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THE VIABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

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THE VIABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING STRATEGIES

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A research report submitted to the Faculty of Management, University of Witwatersrand, in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Masters of Management in the field of Public and Development Management.

Johannesburg, May 2006

DECLARATION

I declare that this research report is my own, unaided work. It is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Management in the field of Public and Development Management in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination here or in any other university.

Name of Candidate
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Date:….day of…….. 2006

ABSTRACT

The South African local government is under constant criticism for its inability to deliver low cost housing to poor citizens who do not own houses, and who end up living in hazardous environments such as shallow mine dumps. They live in informal settlements that are generally inhabitable for human beings.

The purpose of this research is to determine the viability or workability of local government informal settlement upgrading strategy. One of the critical findings, contrary to general perceptions is the effective communication of the strategy with beneficiaries in the municipality. Informal settlement dwellers participated in the strategy formulation from its conception as well as towards implementation. The strategy is comprehensive in "social processes or sociological approach" as well as international and national framework policy thrust, but lags in "micro strategic planning and implementation processes".

The other critical findings are lack of resources, in particular, financial resources; staff capacity; and inter-departmental cooperation. These factors have adverse effect on the informal settlement upgrading strategy. They constitute what would make the strategy not viable or workable. The study proposes review of micro strategic planning and implementation, pursuance of accreditation as well as continuously adaptation to international "slums" or informal settlements improvement strategies and policy imperatives. Accreditation of local authorities is an important vehicle that can enhance speedy implementation of the South African low in-come housing national policy shift dubbed "breaking new ground."

DEDICATION

To the Maloka clan, referred to as Bathokwa.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my fervent gratitude to Mr C Ogutu Miruka, my supervisor, for his critical support, constructive criticism and guidance throughout the research. Thanks are also due to Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality informal settlement dwellers, ward and proportional representational councillors, and Housing Department officials for their probity in the completion of questionnaires. Without their unqualified support, this research would not have been possible and accomplished.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANC – AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
BNG – BREAKING NEW GROUND
EM – EXECUTIVE MAYOR
EMM – EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
GDS – GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
MDG – MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
IDP – INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN
ISUS – INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UPGRADING STRATEGY
KATHORUS – KATLEHONG, THOKOZA, VOSLOORUS
MDG – MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
MI – MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE
PMT – PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
PHB – PROVINCIAL HOUSING BOARD
REM – REGIONAL EXECUTIVE MANGER
R, T, C&W – ROAD, TRANSPORT & CIVIL WORKS
SDDR – SOUTHERN SERVICE DELIVERY REGION
SDBIP – SERVICE DELIVERY BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION
UNH - UNITED NATIONS HABITAT
UK – UNITED KINGDOM

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