



# Decentralisation and enablement Issues in local governance

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# Decentralisation: what is new?

- Public goals (on basic services) may be achieved by *non-public* means
- Needs may be articulated through:
  - market (private enterprise)
  - negotiation (non-profit IO and NGOs)
  - collective action and self help (communities and CBOs)
  - public arena (politicians)

# New decentralisation

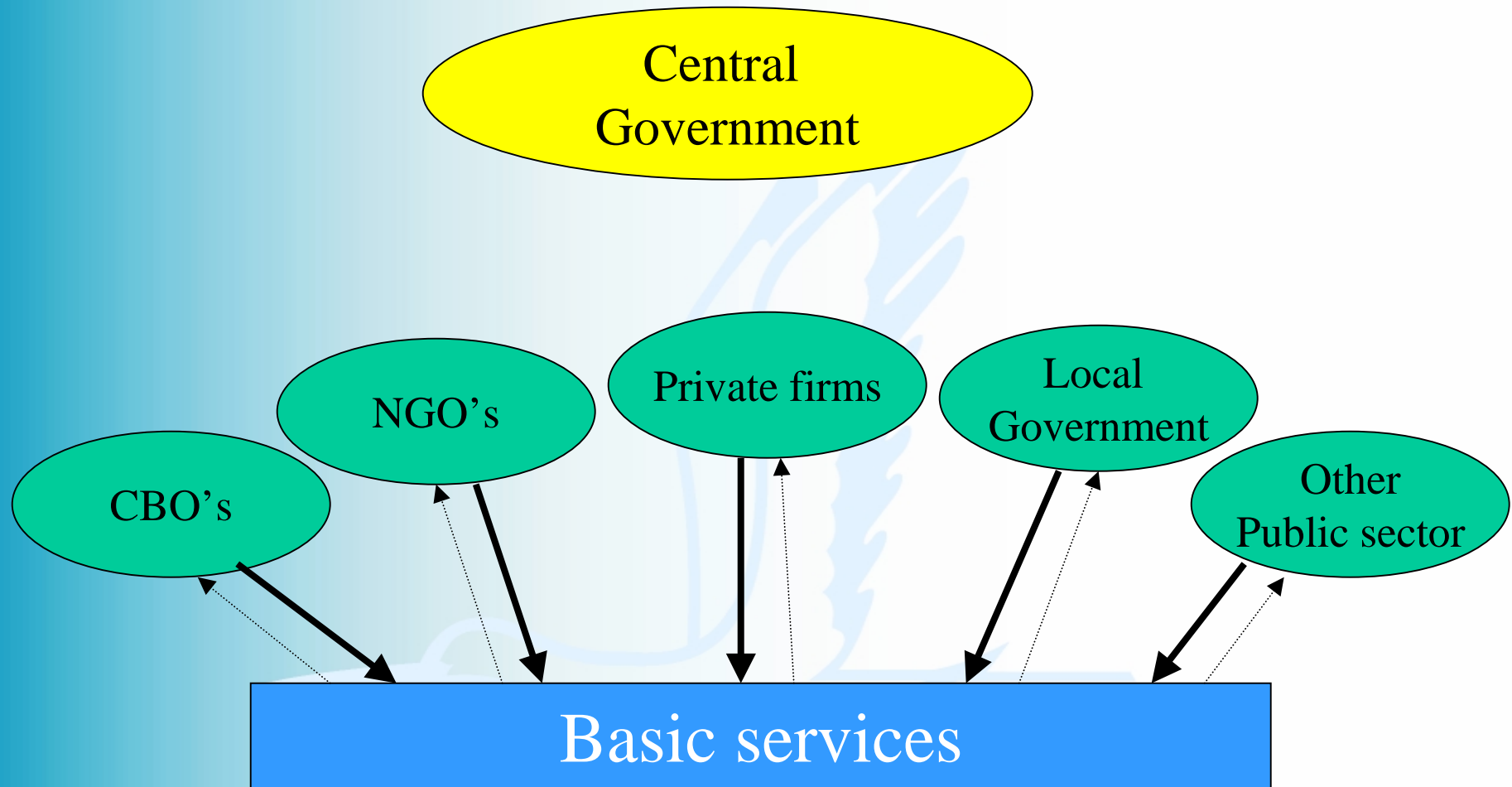
- ‘Hollowing out’ of state not just an expression of government failure
- Other underlying factors:
  - shifting boundaries between public and private goods
  - demands on the part of groups in society
  - re-appreciation of indigenous institutions
  - growth of NGO or ‘third’ sector



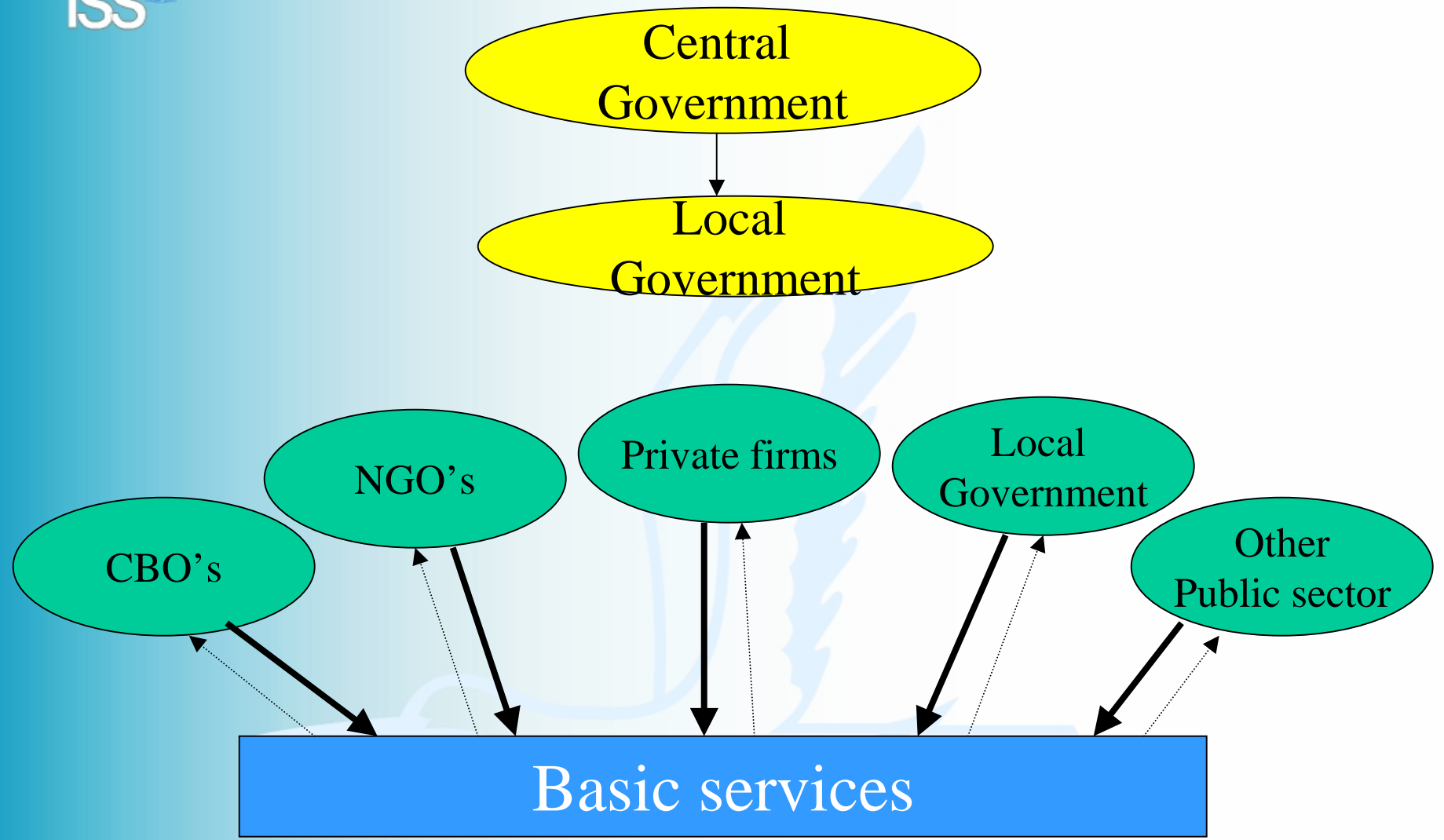
# Enablement & enabling policies

- Government to intervene *less* with public programmes  
*in stead*
- Government to create incentives for *other* actors to make their most effective contribution to basic infrastructure & services

# Enablement model



# Decentralising enablement



# Enabling policies

- Enablement implies:
  - different relationships between central and local government (decentralisation with public reform)
  - different relationships between government – other service delivery actors: regulation
  - new institutional arrangements (partnerships with other actors)
  - organisational changes within government



# Where do we stand?

Most emphasis on:

A) decentralisation within public sector

Central government enabling local governments

B) decentralisation to markets

Central government enabling private sector

But:

C) what about decentralisation to communities?

What have CG and LG done to enable communities?



# Where do we stand?

(Local) government  
to create frameworks

to facilitate communities

Legal  
Administrative  
Financial  
Planning

to organise  
to manage community affairs  
to undertake community  
collective action



# Where do we stand?

Define aspects and indicators

UN/Habitat-CDP: Applied to 22 localities in 7 countries

Results:

- Highest scores in enabling planning
- Lowest in administrative, legal and financial frameworks for community enablement



# Local governance issues

- On the supply side
  - multiple modalities of service delivery
  - de-regulation/liberalisation
  - ‘institutional insecurity’ for CBOS and SME
  - ‘institutional disconnect’ of CBOs
  - de-regulation is not always a win/win situation



# Local governance issues

- enablement of other actors requires government to regulate their behaviour
  - not *less* but *better* regulation
  - regulation of public-community partnerships
  - if there are many service delivery actors, can *local* governments handle overall network?
  - what about impacts (systemic dimension)?

# Final observations

- New forms of decentralisation with enablement of other actors
- Can local governments perform local regulation and coordinate service delivery networks?
- New decentralisation may solve ‘old’ problems but creates a new class of complications



# End

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