



UMZINYATHI
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY / UMASIPALAWESIFUNDA

Report on the workshop of the District Co-ordinating Forum/Mayors forum held on the 16/10/07 at the EXCO BOARDROOM uMzinyathi District Municipality.

Background:

The District Co-ordinating forum also known as the Mayors Forum was established on the 18th April 2006. This Forum was established in terms of section 24 of the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act 13 of 2005) which outlines the procedures, protocols and rules for co-ordination and integration of service delivery by government and municipalities.

Purpose of the workshop:

The workshop was aimed at familiarising Mayors of the rules, procedures and protocols that have been documented for adoption by the Forum:

Present:

The workshop was attended by the following:

- Cllr MS Yengwa : Chairperson of the DCF and Mayor of uMzinyathi District Municipality
- Cllr FBH Mazibuko : Mayor of Nquthu LM
- Cllr WN Mbatha : Mayor of Endumeni LM
- Cllr PMS Ngubane : Mayor of uMvoti LM
- Mr SN Dubazana : District Municipality Manager
- Ms Naicker: DLGTA
- Mr S. Mthlane : DLGTA
- Mr W.N. Mbatha : DLGTA
- Ms D. Dlamini: Independent Development Trust

Apologies:

Cllr Sikhakhane: Mayor of Msinga LM

Areas of focus:

The presentation on the IGR ACT was done by the Ms Naicker from the Department of Local Government and Traditional Affairs. Ms Naicker mentioned that the IGR process is the duty of the Premier's office; however they were mandated by the office of the Premier to implement and monitor the implementation of IGR on his behalf.

Ms Naicker highlighted the legislative framework of the Municipal Systems Act within which the District Co-ordinating Forum was established. She mentioned that the Act emphasis the important of co-ordination between the local municipalities. According to the IGR ACT, the aim was to promote working relations between three spheres of government. It is also imperative that there is a strong working relation among the families of municipalities.

She further mentioned that the shared service systems is also part of the Act and can have dividends in the service delivery.

She concluded that the IGR documents that have been developed by uMzinyathi District Municipality are also in line with the principles outlined in the framework prepared by DPLG. She mentioned that it imperative that the rules and protocols are adopted by members.

Discussion

Several issues were raised by Cllr Ngubane in relation to the inconsistencies by the provincial departments in not following the protocols. He made mention of the situation whereby the MEC would hold an event within his municipality without consulting with his municipality or him.

One of the main areas of concern was lack of marketing of tourism potential of the District at the international arena. Mayors mentioned that there seemed to be very few tourists coming to the district compared to other district.

Ms Naicker advised that the forum to consult Mr Mthokozosi Duze from DLGTA who is involved in the international tourism business.

Way forward:

Forum members agreed on the following as a way forward:

- That the house of traditional leadership and the speakers be invited to participate in the District forum.
- A workshop of traditional leaders, Speakers and municipal Managers followed by the signing ceremony for the adoption of the rules, protocols and procedures be held at Montello in Greytown on the 29-30 November 2007.
- The Department of local government and the office of the Premier be invited to the ceremony.

Conclusion

The District co-ordinating forum prepares itself to deal with a number of issues that are currently problematic within the district. These include issues of economic development, tourism, agriculture and water.

