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Evaluating the back to basics programme :water provision in Giyani Local Municipality

Sithole, Matimba John Philip

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DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own unaided work. It is being submitted for the Degree of Masters of Science in Development Planning to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination to the University.

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ABSTRACT

Since the establishment of the "new" local government systems in the post-apartheid South Africa municipalities are increasingly facing persistent challenges of distributing basic water services to all communities. These challenges are more prevalent among municipalities that are largely rural areas and comprised of poor communities. The national government has over the years implemented policies and various support programmes aimed at improving the performance in service delivery.

In 2014 The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs introduced the Back to Basics programme to ensure sustainable delivery of basic services, including basic water supplies. However, municipalities continue to experience water services delivery challenges, especially in poor rural areas where huge water backlogs are evident. This research investigated the extent of the B2B implementation in facilitating the long-standing challenges of water supply to rural communities in the Giyani Local Municipality (GLM). GLM was identified as one of the dysfunctional municipalities in South Africa. Data were collected through the use of interviews of water technicians from the GLM, Mopani District Municipality (MDM), an official from Lepelle Northern Water (LNW) and Siyandhani Water Committee member.

The results show that inadequate water supply infrastructure; lack of investment in alternative water sources; operations and maintenance of water supply infrastructure; socio-economic conditions of rural communities; water resources management approaches; and poor planning and coordination among key stakeholders are responsible for water supply problems in rural areas. It is argued that these factors are primarily responsible for unsustainable water allocations to rural communities and have a direct impact on the effectiveness of the B2B programme. The research concludes there are spatial inequalities that exist between rural and urban areas spatial in terms of water allocation, and that a more equitable model for local government support underpinned by meaningful participation and water resources management by communities is necessary in ensuring sustainable water provision to rural communities.

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LIST OF FIGURES

1. Characteristics of good governance…….30
2. Illustration of cooperative governance and IGR structures……..43
3. Monthly income per household……57
4. Employment per sector…….58

LIST OF TABLES

1. The Five Year Local Government Strategic Agenda……..22
2. Doctrinal components of the NPM……..34
3. Population distribution by sex…….54
4. Household dynamics……....56
5. Unemployment rate and dependency ratio……57
6. Population per ward…….59
7. Hierarchy of settlements……...60
8. Access to municipal services……61
9. Sources of water in GLM…….62
10. B2B Action Plan for GLM in relation to water provision……69
11. LNW Action Plan…….71

ACRONYMS

B2B	Back to Basics
Cogta	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
DPLG	Department of Provincial and Local Government
DPME	Department of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
FBS	Free Basic Services
FBW	Free Basic Water
GLM	Giyani Local Municipality
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
KPA	Key Performance Area
LGIP	Local Government Improvement Programme
LGTAS	Local Government Turn-Around Strategy
LG	Local Government
LNW	Lepelle Northern Water
MDM	Mopani District Municipality
MSA	Municipal Systems Act
NDP	National Development Plan
PARI	Public Affairs Research Institute
PCC	Presidential Coordinating Council
PMS	Performance Management Systems
RDP	Reconstruction and Development Programme
SDBIP	Service Delivery Budget and Implementation Plan
SWC	Siyandhani Water Committee
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WSA	Water Services Authority
WSP	Water Services Provider