



SALGA

South African Local Government Association

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Local Government Briefs are monthly electronic updates for municipalities on critical areas of law, policy, facts and data affecting the sector.

Revised IDP framework for municipalities outside metros and secondary cities

1. BACKGROUND

The State of Local Government report (COGTA, 2009) indicated that a number of municipalities were in distress. These municipalities primarily have difficulties delivering expected services to communities. The report recommended that urgent and focused interventions had to be provided to enable municipalities to deliver services efficiently and effectively.

As a result the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG) was mandated by Output one of the delivery Agreement to develop and implement a differentiated approach towards municipal financing, planning and support. As part of this strategic intervention, DCoG is designing a focused intervention for smaller municipalities.

2. DISCUSSION

Section 1 discusses the legislative framework that informs the development and implementation of IDPs, problems that informed the development of this framework and highlights the objectives thereof.

Section 2 provides a discussion on the significance of prioritizing projects; outlines the principles and suggested methodology to be followed when determining the priority projects.

Section 3 discusses the significance of integrating sector plans and provides a demonstration of how they relate to each other. This section also outlines a sector plan integration process that will guide municipalities as they integrate various sectors in the IDPs to ensure the realization of integrated development. The emphasis in this section is that it is important that municipal councils and management pay serious attention and prioritize the development of workable SDFs that will inform decision making and resource allocation.

Section 4 discusses the importance of linking planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and reporting. The process of ensuring proper linkage of these processes in order to safeguard effective implementation is outlined.

Section 5 discusses public participation as an integral part of the IDP development and implementation process. The principles, processes and structures to ensure effective public participation in the planning processes are outlined.

Section 6 provides a guide to municipalities on how to structure and package the IDPs. It provides indicators under each focus area on what the IDP must respond to. In addition, pointers on how to follow through from status quo analysis, strategy, programmes and project development are defined.

Section 7 discusses the approach that will be employed to support municipalities to develop credible and implementable IDPs. It further defines the nature of support in the context of development planning.

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

The framework is specific on what needs to be done in order to ensure that municipalities are empowered to deliver on a floor of priority services. However, it should be noted that the framework is still a draft document and SALGA is commenting on it. This includes following up on specific issues such as the clarification of what is meant by the floor of priority services.