

TAKING A LEAD IN ADVANCING CO- OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND IGR

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INTRODUCTION

- The evolution of IGR in South Africa
- The Constitution provides in section 40, that government is constituted as National, provincial and local spheres
- The Constitution further provides that these spheres are distinctive, interdependent and interrelated.
- The Constitution provides for the principles of Cooperative governance and IGR- which I guess all of us are aware of
- The genesis of Cooperative Governance and IGR is thus our Constitution

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- In responding to the constitutional principles, the IGRFA was enacted in 1998.
- This was the first attempt of a guide to spheres on how to cooperate.
- Intergovernmental structures were established in all spheres of government, some of which are:
 - PCC
 - PCF
 - DIGR
- The established IGR structure also went beyond the above and each government department that has a presence in provinces established MinMECs, and at the level of the municipalities there are structures established by SALGA like Speakers Forum, Mayors forum, Municipal Managers Forum, etc

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- These structures also established guidelines on how they engage on matters of common interest.
- Further, as the IGR and Cooperative governance was evolving, other organs of the state/ SOEs were included in IGR forums
- An example has been involvement of Eskom in these forums where all spheres engage the electricity sector, as it was recognized as the catalyst for economic growth and activities at all the spheres of life

THE PRACTICE OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND IGR

- The above points provides some practices that have been implemented in pursuance of advancing IGR and Cooperative governance
- At government level the local sphere has the IDP that must ensure that all programs of the three spheres are reflected
- At national level we have the NDP that seeks to marshal all actions of government departments for a longer time period and these are reduced into five year MTSF
- The question that this workshop must answer is whether South Africa has matured enough to say Cooperative Governance and IGR has realized its mission?
- My own view is that we still need to address a number of Challenges some of which are outlined hereunder:

THE CHALLENGES FACED IN COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND IGR

- Spheres are still operating in silos
- Clinics are still built without a road or water
- Housing and human settlements are still built where connectors services are not there
- A number of desperate IGR programs are initiated by various organs of the state and despite the forums, minimal implementation and impact is not realized
- Roles and responsibilities of various actors in the IGR space are not fully defined

HOW DO WE NAVIGATE THE CHALLENGES

- The current intervention and introduction of the DDM where one plan at a district space is proposed is a step in the right direction.
- The responsibilities of the actors must be thoroughly defined and monitored by not only the executive, but the legislatures like the NCOP
- Provisions of reporting requirements are already in place in terms of sec 46, 47 and 48 of the Systems Act- these have been neglected by respective legislatures

CONCLUSION

- In advancing cooperative governance and IGR we first need to ensure that we enhance or rather ensure that agreements entered are implemented
- Establish implementation protocols that binds all involved to play ball
- Ensure that legislatures are appraised on progress regarding the implementation of the one plan in all the 46 spaces. (districts and metros)
- Ensure that the current IGR forums move away from just cooperation and sharing of programs but also ensure accountability of all plans and activities that straddle the spheres