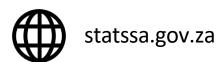**LESSONS LEARNT IN SA VLR PROCESS**

National Workshop on "Improved Local and National Government Capacities for Localizing the SDGs through Voluntary Local Reviews in Malawi"

Ms Andrid Booysen
STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

24 April 2024

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VLR PROCESS

01 Preparedness assessment

- Inception workshop
- Methodology
- Collection of information and data
- Assessment to identify and potentially localize SDG Indicators
- Establish reporting mechanisms to ensure that the VLR results are communicated internally & externally

02 Formulation of proposals for sustainable solutions

Trainings, consultations and capacity development sessions

03 VLR draft reports

First draft of VLR's developed

04 VLR Report

- Final draft of VLR's developed
- VLR Writing retreat

05 Peer Learning and monitoring

- Lessons learned and recommendations emerging from the VLR report
- Sharing good practices

CHALLENGES

Selection of goals & data sources

- Selecting goals that deal with the mandate of municipalities
- Lack data analysis and data interpretation skills
- Data used for SDG reporting in SA needs to comply with SASQAF

Lack of sector department/relevant stakeholder involvement

- Poor attendance of local sector departments / relevant stakeholders
- Lack of cooperation from local sector departments / relevant stakeholders – content experts

Delays in political "buy in" for VLRs

- Institutionalizing VLRs in municipality is imperative to success of Agenda 2030
- Creating SDG awareness at local government

Scientific report writing skills

Report structure, tone and style of writing and referencing method

OPPORTUNITIES

Greater SDG awareness at local level

- VLR s allowed for greater awareness on SDGs particularly at local government level

Localizing SDGs to SA context

- Fostered ownership of SDGs – more relatable
- Success of Agenda 20230 lies at effective implementation of policies (local government)

Improved understanding of admin data

- Greater need to prioritize quality assessing local level data for reporting
- Understanding the importance and use of administrative data
- Closing data gap for national SDG reporting

Investment opportunities

- VLRs allows municipalities to showcase their strengths – attract international investments and partnerships (Goal 17)

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- Achievement of SDGs in any country lies at the implementation phase of government (local government)

- Peer learning

- Inter-government cooperation and strong relations with CSO is key to the fruition of the VLR

- Involvement of NSO from inception phase is paramount to the success of the VLR

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Thank You!

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