



INPUTS INTO THE ENGAGEMENTS AT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

1. BACKGROUND

Local Government is recognized and allocated functions and responsibilities by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and other related pieces of legislation. Local Government is a critical sphere of government that is at the coal face of service delivery and community development. The effectiveness of local government in execution of their core function will ensure that government meets its objectives and commitments in terms of the promises made to the public during elections.

The importance of this Local Government Summit cannot be overemphasised as it is one of the critical mechanisms that government is using to reflect on service delivery. It is in this spirit that the Houses of traditional and Khoi-San Leaders are taking part in the summit to raise issues that will assist in the improvement of governance, service delivery, ending corruption, financial management and social cohesion.

An improved local government cannot happen in a vacuum without learning from other countries. Therefore, it is important to learn and listen to the best practices by other countries who have been in the governance of local government for more decades than South Africa. In this regard, the summit will receive inputs from countries such as Vietnam, Peoples Republic of China, and NEPAD Agency. All the inputs will enrich the discussions at Commissions level.

In the spirit of good governance and ensuring that the local government summit realizes its main intentions, the summit will focus on the following key topics which will improve the administration and service delivery at municipal level:

- Local Economic Development

- Service Delivery
- Governance and Administration

Traditional Leaders are an integral part of local government since the Constitution created a wall-to-wall municipal administration in the Country. Municipality cannot claim to be successful role players are not taken into consideration or consulted in the process of governance. It is in that spirit that the Ministry resolved to include traditional leaders as active participants in the summit. Traditional Leaders have been allocated different topics in commissions as follows:

Message of Support: Nkosikazi ND Mhlauli: Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders

Commission 1: Governance, Administration and Financial Management: Kgosi TM Seatlholo: Deputy Chairperson of the NHTKL

Commission 2: Local Economic Development: Kgosi Gaboilelwe Moroka: Deputy Chairperson of the Free State Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders

Commission 3: Service Delivery: Nkosi PT Zulu: Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders

In the meeting held on 26 September 2022 between the NHTKL, PHTKL and the Department of Traditional Affairs, it was agreed that a generic document should be developed to guide traditional leaders on the inputs to the Summit. The following are inputs per topic/commission.

2. Message of support

The Chairperson of the NHTKL is expected to give a message of support. The said message will include but not limited to the following:

- Resuscitation of the MoU discussion between SALGA/DTA and NHTKL to ensure that all the projects including outreaches are jointly done by traditional leaders and municipalities
- The capacity building of municipal councillors should always include traditional leaders within the jurisdiction of that municipality

- The Municipal councillor should always be available to engage traditional leader on various aspects of development and challenges within his/her ward
- Traditional leaders will include ward councillors as ex-officio members of the traditional council so that they are able to brief the traditional council about all matters happening in the municipality
- The development of the communities depends on the sound governance by municipalities which governance changes the narratives of rural not being an investible area
- It should focus on how best the citizens participate in the various programs of the municipalities
- The summit must further ensure that municipalities understand their roles and how to execute the said role.
- Traditional leaders are always ready to work with municipality based on equal respect not a big brother approach
- National and Provincial Government should not allow a legislation enacted by national to cause conflict at municipal level like SPLUMA
- AmaKhosi have proven their worth during Covid-19 and the recent floods in KZN and Eastern Cape
- The partnership of amaKhosi with Solidarity fund is helping Eastern Cape flood victims to rebuild their houses
- The summit should ensure that one of the key resolutions is to make LED a priority to all so that communities are able to come up with their own developmental initiatives
- Traditional leaders are always ready to work with municipalities especially on ensuring that DDM is realized, it is only through sound implementation of DDM that a district can develop effectively without having two economies in one district.
- The role of Municipalities in fighting the Gender Based Violence especially emanating from hunger etc. It is important that municipalities must be able to identify families that are challenged and assist. This is possible if municipal councillors will work with the relevant traditional leaders in this regard.
- All district should include InvestRural in their one plan of the district.

3. COMMISSIONS

3.1. Commission 1: Governance, Administration and Financial Management: Kgosi TM Seatlholo: Deputy Chairperson of the NHTKL

Facilitated by Kgoshi LM Mokoena: Chairperson of Mpumalanga Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders and the President of the Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa.

Kgosi Mokoena will be facilitating the Commission whilst the Deputy Chairperson will deliver the message from the sector. The following are pertinent issues that can be raised regarding the Governance, Administration and Financial Management:

a) Instability in Councils/Coalition

The none outright win by any political party creates room for coalition government at local level. The formation of those coalition creates a serious doubt on the effectiveness of the said government. In most cases, the parties will continuously seek ways and means to garner more support in the council to remove the party with majority of members in the Coalition. There are many instances that can be cited to prove the point. Traditional Leaders and the communities are not interested on who is the mayor or the Speaker, but the service that must be rendered by those in power (Mayoral Committee). The power struggle in the coalition government normally ignores the needs of the people. The point in case is the Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth) Municipality where power changes hands every now and again yet the city is facing challenges of water and other related service delivery programs.

b) Local Government System and its impact to a developmental local government

The government in general is highly regulated to an extent where some service delivery programs are hampered by the over regulation. The system of Municipality is properly regulated yet corruption can override those systems. A developmental role of the local government is based on her ability to attract investors and have a clear accounting process. It is important that investors should be at ease with their investment and that the main aim of the municipality is to develop their communities. Much as one may not be able to justify, it will seem as though some of the prescripts

are just for compliance purposes. The consultation on Integrated Development Plan seems to be made for the sake of complying with the prescripts not based on what the community wants. It is based on the above that most of our local municipalities do not have an economic base wherein they can source their income, even if they have such, the usage of such economies from the said base leaves much to be desired.

c) Community based monitoring

Municipalities are supposed to receive assessments on their performances from the communities. The assessment that is seen across the country is the negative one. Currently Tshwane is unable to adequately supply water to some of her towns like Rethabiseng and Nkangala. The MMC responsible is nowhere to be seen when the community wants answers. What kind of governance is this where public representatives would shy away from the needs of the community? There are municipalities that fail to promote an accountable municipality, instead we protect our fellow party members who are in position ignoring the assessment done by the community. This must be improved without delay if we want a municipality that will provide sound services and be accountable to the communities. That is why after elections, some of the results provide hung municipalities.

d) Collaborative Monitoring and support

Wards with traditional leadership in the country is 2006 with the population estimated at 1 886 0665. Traditional leadership believes that to service the over 1.5 million communities under traditional leadership it is critical that sound working relationship between the municipality and the traditional council should be concluded. Traditional leaders may make an office available at the TC every month for the mayor to attend to issues of the communities. In this regard, the mayor together with the traditional leader will be able to collaborate and monitor the success of the municipality in the delivery of service and thus the satisfaction of the communities.

In Mpumalanga, the Mayor-AmaKhosi cluster was established where the district mayors met with the provincial house to discuss matters of challenges to the three districts. The aim was to start the discussion at provincial level and ultimately operationalize it in the local municipality. The system was good at the time because it was started when the two

structures were not seeing eye to eye but it managed to bring peace and start a process of sound working relationship. The said system was able to identify bottle necks and come out with system of improving them. The district that continued with the model was Gert Sibande hence even today, it is considered as the best district in Mpumalanga and probably in the country on working relationship and collaborative monitoring of service delivery and support.

e) Strengthening Committee Oversight and enforcement of Code of Conduct

As indicated earlier, to continue regulating the municipal process ends up stifling service delivery. What is important is that people who are deployed to serve in municipality must have the passion of being servants to the people. Servant leadership is critical in ensuring that a person does not become a position and forget that he/she is elected to service the community. It is important that parties must consider people with the relevant skills as opposed to those who are vocal in meetings yet unable to deliver. It is important that those in Municipality will give their lives to the communities and always be available and give information as and when required. There must be a clear system of communication established not the current ward system, it is not working as thought it would. The committees of municipality must be visible to the communities as opposed to now.

**3.2. Commission 2: Local Economic Development: Kgosi Gaboilelwe
Moroka: Deputy Chairperson of the Free State
Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders**

- a) What could be done to improve the support to informal economy and expand the space for informal trade
The institution of traditional leadership is used to informal economy, there are people in areas of amaKhosi who are doing projects such as skin tunning (leather) etc which is very expensive. The usage of skin in culture etc is key in informal economy. Many community members when slaughtering sell the skin at a very low price and those informal traders generate income.

b) InvestRural Master plan

The InvestRural is a strategy that changes the rural areas into an investible opportunities. It attempts to change the narrative of urban investment and thus two economies in one country. The InvestRural master plan identifies about thirteen programs which are Local Economic Development projects.

The InvestRural Master plan further provides guidance on creating an enabling environment for the implementation of such. The example is the establishment of the District Hub which will be the engine room for all the thirteen programs. It further provides guidance on how funding can be sourced. It is for the municipality to implement the InvestRural Strategy to enhance Local Economic Development. It must be noted that the InvestRural strategy stresses on the upliftment of local persons.

3.3. Commission 3: Service Delivery: Nkosi PT Zulu: Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders

a) The role of Stakeholders in provision of basic services to communities (water, electricity etc)

The provision of basic services by stakeholders is critical in ensuring that the community is serviced properly. It is known that some Municipalities are unable to render all the services to the community. Traditional Leadership is of the opinion that a solid memorandum of agreement can be used to ensure that the rendered services are known to the municipality.

Municipalities are required to maximise social and economic development. Local economic development should be viewed as an integral element of developmental local government. Local economic development is aimed at assisting municipalities through partnership with non-governmental organisation such as private sector and local citizens to mobilize resources and combine ideas into to stimulate local economic growth. It is important that basic services should be the concerns of all within the municipalities including business sector.

b) Role of traditional leadership in service delivery

During the Covid-19 period, traditional leaders acquired some borehole donations and water tanks (JOJO Tanks) from a partner, and they are used

successfully by the communities. It is important to note that the InvestRural Strategy stress on rendering services and ensuring that poverty is eradicated. The Covid-19 period taught the institution that partnerships are critical in ensuring that services are rendered to the communities. The Local Economic Development strategies which is informed by the InvestRural is very critical in ensuring that Municipality engages the sector to come up with renewable energy so that the challenges of mediaeval period which we are in as per Eskom inability to supply electricity is done away with.

Traditional leaders preside over mixed economic communities. There are those members of the community who have boreholes in their yard and freely share their water with the communities. Traditional leaders have always made their offices available for any engagement and usage as points of service with municipalities. However, the Co

c) Community empowerment and participating in Building resilient and climate smart municipalities

There is no organisation that will govern and be successful without involving communities. It is on those bases that the sector believes in the Asset Based Community Development Strategy to involve the assets that are available for sound community development. The empowerment of communities to be self-sufficient is critical, such empowerment will guarantee that amaKhosi are able to lead a community that is empowered and able to make her own living. The institution developed a paper on Agrarian Revolution which was aimed at ending hunger in rural areas. The critical part was the support expected from government which indeed was provided but no adequate participation by municipalities was realized. Very few municipalities have markets for fresh produce, hence the Agrarian Revolution never attain the traction that was required. Even now, communities can produce their own food if proper support and off take agreements can be realized.

c) How do we use the DDM to develop and Coordinate

The development of DDM as a way of operation is critical as it ends the silo approach. DDM attempts to consolidate all plans into one district plan which must be implemented by all role players. It is important that provincial governments must ensure that no development unless it is an emergency happens without being included in the District Development Plan. There should not be any district plan in the Republic of South Africa that does not

include InvestRural because that is a twenty-year strategy that has a potential of changing the South African land scape.

d) Communities' role in stopping vandalism and theft of infrastructure

The first element to be considered in this aspect is why vandalism and theft. It will not help the summit to talk about stopping communities from the acts of vandalism and theft of infrastructure without analysing why such happens. The lack of communication between the public representatives at local level as well as the lack of service delivery is the cause of vandalism. Most vandalism happens during violence protest. Violent protest happens because of lack of adequate services that communities require. The adequate services are the basic services that are required by any individual. It has not happened (to my knowledge at least) that inhabitants of a certain suburb are vandalizing or are involved in a violent protest because they have all the basic services required. People living in predominantly African areas like townships and rural areas are the one who are causing such vandalism. Municipalities must communicate adequately with the communities. They must use whatever communication strategies that is available to send messages across. They should not allow a situation where basic services will degenerate to a zero. Most of the members of the community are unemployed and not even assisted to come up with Cooperative that can generate its own living. Even if cooperatives can be established, they will be dormant because LED units in municipalities are either non functional or are just not available.

4. Conclusion

The above are few pointers that the sector may consider as submission by traditional leaders especially those who will be panellist. The rest may have an addition based on their experience in their relevant provinces.