



**the dplg**

Department:  
Provincial and Local Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**the dlgr**

Department of Local  
Government  
**Western Cape Province**  
**Republic of South**  
**Africa**



## **IDP HEARINGS 2005**

### **PANEL REPORT**

### **OVERBERG DISTRICT (DC3) WESTERN CAPE**

| <b>Panel Members</b>               | <b>Organisation</b>                                  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Mr Elroy Africa (Chairperson)      | dplg   |
| Ms Shanaaz Majiet (Co-Chairperson) | HOD, Department of Local Government,<br>Western Cape |
| Mr. Ashraf Adam                    | Independent (MCA)                                    |
| Ms. Judy Beaumont                  | DEAT   |
| Ms. Nozipho Jezile                 | DEAT   |
| Mr. Johann Kellerman               | DBSA   |
| Dr. Sihle Moon                     | Provincial SALGA                                     |
| Dr. Laurine Platsky                | Office of Premier                                    |
| Mr. Albert Van Zyl                 | Provincial Treasury                                  |

**VENUE:** Municipal Council Chambers, Stellenbosch

**DATE:** 18 May 2005 (Morning session)

#### **1. BACKGROUND TO THE HEARINGS**

The Local Government MINMEC meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2004 mandated government to hold nation-wide Hearings on Development Planning. These are scheduled for every district and metropolitan municipality between April and June 2005.

The IDP Hearings take the form of an inter-governmental dialogue around the issues in the Districts/Metros and are aimed at assessing how the whole of government is prioritizing development, allocating resources and implementing in the district and metropolitan areas. It is therefore aimed not only at assessing the municipalities but also provincial and national input and support.

IDP hearings for the Western Cape Province took place from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May in Stellenbosch.

This Panel Response report highlights the most critical issues emerging from the Overberg District Hearings. It acknowledges the context and capacity of the District and provides a panel response to development challenges raised. It also proposes actions, which may need to be taken up by District, national, and/or provincial spheres, ensuring a collective responsibility for service delivery.

## **2. THE PANEL VIEWED THE MAIN DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FOR THE DISTRICT AS BEING:**

- a) Migration patterns of both wealthy retired people and on the other extreme, poor communities, has negative impacts on service levels. This has serious consequences for the DM's ability to meet its service delivery and backlog targets.
- b) The pending water resource shortages could have significant implications for economic development and social consumption.
- c) The availability of reliable and up to date statistics, which informs strategic planning, and budgeting processes.
- d) The provision of low-income housing and the related demands for basic services remains a key challenge.

## **3. THE PANEL VIEWED THE KEY DRIVING FORCES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS BEING:**

- a) The Strategic positioning of its small historical towns such as Elim and Grabouw could have significant benefits for local tourism initiatives.
- b) The DM's emphasis on good service makes it a good candidate for reliable development and social investment.
- c) The strategic positioning of its coastal towns creates an opportunity for vibrant local economies and job creation.

## **4. PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTIONS**

### **4.1 WATER, SANITATION, INFRASTRUCTURE**

District:

- a) Water resources, especially underground sources, requires strategic intervention if the DM is to meet its water requirements over the next few years. An intergovernmental response is required and should be led by DWAF, Province and the DM.
- b) The DM's positive applications of the EPWP principles in realizing infrastructure investment goals are acknowledged.
- c) A collaborative effort across municipalities is acknowledged especially as it related to the provision of basic services and infrastructure. More emphasis should be placed on devising district-wide solutions to inter-connected infrastructure challenges especially in under resourced communities.
- d) There is a need for more extensive information on the status and provision of bulk services especially given the immense pressures placed on this as a result of migration.

- e) A high level intervention is needed with regard to the exporting of water to the City of Cape Town and the terms and conditions of this provision. A service level agreement, if not in place, is needed in this regard.
- f) Identification of poverty pockets across the DM needs to be met with a vociferous and systematic campaign to alleviate this. This is particularly critical in Theewaterskloof where high levels of unemployment, especially amongst youth, are exacerbated by technical and strategic capacity challenges in the municipality.
- g) The DM SDF is acknowledged. Province needs to expedite the finalization of the Provincial SDF.
- h) Cape Agulhas LM's acknowledgement and application of NSDP principles in strategic planning and budgetary processes is noted. This is particularly evident with the municipality's decisions regarding building of housing where there is limited economic activity in place to ensure appropriate returns on investment and payment for services.
- i) The multi-family occupation on a single stand is seen as an area of concern especially with regard to gathering correct information on housing backlogs and infrastructure shortages.
- j) The DM's recommendation that MIG funding be partnered with housing delivery is noted. dplg to further explore this area.
- k) Cape Agulhas LM's disaster management approach, especially with regard to flood management, is acknowledged.

## 4.2 LAND AND HOUSING ISSUES

District:

- a) The approved land reform strategy of the DM as well as the intergovernmental approach to district assessment committees and land reform task teams is noted as a best practice.
- b) More information is needed on the extent to which these instruments and institutions have assisted with speeding up transfers of land.
- c) Non-resolution around security of tenure is affecting planned service interventions for farm workers and is contributing towards insecure and unstable human settlements (e.g. expansion of informal settlements, civil unrest, etc).
- d) It is recommended that municipal owned land be used to address apartheid settlement legacies and contribute to strategically integrate historically divided communities.
- e) Land audits have been done in Overstrand LM as well as Agulhas LM.
- f) Housing plans across the DM need to consider the balance between high-income developments while bridging the gap with low-income dwellers.

Province:

- a) There is a need for the Province to expedite the planned land audit as this will have significant benefits for district wide planning processes.

## 4.3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

District:

- a) The DM's planned growth and development summit is acknowledged as a strategic initiative to address cross-municipal economic challenges. Specific attention needs to be paid to private sector investment, state-owned

enterprises and the institutional measures needed to address rapid economic growth across the DM.

- b) More information is required on the extent and direction of the District Rural Development Strategy as well as its impact on affected communities.
- c) Joint strategies are needed with Provincial Economic Affairs to address the dire employment challenge in the heavily dominant agricultural industry. e.g. the decline in the apple industry in Elgin has contributed to significant job losses in the area.
- d) Alternative value adding strategies need to be explored to ensure expansion of local market potential.
- e) The DM focus on excellence in service as a draw-card for investment and quality settlement is commended. This needs to feed into all aspects of service provision as well as strategies for institutional excellence.
- f) The marine and coastal management strategies as well as the protea projects and Working-for-Water linked clearing of alien vegetation, requires support from provincial government, DEAT and DWAF and related economic promotion agencies to ensure appropriate measures are taken to preserve and manage these natural resources.
- g) A DM-wide engagement is recommended with the Department of Education regarding its intended plans for school infrastructure and planning.
- h) Building specifications for economic developments should include alternative strategies such as the use of local materials, labour intensive strategies as well as energy efficient measures.
- i) Agulhas LM's concerns regarding the state of infrastructure at the southern-most tip is noted. Province, DTI and DEAT to intervene to ensure that this is given the attention it deserves.
- j) The Rand for Rand development suggestion by the Overberg DM community representative was noted and will be considered in deliberations regarding incentives for service delivery.

Province:

- a) An engagement is recommended between DEAT, Provincial Local Government, SANParks and Cape Agulhas LM regarding blockages to management of natural resources.
- b) The five-year delay by the Department of Public Works regarding the release of state-owned land in Cape Agulhas LM to the municipality for a viable economic development initiative is noted as an area of grave concern. dplg and its provincial counterparts to intervene as a matter of urgency to ensure that economic potential could be appropriately unlocked.

#### **4.4 RESOURCE STREAMS**

- a) The DM's concerns regarding the RSC levies and their abolition and the dire impact this will have on municipal operations is noted. It is recommended that dplg and the National Treasury communicate alternatives and or financing replacements as soon as possible.
- b) Strategies need to be devised regarding uncollected levies and arrangements and incentive schemes need to be considered to address this.
- c) The Overstrand LM example of where people who owed money to the municipality were employed on condition that 50 % deductions are made on earnings to settle arrears, is noted as a potentially good practice. Caution should be exercised to ensure that labour law compliance is adhered to. The R48 000 recouped in this way is noted.

- d) The extensive ward participation in the Theewaterskloof LM budgeting process is noted.
- e) It is recommended that Theewaterskloof LM seek technical assistance from the Provincial Treasury and or National Treasury on debt collection strategies.
- f) The seasonal payment of debt in Grabouw, Villiersdorp and Swellendam, which is linked to the seasonal nature of the agricultural industry, is noted. Affected municipalities need to consider this in budgeting processes and contingencies need to be in place to ensure appropriate planning and allocation of financial resources.
- g) Research needs to be conducted on ensuring appropriate baseline information.
- h) The DM's concern that the MFMA and the Systems Act are not congruent is noted. dplg should explore the context of this and feed this information into current policy and legislative deliberations.
- i) The DM's concern regarding multi-year budgeting in 2006 as a result of local government elections has been noted. It is recommended that dplg communicate appropriate responses and approaches to be taken up by municipalities.

#### **4.5 ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY**

District:

- a) The DM-wide initiative to ensure strategic environmental management is noted. This is particularly prevalent with the Biosphere reserve, which will have cross boundary impacts in Theewaterskloof and Overstrand amongst others.
- b) Overstrand's award for its Waste Management Plan is acknowledged.
- c) The regional Spatial Framework of the DM is acknowledged as well as Local SDFs, which reference sustainability issues.

#### **4.6 GOVERNANCE and INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY**

- a) The panel acknowledges the different levels of capacity across LMs and the impact on prioritisation and pace of service delivery.
- b) The well-managed and competent PIMS team was commended for its contribution towards the understanding of IDP and intergovernmental and inter-sectoral dialogue.

#### **4.7 INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION**

- a) There is a need for improved DM relations especially around joint planning and alignment.
- b) The location of the DM in Bredasdorp in relation to the other LMs, makes it difficult to facilitate effective dialogue amongst municipalities, especially low-income LMs such as Theewaterskloof.
- c) All municipalities need to look at the length and processes involved with project approval to ensure that strategic development can proceed as intended.
- d) Overberg DM's efforts to integrate strategies especially around issues of tourism, agriculture and land in mission towns such as Elim, are commended.

#### **4.8 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

- a) The DM's initiative to develop a human rights strategy that incorporates issues of chronic poverty, the plight of farm workers as well as gender equity is acknowledged.
- b) There is a need for a comprehensive training programme for ward committees on the nature of governance, the roles and responsibilities of members and how communities need to interact with integrated development planning as a whole.
- c) There is a need for more training on the budget and how communities need to apply this to inform prioritisation and project identification processes. Extensive training should also include planning for implementation. dplg should provide appropriate guidance and guidelines in this regard.
- d) The community representative's concern about appropriate information channels at the right time is acknowledged. The DM and municipalities need to ensure that appropriate and accountable feedback and communication channels are in place to ensure informed communities.
- e) The community's plea for more pre-schools is acknowledged. It is recommended that this be taken up by the provincial Social Development, Education and Local Government departments.
- f) There is a need for community training on chairing and facilitation skills in the Theewaterskloof area. It is recommended that the DM explores possible training options and partners to ensure improved communication and facilitation of governance processes.
- g) The establishment and functionality of ward committees need to be prioritised by the DM and consideration should be given to resources that could assist the ward committees with their functional duties.
- h) It is recommended that Cape Agulhas LM speeds up the appointment of CDWs and ensures that an appropriate system is in place for effective operations.

#### **5. POLICY/ ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**

- a) There is a need for high-level intervention with regard to the pending abolition of RSC levies. dplg and National Treasury are encouraged to make a joint statement on alternative measures that will be put in place to alleviate high losses which some DMs will face as a result of this abolition of RSC levies.
- b) There is a need for national intervention with regard to the standardisation and updating of socio-economic data. This is critical for correct and strategic actions to address needs of disadvantaged communities. Urgent engagement is needed between dplg, Provincial Local Government and StatsSA in this regard.
- c) It is recommended that provincial indicators reflect output indicators of DM IDP monitoring processes.
- d) There is a need for high-level interaction with the Department of Public Works as well as DEAT, regarding land blockages in the Cape Agulhas LM area. DEAT, dplg and the Department of Public Works need to take this forward.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Overberg DM was thanked for its participation in the IDP hearings process. It was commended for its strategic positioning of its PIMS centre and its efforts to ensure that planning competencies were accessible across the district. The DM was also commended for its proactive approach to land reform.

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### **SIGNED**

**Signature of  
Chair:**

**Name: Mr Elroy Africa**

**National Department of Provincial and Local Government**

**Date:**

**Signature of  
Co-Chair:**

**Name: Ms Shanaaz Majiet**

**HOD, Department of Local Government, Western Cape**

**Date:**