

IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

HEI & RELATED STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP FOR THE
ROLL-OUT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUALIFICATIONS
PROGRAMME

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EMPEROR'S PALACE, KEMPTON PARK



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Background

- 1994 was a year of liberation of South Africa and its people from the claws of apartheid, hunger, disease, poverty, inequality and underdevelopment.
- The need to ensure human dignity, freedom from want and ignorance remained critical for SA's achievement of a non-racial democracy
- Central to this has been:
 - The need to enhance the human capabilities of all South Africans as the foundation for its prosperity; and
 - To ensure that development is the product of people and not of technocrats



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Background

- Social transformation and forging a nation inspired by values of human solidarity are the heartbeat of the ruling party (2007 Strategy and Tactics)
- National Democratic Revolution's (NDR) focus on:
 - Rallying and mobilizing the nation around triple related challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality
 - Building of a socially inclusive society
 - Deepening of a democratically determined, equitable, just and effective social delivery system.



Background

- ANC committed to:
 - Building a “social floor” and delivering a “social wage” to enable households to access opportunities towards the outcome of sustainable livelihoods and the eradication of absolute poverty.
 - Adaptive social protection where:
 - Social grants remains a key strategy of addressing the plight of the poor in the short-term; and
 - A combination of mid to long-term interventions directed at addressing asset, income, capability and services poverty
- This background paints a picture of the context for

CommDev in South Africa



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Context for Implementation of CommDev

- CommDev was led by activist CSOs who:
 - Acted as the voice of the disenfranchised and excluded
 - Mobilized communities against apartheid, exclusion in decision-making local development and around services in local areas – struggled for inclusion and participation
 - Bridged service delivery gaps to the under-serviced black areas
 - Provided a home and opportunities for training of future leaders
- Community-based approaches were adopted by development agencies e.g. IDT as apartheid lapsed to deliver development services in black areas.

Context of CommDev Implementation – Post 1994

- RDP's definition of Development reflected in its 2nd principle:

“Development is not about the delivery of goods to a passive citizenry. It is about active involvement and growing empowerment.”



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SA's Development Model - Post 1994

- 3 spheres of govt with a number of shared areas of concurrent legislative competency
 - National = development of policies, programmes and national strategies
 - Provincial = deliver programmes and implements policies and strategies
 - Local = key partner in delivery of services & in ensuring demand driven development
- Prioritization of delivery of tangible benefits of development to the previously disadvantaged led to overemphasis on “service delivery” to create jobs and generate income for poor and vulnerable households and communities.

Limitations of “Service Delivery” focus

- Consequences of “service delivery” focus:
 - Community driven development undermined
 - Focus more on quantity than on quality and impact e.g. RDP housing
 - Creation of economically unsustainable communities
 - Lip-service to community participation
 - Communities disempowered due to the reduced the scope for participation
 - Crisis of sustainability due to lack of participation and ownership of development programmes/projects



CommDev Planning Instruments and Strategies

Introduced to change the way in which the 3 spheres of govt operates in response to local priorities

- ISRD/UR Strategies:
 - Pro-poor CD mechanism that promotes coordinated service delivery across all spheres of government as opposed to supply driven development seen from the perspective of national and provincial sector departments
- IDPs:
 - Facilitation of alignment between planning, budgeting and resource allocation for local development
 - Platform for community based development where communities participate rather than being involved in initiation, control and management of the development

process



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Principles and values of CommDev emphasized by key policy frameworks and programmes

- RDP
 - Principles: People driven development; involvement and empowerment; needs orientation
 - Values: Social Justice
- Constitution of SA
 - Principles: Human rights – right to development
 - Values: Social Justice
- White Paper for Social Welfare of 1997
 - Principles: Facilitation of the development of human capacity and self-reliance
 - Values: Caring and enabling environment

Principles and values of CommDev emphasized by key policy frameworks

- White Paper on Local Government of 1998
 - Principles: Democratization of development; empowerment and redistribution
 - Values: Working WITH citizens & groups
- Municipal Systems Act, 2000
 - Principles: Community participation; rebuilding local communities; mobilization and empowerment of communities
 - Values: Social Justice Community to influence the outcome of development decision making processes and community involvement and representation

Principles and values emphasized

- IDPs
 - Principle: Community Participation; involvement
 - Values: Social cohesion; Participation
- ISRD & UR Strategies
 - Principles: Coordination and Integration of development
 - Values: Social Cohesion; Learning

What then is the status of CommDev in SA

- An emerging discipline, not yet fully recognised and accredited as an occupation and as a profession.
- Practitioners & workers not adequately skilled and require relevant knowledge and skills to operate effectively.
- Multi-sectoral nature of CommDev resulted in plethora of policies with different definitions and variety of approaches
- The absence of a standardised and professional career path has resulted in the lack of standardised and quality assured knowledge, skills and attributes amongst persons working in the field of CommDev.

What then is the status of CommDev in SA

- Affected by the dominant ‘service delivery’ approach with a limited focus on empowering communities and enhancing their livelihood capacities and capabilities
- Inappropriately resourced and not making meaningful contribution to the development and implementation of sustainable CommDev strategies.
- Non-existence of an Association and Professional Body impacts on the development of the occupation and profession

Is there a future of CommDev in SA – YES!!!!!!!

- The IGR and the Ten Year Review (commissioned by the Presidency) as early as 2003 indicated the importance of CommDev as a National Priority
- The Planning Commission's Diagnostic Report (2011) highlights several challenges that require bold and strategic CommDev interventions to reduce poverty and inequality
- National Development Plan – Vision 2030 calls for a new approach if SA is to eliminate poverty and reduce inequalities

The New Approach (NDP Vision 2030)

- An approach that moves people from being ***passive citizens*** who just receive services to one that is ***socially and economically inclusive*** where people are ***active champions of their own development*** and where government works effectively to ***develop people's capabilities*** to lead the lives they desire.



What should be done to ensure adoption & implementation of this new approach

- Popularize the new approach and create the necessary demand for implementation
- Production of appropriate and competent work force
- Development of relevant standardized qualifications and curriculum
- Re-skilling and/or training of existing cadres through RPL and on-the-job training
- Rally and mobilize higher education institutions around the new qualifications for the production of the required knowledge, skills and competencies



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What exists to support this new approach

- The DSD in partnership with SAQA developed 3 CD qualifications:
 - NQF L4 : FET Certificate
 - NQF L5 : National Certificate
 - NQF L8 : 4 year Degree: Bachelor of CommDev
- Commitment of the relevant SETAs to
 - Pilot RPL process for community development
 - Support DSD in the development of the Occupation Framework for CommDev
 - Funding of these initiatives



Role of HEIs

- To develop curriculum and conceptualize fieldwork practice,
- To develop of mentoring and supervision guides for crafting of an integrative model
- To implement the RPL model for CD
- To roll-out the implementation of the NQF L5 and L8 for production of the required capacity



Why are you here for 2.5 days?

- Preparation and finalization of matters regarding the roll-out of the CommDev qualifications
 - Engagement on pertinent issues and requirements for the smooth roll-out:
 - Recognition of Prior Learning
 - CommDev Praxis – Integration of theory and practice
 - Mentoring and Supervision guides - Fieldwork Practice requirements

THANK YOU

You may have a million reasons not to get started now. But deep down, none of them can be as compelling as your desire to change, grow, and succeed. In a month or a year or five years from now, you may have only one regret — that you didn't start now. Today matters. The way you spend today really can change your life

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