almost failed countries, so that external technical assistance will still be required.

6. The enforceability of national government rules in aid-receiving countries involves or requires an alignment of those rules with the norms and mental models of individual citizens.

7. Yemeni-Dutch programs and projects with Dutch universities help to motivate entrepreneurs and public organizations to invest in their managers, as they experience good results from the graduates from the present programs.

8. An effective way to help policy makers, aid agencies and contractors to incorporate local knowledge is to establish a “local knowledge information bank” that can provide the necessary information before an investment is made.

9. As local researchers open the “black box” of local knowledge, their fellow citizens and local stakeholders may consider them as disloyal since they can expose the weak points of local organizations.

10. To complete a PhD study, you must become integrated in the office to such an extent that you are seen as part of the furniture.