EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE MOKOMENE – RAMOKGOPA COMMUNITY IN THE MOLEMOLE MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO – PROVINCE.

by

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DECLARATION.

I declare that the mini dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of masters in evaluation of community participation in the Inter grated development planning has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other University; that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

Mohlabe M.J (Mr.)

30th August 2011

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ABSTRACT

Projects will do well, sustain and function effectively if the people and communities for whom they are established understood them better and took charge of their implementation.

The integrated development planning is, by its nature and purpose appropriate and proves a better tool for community development. It is already showing some fruits and will, undoubtedly continue serving the purpose as long as its implementation is based on the peoples' own analysis of their own problems and perceived solutions.

The aim of this research was to evaluate on the level of community participation in the integrated development planning conducted by the Molemole municipality in the villages, more especially, Mokomene which is under Kgosi Ramokgopa. It has also been the objectives of the research to assess and measure the level of participation by members of the community in this area. Interviews, questionnaires and observations were used to carry out the research

While many people in this area supported the introduction of the IDP in the communities, these recommended strongly for its correct implementation. The results of the research indicate a substantial number of people who still believe education and orientation on IDP matters should be given to the communities.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Background to the study.

The South African constitution (1996) makes provision for three tier governments namely national, provincial and local governments. While each of the above spheres has its assigned mandates and responsibilities, local government in the form of municipalities was assigned a key role to facilitate developmental processes in the local area. It serves as the face of government and has to execute, interpret and correctly implement developmental policies of the government.

In order to implement and drive this process correctly, the municipalities are required in terms of section 36 of the Municipal Systems Act 2000, to prepare and adopt a five year strategic development plan. According to this plan, deciding on community developmental issues should not be seen as a "one man show" or taken unilaterally by government without involving other stakeholders. The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) should provide a collaborative stage for information sharing and exchange of opinions on service delivery needs and other programs that are to be rendered to the communities. All planning and adoption of programs for development and establishment of projects should be community and grass root centre.

In addition, the Integrated Development planning should induce community members who are directly affected by the process to participate. The Integrated Development Plan serves as a tool for the above and should assist in dealing with developmental issues. It highlights on the mission and vision of the municipalities. The Integrated Development Plan also shows the short, medium and long term goals of the municipalities.

All integrated development plans, according to the government, should entrench and confirm sustainability of suggested projects as these will easily and immediately put and

portray the attitudes and interests of the affected communities. Members usually show a positive or negative trend of support and love for the proposed projects. The above behavior is often detected at an early stage of project establishment and implementation. It is also the rationale by the Government to strive and adhere strictly to all tenets and principles of democracy that people should be encouraged to own and drive processes that affect their lives.

The planning and adoption of amenities and structures in the communities is, according to the IDP the responsibility of the community and the government. This should both take praise or account for all failures and success which will come during and after project implementation

In July 2001 the South African government launched the so called Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Program. This was meant to serve as an implementation platform for rural development which was targeted mainly for presidential focus. The integrated sustainable rural development program was aimed at attaining communities that are socially cohesive and have viable institutions. The said communities are expected to have economies that are sustainable. They should be able to decide on and have amenities that are fully owned, loved, respected and accessed by all members of the communities. The introduction of the Integrated Development planning by the government is undoubtedly, to satisfy the above requirement.

The belief by the government is that if the program is implemented correctly, this will empower people and make them develop a sense of ownership. It will put the communities in a better position to make an informed planning for the future. It was against this above background that a study and evaluation on participation by communities in discussions for projects contemplated for their developments was considered imperative.

1.2. Significance of the study

The study is important in that it indicates either a downward trend or consistent involvement, support and active participation by communities. Unperceived challenges faced by the Ramokgopa community are highlighted by the study.

A study on adequate community participation in the integrated community program was deemed imperative as this would ensure sustainability and that communities take services and other structures provided to them as theirs. The integrated program is a tool and has the effect that amenity and other infrastructures created for the communities are protected.

The study provides an informed future planning for both the communities and the municipality. The results serve intend to serve as an eye opener and motivate the communities who are already taking Integrated Development Planning to be a platform for learning and self expression for local needs. Lastly, the study clearly unravel and portray a good understanding of the implications of the level of community participation in the integrated Development planning processes.

1.3. Statement of the problem

Community participation and involvement is a requirement and is prescribed in terms of the Municipal Systems Act 2000 (Act 38 of 2000). Chapter 2(5)(c) of the above Act strictly refers to the communities as having the right to be informed of "any decisions taken by the municipal council or any political structure or political office bearer or administration of the municipality" affecting their rights, property and reasonable expectations (Act 38 of 2000:8).

The current situation with municipalities is that these are highly characterized by a tendency to disrespect the facilities, unabated destruction and ignorance of government created structures and projects earmarked for community development. The above attitude raises questions and makes one to wonder whether all systems and requirements of the integrated development planning are indeed conveyed for the knowledge and understanding of the communities. This again poses a problem hence

the researcher decided to undertake a study to evaluate community participation in the IDP of the Mokomene community.

1.4. Aim of the study

The study is intended to evaluate the extent of community involvement and participation in the integrated development planning of the Molemole municipality.

1.5. Objectives of the study

The practice and implementation of the integrated development planning as a tool for development has an effect to produce well capacitated and empowered communities. The objectives of the study are therefore to;

- 1.5.1. Define the objectives of the Integrated Development Planning.
- 1.5.2. Determine the role played by the local municipality in carrying out the above objectives.
- 1.5.3. Investigate the level of participation by the Mokomene community in the integrated development planning processes.
- 1.5.4. Assess people's attitude and perceptions towards the IDP (as a tool for development).

1.6. Study area

The research was conducted in a village called Mokomene in Botlokwa, under Kgosi Ramokgopa. This village is situated about 73km, North-East of Polokwane, in the Molemole municipality of Limpopo Province - South Africa.

The Molemole municipality is comprised of five villages, each of which is governed by a Kgosi and they are as follows;

Mokomene (Kgosi Ramokgopa)

Ga Makgato (Kgosi Makgato)

Ga Machaka (Kgosi Machaka)

Ga Manthata (Kgosi Manthata)

Eisleben (Kgosi Ramokgopa)

Other areas which do not form part of the villages but fall within the boundaries of the four local authorities are Morebeng with all its farmers; and Brussels on the western side of Dendron.

The Mokomene village consists of 2000 households. The area is headed by a kgosi who together with his indunas, civic structures and the municipality have to ensure that it is appropriately developed. The village has the following facilities which were provided by the state;

- 2 dipping tanks;
- 1 auction kraal;
- 1 sports stadium;
- 1 home for the aged at Ramatjowe;
- A tarred road leading from Mokomene to Eisleben, and
- A number of boreholes.

The following is a map for the Limpopo province;

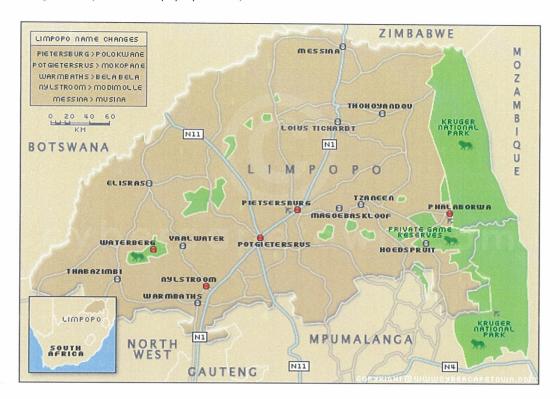


Fig.1.

A map for the Molemole municipality is shown below for further information.

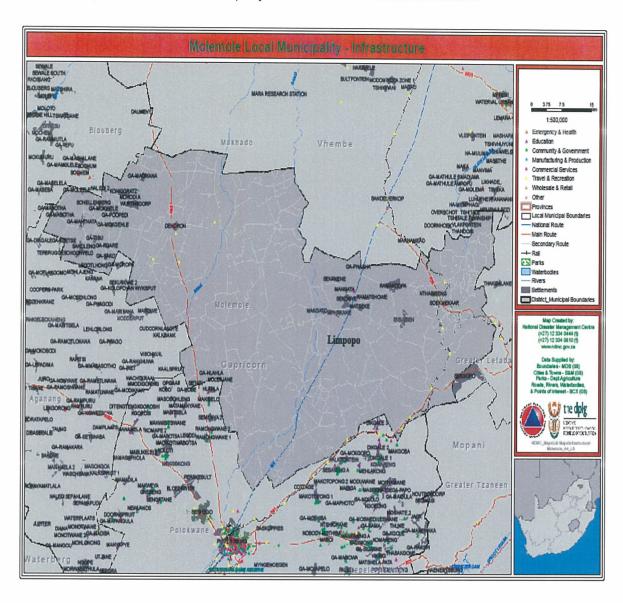


Fig.2. (map of the Molemole municipality).

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Integrated development planning was initiated, developed and is implemented in terms of the White Paper on Local Government Transition Act, 1998. Its content and purposes were entrenched and are prescribed in the White Paper on Local Government Act 1998.

The program was formally introduced and made to function through a newly enacted Municipal Systems Act 2000. The Act requires of the municipalities to develop and review their IDPs on an annual basis, to assess performance and to reflect on changes in communities.

The government intended to satisfy certain objectives through the IDP processes. The IDP serves as a strategic planning instrument that guides development and service delivery in the district and municipalities. All business plans drawn by the various departments in municipalities are to be aligned to and give operational expression to the IDP. The municipalities should through their IDPs ensure that resources are aligned to their objectives and outcomes. The IDP also ensures that there are linkages of functions and that coordination and integration of activities is done successfully. Governments regards IDPs to provide a strategic guideline and that overall planning is done accordingly.

Furthermore, through IDP, communities are mobilized for participation during policy making processes and this simplifies and facilitates development and service delivery. It has a force of law and is approved only by the Municipal council. It cannot be delegated and should be implemented only with the blessings of the council. It integrates and aligns activities of the municipality, districts and departments. It details the alignment of

processes of inter governmental consultations as well as linkages between itself and the budget. IDP also serves as a management tool for assessing municipalities in achieving their developmental roles.

2.2. Policy and legislative framework

The introduction, implementation and inception of the IDP did not only come as "wishful thinking" by some theorists, but had its backing and support from a number of statutes and legislative enactments from parliament.

2.2.1. Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996).

The South African Constitution (1996) has an impetus on the need for municipalities to ensure the provision of services to the communities and that this should be in a sustainable manner

The constitution, in terms of section 151, requires municipalities to make provision for a democratic and accountable government for the communities. It is therefore the requirement by this Act (1996) that local municipalities should create conducive environments and encourage communities to participate and be involved in local government matters.

2.2.2. Development Facilitation Act (Act 65 of 1995)

The Development Facilitation Act provides for the formalization of the restructuring of settlements and planning in South Africa. According to this act, municipalities are to prepare land development objectives annually. The provisions of regulations for the Development Facilitation Act require public participation by the members of the communities and that their involvement in any development initiatives should be encouraged as far as possible.

Section 2 of the Development Facilitation Act recognize the need for development initiatives and that these are necessary to promote integration for social, economic and physical aspects of development.

2.2.3. Transformation of the Public Service delivery (Batho Pele White paper of 1997)

According to the Batho Pele White Paper of 1997, transformation of the Public Service is important. This gives an implicit view that an approach has to be adopted in order to attain efficient and effective service delivery. It pronounces on the manners to exert pressure on systems, procedures, attitudes and behavior in the Public Service and that "doing of things" should be in the customer's favour. According to this Act, people should come first. Batho Pele as a concept evolved as a culmination of, and context of the above Act. It sets appreciable principles as indicated below;

2.2.3.1. Consultation

The emphasis by the consultation principle is that people should be consulted about the levels and quality of work they will receive from the Public Service. Where possible, they should also be given a choice of the services they need.

2.2.3.2. Service standards

The people should be told about the level and quality of services they will receive. This will put the citizens in better position to know what to expect from the government.

2.2.3.3 Courtesy

Members of the public should be treated with courtesy and respect.

2.2.3.4. Information

Citizens should be given accurate information about the services they will receive from the government.

2.2.3.5. Openness and transparency

Government and municipalities should be open and give clear information about the manner in which Departments in the municipalities and other levels of government are run.

This also includes projects and other services that are to be rendered for the communities. Furthermore, the provisions of the White Paper on transformation have the effect that members of the communities who receive services from the government should be treated as "customers"

The implication of the above arrangement is that these will be accorded the opportunity to be listened to when expressing opinions. Members of the community should also be informed of any deviations on any agreed standards and targets by both the government and the community members.

2.2.4. White Paper on Local government (1998)

The White Paper on local government views integrated developmental planning to be a way to achieve developmental goals of the local government. According to this act, allocation and utilization of resources will be aligned to the agreed policies of government. This will also ensure transparent interaction between municipalities and residents. Accountability will also be achieved.

The provisions of the above act also ensures commitment that "there will be a working together between government, the citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs and to improve the quality of their lives." It has also the effect that an emphasis is made on consultation when decisions are made. The Act also requires involvement during monitoring or when implementation of projects is made.

.2.2.5. Municipal Systems Act (32 of 2000)

The Municipal Systems Act requires the municipalities to do developmentally orientated planning. According to this act the municipal council should soon after its election into office, adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of the municipality. The plan will;

- enable linkages, coordination and integration of functions;
- align resources and capacity of the municipality with implementation plan;

- serve as policy framework for budgetary purposes.

The plan so contemplated will have to be compatible with the national and provincial department's plan. It is also the requirement by the municipal systems Act that the IDP of the municipalities should reflect the long and short term visions of the municipality. This plan will also reflect on the degree and current development of the municipalities.

2.2.6. Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003)

The above Act was promulgated to secure sound and sustainable financial management of municipalities and other institutions. Besides many other norms and standards set by the Act, this stresses on a single well run budget and IDP review process.

According to the act, there should be facilitation for community participation, dissemination of information at ward level as well as collective discussion on priorities and feedbacks

2.2.7. Traditional Leadership and Government Framework Amendment Act (Act 41 of 2003).

The Act on traditional leadership makes provision for the role Traditional leaders have to play in the developmental initiatives of their municipalities. It provides for the active involvement of traditional leaders in the formulation and implementation of integrated plans.

According to the act, traditional councils are to be established and this will assist in identifying community needs.

2.2.8. Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative South Africa (ASGISA)

The government's purpose in introducing "ASGISA" was to see poverty and unemployment reduced in the year 2004-2014. This was to be done in the following manner,

2.2.8.1. Poverty reduced by half in the years 2004-2014;

- 2.2.8.2. Unemployment reduced by half from 30% in 2014;
- 2.2.8.3. Growth increased by 6% annually;
- 2.2.8.4. Spending shared by all spheres of the government.

In order to achieve these goals, the government decided to work on the following which were said to be key levers of development;

- Capacity building/skills development;
- Infrastructure development;
- Strengthening public institutions;
- Sectoral investment;
- Interventions in second economy;
- Initiatives that serves as catalysis to fast track the kind of growth;
- Invest in transport infrastructure;
- Support SMME and Labor intensive projects;
- Prioritizing social and economic infrastructure, and
- Build partnership with other development agencies.

2.3. The need for participation

The need for community involvement and participation started some decades ago and this had wider support from other countries as well;

2.3.1. U.S.A (1870)

American authors attributed development of communities through participation to a good move and made it to manifest through an extension approach in agriculture. Its aims were primarily for the transfer of knowledge and information on agricultural practices to communities. This was again aimed at the promotion of self-sufficiency and development in communities (Swanepoel and de Beer, 1998: 2).

2.3.2. Country life Commission Report and Smith Lever Act, 1914

The Country Life Commission Report was introduced in the United States of America in 1907. Through this commissions' reports and the provisions of Smith lever Act of 1914, a cooperative extension service was established. The aims of this were to form community organizations. The formation of the community organizations and formulation of all these reports and acts were mainly for people participation and involvement in their local affairs (Swanepoel and de Beer, 1998:2).

2.3.3. India

2.3.3.1 Institute for Rural reconstruction 1921

Through the Indian Institute for Rural reconstruction program, the Indians succeeded and ventured fully in the processes of community development.

A program for community development was developed with the aims to bring back life in all its completeness, making the villagers self sufficient and self respectful, acquainted with the cultural tradition of their own country and be competent to make resources for fullest development for their own physical, social, economic and intellectual conditions (Swanepoel and de Beer, 1998:2).

2.3.3.2. The Ghandian Rural Reconstruction Experiment (1931)

Though this organization appeared similar in approach to the Indian Institute, its emphasis was more on self-sufficiency and attitude change. According to Swanepoel and de Beer (1998:2), these were prerequisites for community development.

2.3.3.3. Ford Foundation Funded Project – Ottawa District 1948.

The Ford Foundation was also established for community development purposes. This was also to ensure that people do participate in their projects to learn and to obtain sustainability. According to Swanepoel and de Beer (1998:2), the foundation brought community development into prominence. Swanepoel and de Beer further allege that a certain number of villages was identified for piloting and this worked effectively. The aim for establishing this kind of a project where people were to be involved was to maximize higher yield and productivity for the villagers. This was also aimed at addressing the real needs of the local communities.

2.4. IDP – Its use and purposes.

2.4.1. It serves as a tool for community development and empowerment.

Proponents of the need for community development through inclusion and training of local residents regard the system as a truly and effective way to liberate communities out of their poverty traps and to ensure that projects established for relief purposes are sustainable. Sigh(1986:88) highlighted on the factors which may promote or inhibit development in the various communities. His strong belief was that if the human resource of a country are not properly developed by education and training and are productively utilized, these become a liability and an obstacle to development but that if they are properly developed and utilized they become a great asset and a major factor contributing to development. This is due to the fact that Communities which are involved in the development of their areas, ultimately take charge and make decisions on their future destinies.

2.4.2. It provides a convenient platform for collective decision making and team work

Stressing on the need for collective decision making and team work, Swanepoel and de Beer(1997:17), indicated a support for the notion of community participation and emphasized more on the basic needs theory which according to him, represented a shift in emphasis away from economic development to a direction of a human centred approach.

The process affords convenient opportunity for all stakeholders and local members of the community to participate and share views on how projects should be implemented and managed. Together they acknowledge the imperfections and chart a way forward. This helps in minimizing the perceived conflicts and contributes towards projects sustainability.

Reeds (2008:412) indicated his keen support for stakeholder participation. He added that this is a process that needs to be identified and accepted as early as possible and throughout the processes of community development and project implementation.

2.4.2. It makes communities to work together to fight poverty

Projects creation through IDP programs mobilizes communities into a force to fight conditions of poverty. These are established and ultimately generate job opportunities for the individual members of the community. Suchardt(1984:422) studied the conditions and the types of poverty and he defined them as "a condition of having insufficient funds to maintain an acceptable standard of living". He believed much in collective decisioning. His belief has also been that communities should decide and work together to be able to win a war on poverty.

The above view was also supported by Lehmann (1979) who ascribed employment to a basic necessity and mentioned that without a job, personality cannot develop. Joblessness, according to him serves a constraint to self - development. In this way, efforts by government to bring people together facilitates development and boosts the moral and team spirit amongst the people. Jobs will be created which would be shared

amongst the community members. A lack of government support and job opportunities induces people to be chronically dependent communities and this deprives people of their initiatives for development (Lehmann, 1979:10).

The initial intention and purpose of the IDP is project establishment to enhance job creation for the communities. It is therefore imperative that all areas in the IDP which will need some improvements be seriously considered.

The rationale and idea of participation by the communities in deciding on projects of their own was strongly commended by Clark (1990:89). His belief was that the project will be more effective if the people understood them better and took charge of their implementation. His further contention was that such projects should be based on the people's own analysis of the problems they face and their solutions.

Sinclair (2005: 49) emphasized on the need for communities to have persuasions from their leaders, external forces and other immediate threats to realize that "acting together" they can assert some control over circumstances that affect their lives. This will also make them acknowledge collective capacity to be a means to influence their social and political processes. It also serves as a tool for empowerment.

In his statement, Harrigan (1984) gives a brief exposition of people who are likely to have above average chances of being engulfed in a poverty state. These are families that;

- -are headed by women.
- -are headed by high school dropouts.
- -are headed by people who have less than 8 years at school.
- -are with not less than 7 members.
- -are headed by unemployed persons.
- -are with no wage earners.

The IDP processes are undoubtedly geared towards minimizing the above ills and conditions. If implemented correctly, the IDP may assist in alleviating the unemployment challenges in the communities. Most families in the Mokomene village are neither employed nor receiving any salary in the form of a wage (Harrigan, 1984:340).

The need for community participation is supported further by Keeton (1984) who cites popular participation as an appropriate method for basic needs analysis and that the approach conflicted, somehow with the conventional approach which imposed development to the communities. The conventional method of development dictated events and could not be open for community involvement. According to Keeton (1984), community members' involvement should be sought in all developmental initiatives or decision making processes.

The Municipal structures Act (1998) stresses the need for the municipalities to develop mechanisms to consult with the communities when performing their functions or exercising of power and to review the processes annually.

The Municipal Systems Act (2000) has an emphasis on community participation and subscribes integrated development planning to a better instrument for developmental Local government. It is imperative, according to this act that Local government should always consult with the communities and other stakeholders for whatever community development initiatives they intend embarking on.

Community participation has also been reiterated and stressed fully in the White Paper on Local government. This emphasized on the need for municipalities to play a developmental role by committing themselves to "working with citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic and material needs and improve the quality of their lives".

Involvement by the communities and their wider participation reflected more on tenets of democracy and is covered by preambles in the South African c

onstitution which clearly states that, "South Africa shall be a democratic and an open society in which government is based on the will of the people". The essence of the

above statement is that nothing shall be done for the people without the involvement of those people themselves.

Paul (1987: 2) also indicated a strong support for community involvement by saying that this refers to an active process whereby beneficiaries and other clients and groups influence the direction and execution of development projects with a view to enhance their well being in term of income, personal growth, self - reliance or other values they cherish.

In his introductory address at the Mangaung community based planning workshop, the former minister of Provincial Local government and Traditional Authorities, the Honorable Sydney Mufamadi, called on communities and the government to rise up to the challenges and to the then president of the country (Thabo Mbeki)s' call for "Letsema" (Cooperative Gov. and Traditional Affairs, 2002:1).

The implication of the above statement is that working together and cooperation between government and the communities is imperative and deepens further the tenets of democracy. In the efforts of all developments, communities must be placed at the centre and made to participate.

McEwen (2002:475) also indicated a strong belief that the success of local government transformations depended upon the success of the integrated development planning measures and that these enabled structured participation of large number of people.

In his statement Reed (2008:241), highlighted the importance of stakeholder participation that "it enhances good and quality decisions". It has also the effect that more comprehensive information and inputs will be acquired from the participating members of the community.

Muhammad (1995:25) confirmed the essence of participatory development and strongly indicated the importance of the approach. According to him, this "assumed a power balance between the elite and the people and that ultimately it shifted this balance towards those it represented. His advocacy was on self - reflected awareness of the people than merely in educating and indoctrinating.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Data collection method

To conduct this research, two types of data were collected, namely secondary and primary data. Books, government legislations, documents and journals were used for secondary data collection. Primary data collection was done based mainly on personal interviews, questionnaires and observation.

3.1.1. Interviews

Interviews were conducted with the Municipality mayor, the IDP manager, councilors, ward committee members and the Tribal office of the Ramokgopa community. Officials from the departments of Local government and housing, Agriculture and Education were also interviewed. These were all requested to give their views on the degree of community participation in the IDP processes, its effectiveness and, where necessary, areas of improvements.

3.1.2. Questionnaires

Hundred (100) members of the community were provided with questionnaires to complete. In cases where some members could not understand English, read or write, these were assisted and managed accordingly. Both open and close ended questions were asked.

3.1.3. Observation

An opportunity to observe processes and participation became available and this was fully utilized during IDP meetings organized by the municipality. The last meeting

organized for IDP purposes was on the 19^{th} October 2010 where an analysis phase of the program was to be made.

3.2. Sampling method

The Mokomene community is comprised of 2000 households. The village is planned and arranged accordingly in rows and streets. For purposes of this research, a Probability Sampling method was chosen where a systematic sampling method was used. For convenience purposes, 5% of the total households were divided into stratus of 20. A first household of the stratum was selected for sampling, and then another selection made after every 20th of the household. A total of 100 households were eventually selected and interviewed.

3.3. Data analysis

The data collected was analyzed and presented graphically, in the form of pie chart and a map. Pictures of some structure and facilities created by the government departments were also taken and are shown for more information.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Introduction

The research and evaluation on the realized problem of community participation in the Integrated Development Plan, attitude and disregard for facilities provided to them by the state was conducted at Mokomene – Ramokgopa village. The main aim of the study was to evaluate the extent of community involvement and participation in the Integrated Development Planning of the municipality. The results obtained from the research are presented below.

4.2. Demographic information of the respondents

4.2.1. Age Group of the Respondents

According to the data analysis of the research, 6% of the respondents were people between the ages of 16-25 years. Fifteen (15) percent of the people comprised of a group ranging from 26-35 years. The respondents who are between the ages of 36-45 covered only 39%. The remaining 40% of the participants included people at the age of 46 and above.

A graphic representation of the age group in respect of the Mokomene community is depicted in figure 3.

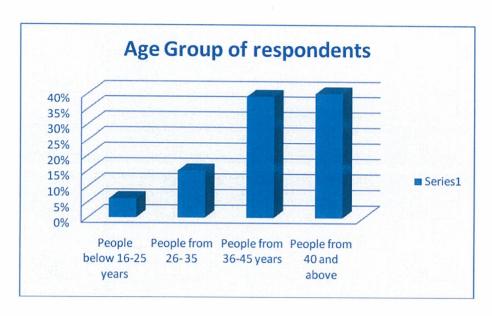


Fig.3

4.2.2. Gender of the Respondents

The research results indicated that 75% of the respondents were women while only 25% of the participants were men. While the expectations were that men would participate in large numbers, the practical application of the research contradicted this belief. The reasons advanced for men participating in a small number are that men are, more often than not, away from their families to seek and explore greener pastures. The majority of men in this community migrated to, either Gauteng or other Provinces because of work. Women are predominantly household heads and hence their having participated in large numbers in the research.

4.2.3. Educational levels of the respondents

The information obtained through this research indicated that 13% of the respondents did not go to school; 19% received education up to Primary level and 54% of the community members obtained a secondary education. Only 14% of the members of the community succeeded in obtaining a tertiary education. The following graph depicts the educational levels of the Mokomene community:

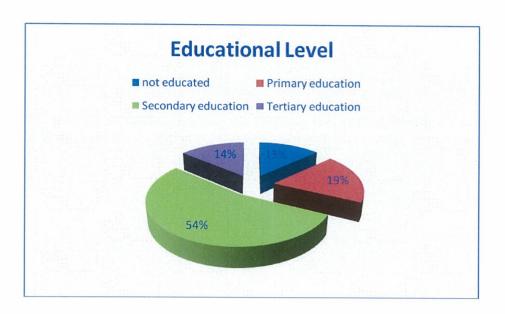


Figure 4.

4.2.4 Monthly income of households

The research conducted showed that most of the community members interviewed are not employed and depended on, either old age pension or child support grant for a living. Sixty (60) percent of the community members receive income of less than R1000.Twenty (20) percent of the members of the community earn between R1000 and R2500. The remaining 20% is shared equally by two groups who earn between R2501 – R4000 and above R4000.

4.3. Knowledge of the IDP, Processes, Value and objectives of the IDP.

The Municipal Structures Act, 1998, as worked out in conjunction with the White Paper on local government subscribes IDP to be a better tool and instrument for community development. According to these Acts, local municipalities and government have the responsibility to consult, educate and involve local communities in any development initiatives that are to take place in their areas.

As compliance and confirmation to the requirements, questions were framed and directed to the respondents to test their knowledge about the IDP, its processes and objectives;

4.3.1. Knowledge of the IDP

When community members were asked about their knowledge and conversancy about the IDP, their responses contradicted the requirement of the municipal structures Act. It showed that the people of this area still lack information in as far as IDP issues are concerned

Eighty (80) percent of the interviewees did not know or understand what an IDP is – let alone its fully coined definition and objectives. Twenty (20) percent of the people interviewed proved to be partly inclined to the program though they could not clearly define it.

4.3.2. Participation and involvement in the IDP processes

Sixty (60) percent of the respondents indicated that they have never been involved in the IDP processes. Only 10% admitted to have been somehow involved in the IDP processes. The other 10% did not know or show whether they could have participated or not in the IDP meetings. Indications were that these could have, either participated in the meetings arranged for IDP processes without their knowledge (unaware). This also led to a question of information dissemination or invitations to the IDP meetings. Indications of the research showed that 50% of the respondents acknowledge receipt of the invitations through word of mouth. Thirty (30) percent of the respondents indicated that they received invitations and messages through their local kgosi or indunas. The remaining 20% indicated that they received invitations, either through written letters or loud speakers.

4.3.3. Respondents' attitudes towards IDP and facilities provided by government

Community members' attitudes towards IDP and its value to development were tested through questionnaires. Ninety (90) percent of the respondents acknowledged the need for the program but criticized the manner in which it was implemented.

The respondents cited non involvement of communities to be a problem and suggested that this should be improved at all costs. The same commented strongly about the facilities provided to the communities by the governments' departments. They emphasized non involvement of the community and stakeholders and said that decisions are taken unilaterally by the officials. This, according to them, results in poor service delivery. Further indications were that some of the facilities are left uncompleted and much to the frustration of the residents. Ten (10) percent of the respondents, however, appeared to be uncomfortable with IDP issues and indicated that the meetings organized for these purposes, benefit friends of officials and families.

The local municipality through its extended arms of the Department of agriculture and Public works made provision for some facilities in the area. These included such facilities as Dipping Tanks, Auction Kraals, housing for the aged and tarred roads. The research conducted in this area revealed that these facilities could not be utilized since their construction or alternatively that some were left uncompleted. One dipping tank and an auction kraal at both Mokomene and Ramatjowe were constructed in 2005 and could not be used as the community and the Tribal council felt they were not fully and properly completed.

Besides the Dipping Tank and the Auction kraal, the municipality constructed a 10km tarred road from Mokomene to Eisleben village. Any discussions on this project evoked emotions as most residents, more especially the Taxi owners and Business community, felt the community had been deprived of a valued opportunity to decide on projects of their own choices. The projects are, according to them, left incomplete and are of a poor quality.

The Botlokwa home for the aged is situated at Ramatjowe. It lies 500 kilometersm away from the N1 road, on the Eastern side of Botlokwa. This has also been one of the

projects in Botlokwa that aroused criticism and made the community angry. The project was built with the intention to accommodate the elderly and that whoever would be in dire need for immediate accommodation would be assisted. Seventy (70) percent of the people of the area see the provision of a Home for the aged as violation and a complete disregard for their culture and value belief systems.

According to them, removal or displacement of an elderly person from his family is an insult and that this should be discouraged forthwith. The community members feel that a thorough consultation was not made before the said building could be constructed. Their attitudes towards the said home and the other constructed facilities were negative. Two other projects, namely, a dipping tank and an auction kraal were built without closer monitoring and involvement of the communities. The Botlokwa home for the aged is shown below;

Photo.1 Botlokwa home for the aged.



4.3.4. Views from other stakeholders

While information from the ordinary members of the public was to be obtained through questionnaires, other methods such as telephonic interviews were employed to test their views;

4.3.4.1 The municipality mayor

The municipality mayor, Ms. Monica Mohale, was interviewed telephonically. Her response to the IDP issues was, somehow, supportive of the processes involved with the IDP initiatives. Her views were as follows;

4.3.4.1.1 IDP – a valuable tool to guide developments in the municipalities

The mayor indicated her strong support for the IDP as well as all the processes involved. According to her, this creates a good platform for community participation and affords ample opportunity for people to give inputs on issues that affect their lives.

Though she acknowledged the minimal support and participation by the community members for the IDP meetings, especially the knowledgeable and the educated, she appreciated the responses she always received from the community members. She also praised the officials of the municipality for their efforts in distributing and conveying information on time.

4.3.4.1.2 Challenges

While the IDP could be seen to be a wide move by the government, this could, according to the mayor, not be without some challenges. The following challenges were raised by the mayor;

4.3.4.1.2.1 Budgetary constraints

The municipal mayor described the Molemole municipality as one the indigent municipalities whose budget could not always be sufficient to cater for its needs and purposes. This has the resulting effect that people will always complain and regard some of the services provided to them as inadequate.

4.3.4.1.2.2 Synergy and synchronization of activities

The mayor indicated a strong belief in real integration of ideas and views. She expressed disappointment that sister departments could not always respond timely to the invitations for the IDP meetings.

According to Ms Mohale, decisions on community development should reflect a concerted effort and a conglomerate of ideas and agreements contributed by departments in the municipality.

The Mayor sees participation by other departments in the municipality as leaving much to be desired. This includes the fact that junior officials are sent to the IDP meetings for participation. The attitude, according to the mayor, causes delays as these officials may not commit themselves to take responsible decisions.

The mayor's blame for the opposition groups could be seen as quite minimal and that not much attempt was shown by these groups to discourage community members to attend IDP meetings. She was also not happy with the local community members who develop uninformed attitudes which is a cause for concern and unwillingness to participate in matters that affect their lives.

Finally, the mayor accepted capacity building and education on IDP matters as highly imperative and that the interviews and results of the research would probably serve as an "eye opener" to both her office and the officials of the municipality.

4.3.4.2 Ward councilors

One council member, namely Mr. Nicco Pootona was also telephonically interviewed. His general impressions about the IDP were that it still serves a good purpose and that it should be continued with. The only areas of the IDP that needs improvements, according to him were;

4.3.4.2.1 Proper implementation.

He indicated a concern about the manner in which the IDP was being implemented in the municipality.

4.3.4.2.2 Lack of real integration

According to him, the program appears to be owned by the local municipality and that involvement by other sister departments is minimal. He expressed his real understanding of the IDP and that its purposes are that projects established in the municipalities should be people driven. His feeling is that the Ramokgopa community should decide and recommend projects they feel will serve their basic needs.

.4.3.4.2.3 Municipality, district and provinces did not always work together

The councilor's further recommendation was that envisaged projects in the municipalities should be a composite and an assembly of ideas from both the municipality, the District and the Province.

4.3.4.2.4 Feedback on IDP discussions not regularly given to the communities

Another area of concern raised by this councilor was that municipalities do not give regular feedbacks to the communities about the success and for further proposed plans. The councilor sees this as an anomaly that needs to be corrected.

4.3.4.2.5 Arrangements and timing of the meetings

Timing of the meetings was also raised as a matter of concern. According to him meetings are held during the course of the week when people who will understand and give valued inputs on IDP are out of the village due to various commitments.

4.3.4.3 Ward committees

Ms Annikie Thobakgale, a ward committee member from Mokomene village was selected from the Mokomene ward committee for the interviews. She was interviewed and made to represent all other ward committee members in the area. Her views on IDP issues were that it served the intended purposes and that the people's response to the IDP meetings is satisfactory.

According to Ms. Thobakgale, response by villagers to the meetings arranged by the departments is satisfactory though these would still need some motivations from the

municipality. The said ward committee member further expressed her satisfaction that invitations were distributed on time. She also agreed on capacity building and education of the communities on IDP matters.

4.3.4.4 Ramokgopa Tribal authority

While discussions were taking place with other stakeholders, the Ramokgopa Tribal authority was also engaged in the discussions. The chairperson of the Tribal council was interviewed separately and he gave his views that there is a need for the government to improve much on the approach for IDP implementation.

According to him, the council supported the IDP and finds it an appropriate tool for community development. The emphasis was, however, on objectivity and that the IDP should not be used as a "smoke screen" to cover officials' hidden agendas.

The Tribal councilor also raised a concern about facilities that are established without the concern and involvement of the people. These ultimately become white elephants. He further emphasized on the need for capacity building and that education on communities should be prioritized. This, according to him, could make people understand the aims and objectives of the program. The tribal councilor cited two projects which were established but poorly constructed in the village, namely a dipping tank and an auction kraal. He showed these as projects which were established by the Government but lacked support from the community members. The monitoring and regulation of the said projects could not be left into the hands of the community.

Pictures showing a dipping tank and an auction kraal built for the Ramokgopa and Ramatjowe communities in Botlokwa are shown below.



Pic.2 (dipping tank at Botlokwa Ramokgopa)



Pic.3 (auction kraal at Botlokwa Ramatjowe)

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4.3.4.5 Business and Ramokgopa Taxi Association

Interviews in this community were extended to the members of the business as well as the local Taxi Association of the area. Though these appeared arrogant and a bit reluctant to participate in the discussions, they ultimately submitted to the interviews and responded well to the questions.

Their input was more on structural quality and that most of the projects created for the community are left uncompleted. They also stressed much on community involvement and that this is the area on the IDP side that needs much improvement. According to this group, all stakeholders should be involved whenever budget allocations and inputs for local developments are made.

4.3.4.6 Members from other Departments

Mrs. Ramaboa of the Department of Local government and housing was selected for the interviews. She showed appreciation for the efforts by the local municipality for introducing the IDP for community development. According to this official, the introduction of the IDP in the government is a step in the right direction. It induces communities to full participation as well as empowering them. Mrs. Ramaboa, however, recommended improvements in the following areas of the IDP;

- 4.3.4.6.1. That adjustments should be made on the IDP programs whereby meetings of the program will be held during weekends and not during the week when many people would be outside the village for other personal commitments.
- 4.3.4.6.2. Time consciousness has also been raised as a major bone of contention. Municipal workers, especially those who facilitate IDP processes do not adhere strictly to scheduled time. They report and start late with the program and this makes people disillusioned. The meetings start when people are already tired and angry.
- 4.3.4.6.3. The officials also raised a problem of catering or feeding of the attendants who are given food before issues on the program and agendas of meetings were exhausted. This, according to them, has the consequence that people would eat and leave the meetings before all issues on the program have been thoroughly debated.

4.3.4.6.4...Mrs. Ramaboa also indicated a need for the IDP budget to be used for real and intended purposes. According to this official, budgets for the IDPs are used for purposes other than those which would have been identified by the communities. This results in many changes being effected on the budget during the course of the financial year.

4.3.4.6.5. A concern was also raised about attendance of the IDP meetings and that these are attended mostly by the illiterate people.

4.3.4.7. The IDP manager

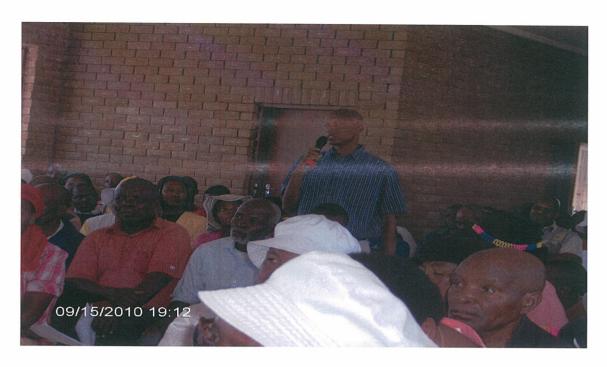
Interviews were also held with the IDP manager, Mr. Maleta. He praised and acknowledged the value of the IDP and that it should be continued with. However, he showed a concern about the delays which are sometimes experienced at the meetings and the attitude from the politicians which would very often make members of the public unsettled. This also applies to the members from sector departments who are starting to lose interests in attending the IDP meetings. The following pictures show the mayor addressing an IDP meeting and attendance at the Sekakeni village (Botlokwa) on the 19th October 2010.

Pic.4. Mayor of the Molemole municipality, Ms.Monica Mohale, addressing an IDP meeting at Sikakene Botlokwa on the 19th October 2010.

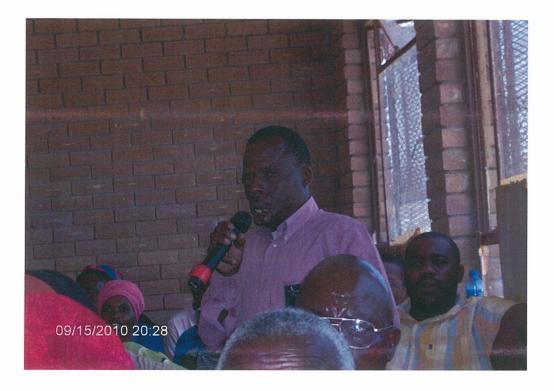




Pic.5 (Attendance)



Pic.6 (Questioning time)



Pic.7 (Questioning time)

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

The participation of the Ramokgopa community in the research process was highly commendable. This indicated willingness by the side of the community to share and give inputs on matters that directly affected their lives.

The results of the research reveal varying responses and elements which, undoubtedly call for the government and local municipalities' attention. While the ordinary members of the community showed discontentment and disbelief in the effectiveness of the program, the officials and workers from government departments indicated a strong belief in, and regarded the IDP to be a strong tool for community development. The introduction and implementation of the program is seen by many as a step in the right direction.

The research shows understanding of IDP issues and processes by community members as still lacking. Indications are that most of the members in the community cannot give clear definition of purposes and roles of the IDP in the communities. These also reveal differentiated beliefs in the benefits the community might derive from the program.

Some believe the program only benefits those who are closer to the government officials or friends and relatives of municipal workers.

Although some members of the community believe in the value the program will add to people's lives, they recommended transparency and effective implementation.

In his assertion Reeds (2008) alluded on" a practice participation approach" which is under pinned by a philosophy which reflects on empowerment, equity, trust and learning. The results of the research showed a total neglect of the above and that 90% of the community members lost trust and confidence in the IDP programs.

The research also reveals a condition of poverty whereby an implicit minimum income received by the people of this area is randomly below the monthly income of R1000.00. This tallied well with some general acceptable assertions and Suchards' definition of poverty, that "this is a condition where people are having insufficient funds to maintain an acceptable standard of living (Suchard,1984:410).

5.2 Recommendations

The most singled out and a striking feature of a dependency paradigm according to some theories has been the attitudes of some states to fail to encourage, mobilize and mould people for local self- reliance. This ended up in some countries failing to fend for themselves and becoming vulnerable in terms of international trade and technology support (Swanepoel & de Beer, 199:23).

The researcher agrees with Swanepoel (1997) that if communities and states promote self- reliance, this may go a long way towards improvements of their conditions. This is due to the fact that the introduction of the Integrated Development Planning was basically meant for community development, empowerment and self- reliance. These w[II be in a better position to take charge and control their local issues. It is undoubtedly, a step in the right direction and should be pursued at all costs. This should be the case with the Ramokgopa community.

The Municipal structures Act of 1998 ascribes IDP to a better tool for development .The rationale behind this is that community members will together with the authorities decide, recommend, and approve on any development initiatives in their areas of operation .Projects implementation will also be the core- responsibility of the communities and government.

As all developments in both urban and rural areas are for the people, sight should not be lost of the fact that this is, indeed, a grass root centered initiative. Nothing should be done for the people without them.

Integrated development planning induces grass root to participation and this has the effect that projects will sustain. It ensures that there will be definite moves towards empowerment and capacity building for the communities.

Clark (1990:188), stressed the need for cooperation and collaborative public accountability between government and other instruments of the state to make information available as widely as possible. The government should also ensure regular consultation with the people who will be directly affected by the plans and policies. It serves to encourage public debates which ultimately make projects to sustain.

Most people in the Mokomene area depend on social grants for subsistence. This negates sustainability in development and promotes dependency. The government should create situations which will assist in transforming fundamental causes of poverty and powerlessness. IDP can undoubtedly serve as a means to this end.

While many people indicated support for the value of creating projects through IDP, this recommended that the government should give priority to initiatives which would enhance project sustainability. Efforts should also be made to ensure that people develop a sense of ownership towards projects. Projects implementation approach and strategies should be improved. This is a commendable wish and supported strongly by the researcher.

The community of this area should, indeed be exposed to further education and capacity building on IDP issues.

It is also strongly recommended that people should be fully engaged when budgets for community development are made. Development budgets should be informed by inputs received from the community members, local kgoshis, indunas and other stakeholders.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Please answer the following questions which will assist in assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the IDP in the Ramokgopa area.

- A. Demographic information
 - 1. Age

16-25	26-35	36-45	46 and
			above

2. Gender

-	Male	Female ·

3. Marital status

Married	Not married

4. School qualification

Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
		(Specify)
	Primary	Primary Secondary

5. Employed

Yes	No	

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12.	How w	ould you	rate the	servi	ces provid	ed to you by the	local municipality and	other sister
	depart	ments?						
	Poor	Good	Excelle	nt				
13.	For an	y answer	given al	ove p	lease sub	stantiate your ch	noice by ticking/ markin	g in the
	approp	oriate col	umns giv	ven be	elow			
	Sound	/Effective	е	Com	munity	Transparent	Poor communication	
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	betwe	en depar	tment				involvement	
	and co	mmunity	1					
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	Yes	No						
15	. If yes,	, what do	you und	dersta	nd about	DP?		
					and the second s			and the contract of the contra
1	5. Do yo	ou know i	the obje	ctives	of the IDP	?		
	Yes	No						
						2		
1	7. What	t do you t	think ab	out th	e objectiv	es:		
				area ex talk molton				

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Always	Som	netimes					
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26.	How do	you ra	te the degree of	community inv	olvement in the IDP process?
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27.	Do you	know o	of any facilities in	n the Ramokgop	a area which were created by the government?
	Yes	No			
28	. Are you	ı happy	with these faci	lities?	
	Yes	No			
29	. For any	y given	answer above p	lease indicate re	easons
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			and local munici		1
	Poor o	uality	Good quality	High quality	
					U I the evented of the control of th
3:			olved when dec	isions were initi	ally taken on the created structures?
	Yes	No			