

The background features several large, overlapping, semi-transparent swirls in shades of purple, green, and blue. Scattered throughout are small, yellow, triangular shapes that resemble stylized sun rays or confetti.

# **Public Participation: A Myth or a Reality**

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# **Public Participation: A Myth or a Reality**

## **Assumptions:**

- **A fundamental human right**
- **Power relations**
- **Equal/unequal partnership**
- **Arena of exclusion, inclusion  
confrontation, consensus,  
compromise**



# ...Myth or a Reality

- **Purpose**
  - ❖ **Act as a funnel for representation**
  - ❖ **Process of empowerment**
  - ❖ **Promote values of good governance**
  - ❖ **Intended to narrow gap between communities & institutions**
  - ❖ **Sense of ownership for better development outcomes**



# ...Myth or a Reality

- **Process**

- ❖ **Include all relevant perspective**
- ❖ **Ensure high quality dialogue**
- ❖ **Empower the people's engagement**
- ❖ **Use multiple forms of knowledge**
- ❖ **Help people feel fully heard**



# Building Blocks for Public participation

- **Organizational Structure (Form)**
- **Representative (inclusive)**
- **Accountability (report back etc)**
- **Participation process (format)**

# Building Blocks for Public participation

- **Leadership capacity (ability etc)**
- **Knowledge & information (capacity building)**
- **Communication**
- **At what phase is the community (divided, stable & solid, emerging)**

A decorative background on the left side of the slide features a large green balloon at the top, a blue balloon in the middle, and a purple balloon at the bottom. Yellow triangular rays emanate from behind the balloons, suggesting a sun or light source.

# **"Spaces for Public Participation"**

- **Government invited spaces Vs community initiated spaces**
  - ❖ **Ward committees**
  - ❖ **Rate payers**
  - ❖ **Project steering committee**
  - ❖ **Community development committee**



# Conclusion

- **Moral guilt**
- **Compliance**
- **Passive “consumers”**
- **Active citizenry**
- **Citizenry that knows, understand & apply constitutional rights**
- **Citizenry that demands recourse**