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Localising the post 2015 International Development Agenda in the SA Context

A SALGA Perspective



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Presentation Outline

- **Introduction (MDGs and transition)**
- **Post 2015 dev agenda in SA and African context**
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Introduction

- 2015 was the deadline year for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which in September 2000 rallied the world around a common 15-year agenda - launched in tandem with developmental and transformative agenda of democratic LG in South Africa
- MDGs established measurable, universally-agreed objectives for the achievement of a number of developmental imperatives, and drove progress in several important areas (income and poverty, access to basic services, notably water etc)
- Yet the job is unfinished for millions of people – there is still some way to go to ending hunger, improving health services and ensuring access to basic services, among others
- Important to take stock of the lessons learnt over the last 15 years as we head into the next phase of the international development cooperation agenda, namely the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards Vision 2030, as well as the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063



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Introduction

- Significant milestone of 15 years since we formally established democratic LG and embarked on this developmental, people centered ambition – LG is the key site of delivery & development and is central to the entire transformative project of the country
- This realisation is now hitting the global stage – the importance and evolution of local governance and its recognition on the continent and globally has indeed come a long way in a very short period of time
- Lessons from MDG implementation underlined the importance of LG and local actors in delivering the development agenda
 - Localisation not only implementation of development policies at local level but means putting territories at the center of development
 - MDGs showed that development goals can be reached only if owned and integrated into action at local level, in the framework of multi-level governance
- Search for the most appropriate means of ‘localising’ the SDGs is therefore critical to the design, implementation and optimizing the success of the Post 2015 Development Agenda



The post 2015 development agenda in SA and African context

- **National Development Plan, Vision 2030**
- **AU Agenda 2063 – The Africa we Want**
- **Sustainable Development Goals (Vision 2030)**



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National Dev Plan – Vision 2030

- Chapter 13 of the NDP espouses the vision of building a capable and developmental state, one that is able to play a transformative and developmental role
- Chapters of NDP in fact mirror many of the SDGs (goal 11 equates to chapter 8 for eg.)
- The NDP opines that a clear, long term and consistent approach is required at local level to realise the objectives, which can be achieved through a shift in four critical areas:
 - An enabling framework for LG;
 - A proactive approach to improving intergovernmental relations;
 - A long-term approach to building capacity; and
 - Mainstreaming citizen participation.
- These not new - NDP is simply calling for more focused attention on these areas if LG is to meet its developmental obligations and aspirations



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National Dev Plan – Vision 2030

- Of course, developmentally orientated LG is not new in SA
- The Constitution, as well as the White Paper on LG (1998), sets out the vision for LG as a developmental one, working with communities to find solutions to problems of LG generally
- The Constitution provides that municipalities must strive within its capacity to achieve five key objects:
 - Provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;
 - Ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
 - Promote a safe and healthy environment;
 - Promote social and economic development; and
 - Encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in matters of LG



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National Dev Plan – Vision 2030

The White Paper characterises developmental LG as:

- Maximising social development and economic growth
 - Meeting basics needs of the poor while growing economy – municipalities need to have a clear vision for its local economy and must work with business to maximise job creation and investment = ensure overall economic and social conditions of the locality are conducive to job creation
- Integrating and coordinating
 - Municipalities must provide a vision and leadership for all those who have a role to play in achieving local prosperity, be it nat or prov govt, NGOs, etc (integrated planning – IDP)
- Democratising development, empowering and re-distributing
 - Empowerment and redistribution – linking growth through planning and delivery processes
- Leading and learning
 - Cities must find ways to make their settlements more sustainable
 - This includes building awareness on environmental issues and how the behaviour and actions of residents impact on the local environment



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Sustainable Dev Goals – Vision 2030

- In many respects, the NDP objectives more broadly are clearly reflected in the SDG goals relevant to LG, and have the same time horizon (2030) - we can easily argue that a focus on the NDP would in any event tackle the international objectives to be pursued
 - In this context (of the SDGs), firstly, is the goal of ensuring **access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy** for all
 - While the role of LG in the electricity distribution industry, including consideration of free basic services, reticulation, municipal debt and tariff structures, is hotly debated in the public domain given the recent challenges, much of the discourse is misguided and requires considered reflection
 - Secondly, the role of LG in **sustainable management of water and sanitation** for all is also paramount



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Sustainable Dev Goals – Vision 2030

Most importantly, goal 11 of the SDGs, being “**make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**” is particularly prominent for LG, as it focuses on the following:

- Ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- Providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all
- Enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- Reducing the adverse per capita environmental impact of municipalities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
 - Universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces
- Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- Increase the number of municipalities adopting and implementing plans towards mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters



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AU Agenda 2063 – The Africa we Want

The implementation of the SDGs must be done within the framework of our own African development agenda, “the Africa we want – Agenda 2063”

Here, the words of the AU Commission Chair, Dr Dlamini-Zuma are instructive, when she recently stated, at the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum, that:

- *“Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want - is our collective action plan which builds on lessons from our past whilst taking advantage of opportunities available in the short, medium and long term so as to ensure positive socio economic transformation within the next 50 years. Through the Agenda 2063 aspirations, which were gathered from millions of Africans from all sectors, we can transform our cities.*
- *In transforming our cities we must pay particular attention to the skills revolution. The challenges facing our cities and urban areas require that we pay greater attention to Africa’s greatest resource - its people. Our population is growing and is the most youthful population in the world. Over a quarter of the world’s under 25 year olds reside on our continent. This is a great advantage, if properly managed.”*



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Post 2015 Development Agenda in context: the SALGA perspective

- **Africa and Asia will account for 90% of urban growth over the next 35 years, and have very young populations = massive potential expansion of the labour force**
 - Population and labour market participation growth rate will be linked to significant expansion of the middle class
 - Demographic and consumption changes should be put in context of structural economic changes unfolding in tandem
- Growing urban inequality has profound spatial effects, on the one hand, rich opt out of public system (gated communities, estates) & other hand urban poor are confined to precarious and environmentally suspect informal settlements
 - Urban planning has been ineffective and often, in fact, complicit in exacerbating these inequalities



Post 2015 Development Agenda in context: the SALGA perspective

- Profound spatial dimensions to these economic shifts – the global economy is highly concentrated in urban areas
 - 2000 metro areas are expected to contribute 75% of global economic growth between 2007 – 2025
 - 600 cities account for 62% of global growth and within that cohort, a further 100 cities account for 35%
- Most obvious impact of the current global economic system is rising inequality and its socio economic impact
 - Only 28% of labour force in Africa occupy stable wage-earning jobs compared to 63% in vulnerable employment = 63% of urban dwellers in sub-Saharan Africa live in informal settlements
- = potential tax bases of urban governments are relatively small, creating a financial crisis to address the vast service delivery and economic infrastructure needs



Opportunities & Implementation Pillars

SDG 11 is essentially about

Making cities socially inclusive, economically productive, environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate change and other risks... which is also about developing participatory, accountable and effective city governance to support rapid and equitable urban transformation

So what does it mean in policy, political and institutional terms to give meaning to sustainable cities?

A resource efficient and inclusive urban future involve primarily:

Developing the foundation for strong local economic performance

Infrastructure investment and management

Quality of life and access to opportunities

Environmental sustainability

Transparent and financially sound governance

Service delivery innovations – ICT and e-gov

Social learning for innovation



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Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

4 key interventions municipalities will need to champion to effect the desired transformation and development

1. Foundation for strong local economic performance – infrastructure investment

- One of biggest obstacles to more compact, resource efficient, socially integrated and economically diverse urban areas remain institutional – governing in an integrated and dynamic fashion
- Given long term impact of infrastructure decisions, robust long term strategic plans are essential to address trade-offs between economic growth, social inclusion & environmental management
 - Manner in which infrastructure systems are configured determines access to basic services and the overall efficiency and dynamics of the urban system
 - In an era that requires spatial optimisation & economic dynamism, it is essential that infrastructure systems form part of a dynamic and integrated whole
- In poorer contexts, this may mean opting for low-tech, labour intensive infrastructure choices **15**



Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

Infrastructure investment and management

- Transparent land ownership and zoning regulation; ambiguous land ownership will inhibit long-term investment
 - Urbanisation generates an increase in the demand for land
 - Efficient system of property rights essential
- Reliable urban infrastructure, e.g. inefficient public utilities have led to unreliable and costly public services in many cities
 - Effective intercity transportation networks; developing regional economies
- Effective private sector collaboration – potential to generate both social & economic benefits
- Create strong linkages between business and academia and government (R&D); can lead to yielding innovation and new market development, e.g. US biosciences sector



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Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

Infrastructure investment and management

- At city level it is important to map out the precise transition pathway that makes most sense for your particular territory in relation to the hinterland and regional economy
 - Including how each infrastructure domain, transport, water, sewage, waste, energy, communications, landscape, will be repositioned to achieve – optimal resource efficiency, universal service coverage, and economic multipliers, including the informal sector
- Whatever the unique critical path – it must set the parameters for infrastructure investments, land use planning frameworks and spatial priorities
- **Real opportunity is to achieve spatial justice whilst creating inclusive economies premised on sustainable resource use and regeneration**



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Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

2. Creating a high quality of life for urban citizens; an urban environment that attracts and retains skilled citizens and improves citizen's wellbeing

- Public safety critical to economic growth and development
- Accessible housing; good planning that reduces commuter times increases quality of life and improves productivity
 - Harmonising municipal land laws and regional transport projects with housing policy is of the utmost of importance
- Efficient public transportation (capacity, efficiency and cost)
- PPPs to improve access to public services, e.g. China has recently allowed the private sector to participate in financing urban infrastructure projects (financing of Line 1, Shanghai Metro)
 - PPPs, however, require clear and consistent rules



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Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

3. Making cities environmentally sustainable by efficient resource utilisation – around the world cities account for 75 per cent of global energy consumption

- Improving energy productivity; managing demand rather than the more costly option of building new infrastructure where possible via imposing stds of energy use and incentives
- Establishing green stds for demand; municipalities are bulk buyers of a broad range of goods and could use their collective power as regions to assist in fostering green stds
- Improving the efficiency of urban distribution; an opportunity to reduce traffic congestion and carbon dioxide emissions by increasing the operational efficiency of goods distribution, e.g. Barcelona, Kuala Lumpur and Amsterdam
- Making waste management profitable; e.g. by charging according to weight or the number of bags
 - LG can act by promoting the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste e.g. Mexico City is implementing a new integrated waste management programme that focuses on reduction and deriving maximum value from waste



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Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

Social learning for innovation

- Effective institutions will be the ones that continually learn, adapt and innovate
- LG needs to support regional innovation systems that connect green businesses, think tanks, entrepreneurs, social movements and state owned enterprises
- Innovation labs – problem solving labs focused on addressing systemic challenges to the eco system of the city
- Culture of public debate that can take the form of exhibitions and learning fairs and foster shared dialogue of stimulating ideas and lifelong learning
 - In every city and town explore the most culturally appropriate ways to stage events and processes aimed at stimulating innovation and public engagement in the governance process
- **Continuous learning and adaptation by LG (rather than rigid policies, processes and systems) is key to meeting the demands of the new Urban Agenda**



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Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

4. Establishing efficient, transparent and financially sound governance

- Sustainable and responsible fiscal management; need alternative sources of financing as opposed to increasing taxes, e.g. Chile's success in PPPs with regard to rural and urban roads, airports and hospitals
 - Leverage investments that will yield the highest returns
 - Value and develop the city's creditworthiness



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Implementation Pillars & Opportunities

Service delivery innovations

- ICTs present a host of opportunities to strengthen service performance and responsiveness
 - For eg. Residents now routinely take pics of potholes, broken traffic lights and so on – ph applications allow residents to monitor responsiveness
 - This ‘digital crowdsourcing’ can be applied to virtually every aspect of local governance - this will be enhanced significantly over the next decade
 - Routine communication can be greatly enhanced through SMS services that serve to inform customers and provide useful feedback
- When resources allow, we can invest in more sophisticated sensor-based systems that allow tracking of real time performance of infrastructure systems, with capacity for auto-correction (for example, sealing a valve anticipating a burst)
- Potential of e-governance and smart city applications are tremendous, provided they serve the end goal and do not become an end in themselves



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The bottom line – Cities central to success of this agenda

Core paradox: cities aggregate the bulk of global economic activity, creating conditions of vulnerability and exclusion for those outside these areas, but on the other hand, cities represent the most promising site for governance reforms and innovation to tackle –

- rising inequality, intensifying environmental stress and vulnerability, continued economic crisis, increasing conflict and unprecedented technological opportunity

- Commitment to the new urban agenda must be buttressed in urban reforms that entail the following key imperatives:
 - Re-balancing intergovernmental division of powers and fiscal arrangements
 - Strengthen the role and functioning of metropolitan government in the overall governance system to address the multi-dimensional complexities of urban growth and development
 - Reform the intergovernmental public finance system to grow the overall public purse and empower cities in particular with the necessary autonomy and resources to implement their locally defined development pathways



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The bottom line – Cities central to success of this agenda

- Success of the SDGs will be determined to a large extent in the world's cities, which lie at the fulcrum of employment creation, poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth and environmental sustainability
- Due to accelerated speed of technological change, combined with the fluidity of capital flows, it is essential that city regions lead in addressing multiple, complex pressures and exploiting opportunities
- The stark reality is that none of the major development challenges being debated under the post 2015 development agenda can be resolved without the active and leadership role of cities



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The bottom line – Cities central to success of this agenda

- Visions 2030 are directly aligned to the SALGA vision for metros and secondary cities to the effect that cities should be responsible for the full built environment to shape integrated and cohesive spatial realities
- A significant amount of SALGA's energy will be devoted to ensuring that Cities have the necessary authority and financial capacity to shape these important endeavours
 - If we are to make significant inroads into our transformation & dev agenda through people centered LG and effective cooperative govt, then national and provincial govt should support a differentiated policy and resources model, to ensure that high capacity municipalities (metros and secondary cities in particular) receive greater fiscal allocations, additional revenue raising powers and devolution of built environment functions
- Institutionalising the White Paper vision and Constitutional intent remains the key objective of sector and must be strengthened, with the SDGs and Agenda 2063 providing fresh impetus to accelerate this ideal



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Moving forward

- In our view, these issues are critical to unlocking the potential of LG to play a much greater developmental role in achieving our social & economic growth objectives over the next 15 years
- As we build up to **AfriCities 7**, to take place in Johannesburg in December this year, we must consider some fundamental choices, chief among them:
- The need to reconsider and redefine the dynamic of the increasing complexity of governance;
 - How to structure and modernize governance approaches to be more inclusive and people centered, as well as linking up the people with their activities, ecosystems and institutions, and
 - How our cities and towns can pioneer and provide development modes and transformation models that are more sustainable and just, particularly in our historical context



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Moving forward

- We have already begun the journey and made incremental strides – the quest now is to take a bold step further in building cohesive African cities, towns and villages of tomorrow, today
 - If we do so, we will at the same time be concretising the local level implementation of Agenda 2063, the SDGs and our NDP
 - **Let LG lead the way!**



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“A SALGA in touch with the world for local, regional and continental development”

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