GUIDELINES OF THE PUBLIC POLICY MAKING PROCESSES IN NAMIBIA

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

❖ Introduction
  ▪ Background
  ▪ Public Policy versus Public Policy Making Process
  ▪ Why Public Policy Making Processes guidelines necessary?

❖ About the Guidelines of the Public Policy Making Processes
  ▪ Actions per stage during Public Policy Making Processes
  ▪ Challenges experienced during Public Policy Making processes

❖ Conclusion
INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

• The public policy making process (PPMP) is not documented.

• Outcry of O/M/As

• Article 129 of the Constitution of Namibia in conjunction with the NPC Act,(Act no.2 of 2013 ) mandates NPC to develop the guidelines.
**Public Policy**

- It is a directive which may require, allow or prohibit public action or a decision.
- It guide government to take action or not.
- Normally a Public Policy is a multi dimension, multi faced and multi disciplinary.
- Generally, Public Policies are guidelines of what can be done, how it can be done, what should be done and what should not be done.

**Public Policy Making Processes**

- A processes that involves six(6) stages that ensure a comprehensive formulation or revision of a Public Policy.
- These stages includes:
  - ✓ Problem identification
  - ✓ Agenda setting
  - ✓ Policy formulation
  - ✓ Policy adoption
  - ✓ Implementation and Monitoring
  - ✓ Evaluation
INTRODUCTION

Why Public Policy Making Processes guidelines necessary?

❖ To document and standardize the Public Policy formulation and revision process.

❖ To have a standardized process

❖ To smooth policy making process and

❖ Enhance effective implementation of the developed public policies
About the Guidelines of the Public Policy Making Processes

Actions per stage during public policy making processes

**Problem Identification**
- Stakeholders raise concern/Problem identification
- Based on the concern raised, there might be a need for policy
- Identified problem should be national-driven,
- Stakeholders in question should define the problem in clear terms and raise it
- Relevant O/M/A identify inclusive key players/stakeholders
- Conduct scoping study/environmental scanning in the form of SWOT
- Literature review of existing relevant policies and other legislations

**Agenda Setting**
- Problem identified is summarized in policy proposals
- Policy proposal should include policy options and solutions for consideration
- Relevant O/M/A prepares the public policy proposal and must submit it to NPC
- Issue a Cabinet Decision Number CDN
- Extensive stakeholder’s mapping, analysis and engagement should then be carried out after cabinet decision
- A list of Inter-Agency Technical Committee should be included in the policy proposal.

**Policy Formulation**
- Engagement of Consultants (Not Advisable)
- Stakeholders Engagement
- Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC)
- Consultative Workshops
- Consultative meetings
- Individual interview, Group/Institutional interviews and Sectors interviews
- Resource Folder
- Implementation Action Plan/Implementation Plan/Strategy
Actions per stage during Public Policy Making Processes

**Policy Adoption**
- Validation Workshop should be conducted
- Submission to Cabinet Committees and Cabinet
- Editing, layout and Printing
- Launching and Dissemination

**Policy Implementation and Monitoring**
- Executing the IAP
- Resource Mobilization
- Monitoring

**Policy Evaluation/Assessment**
- Host O/M/A together with Inter Agency Technical Committee is responsible for coordinating
- O/M/A should look at costs and benefits of the policy
- Host O/M/A should seek the views of every stakeholders of the Policy
- Create an enabling environment for cooperation and coordination among implementers
- Rewards and Sanctions systems
ABOUT THE GUIDELINES OF THE PUBLIC POLICY MAKING PROCESSES CONT..

Challenges experienced during public policy making processes

**Problem Identification**

- Problem statement not well defined
- Inadequate data collection and analysis from reliable data source;
- Approval of donor driven proposals accepted due to funding and limited political will
- Inadequate literature review of other policies/legislations and
- Lack of understanding of the importance of the policy making process by public institutions

**Agenda setting**

- Limited understanding of concepts/subject matter by the cabinet members which delays the processes.
- Failure to consult widely with stakeholders
- Lack of communication with the key actors
- Failure to reach consensus or an agreement

**Policy formulation**

- Reliance on consultants (international or national) and often consultants are assigned to work with junior staff members
- Lack of D/M/As staff members involvement when parastatals are formulating policies.
- Lack/limited of cooperation and apathy from stakeholders
- Non-inclusivity of relevant stakeholders and poor stakeholder’s analysis and mapping;
- Inadequate consultation; and wrong strategies and lack of SWOT and PESTLE analysis done (situational analysis).
- Lack of baseline data, biasness by the policy drafting team in the research during the policy formulation process and Failure by policy makers to acknowledge the key issues.
ABOUT THE GUIDELINES OF THE PUBLIC POLICY MAKING PROCESSES COT..

Challenges experienced during public policy making processes

Policy adoption
❖ Policies are referred back by cabinet might causes delays in the policy formulation process.
❖ Reluctant of O/M/As to submit final Policy to NPC.
❖ Failure to launch and sensitization of the policy document in all the regions.
❖ Failure to submit the policy document together with their implementation action plans to cabinet.

Policy Implementation and Monitoring
❖ Insufficient resources;
❖ Lack of accountability
❖ Poor action plans;
❖ Poor coordination and omissions of implementation action plan;
❖ Failure to review IAP on five year or or ad hoc basis if require;
❖ Implementation action plans are not cascaded into O/M/A’s strategic plan as well as annual action plans;
❖ Constant leadership change and staff turnover (loss of institutional memory);

Policy Evaluation/Assessment
❖ Numerous actors and stakeholders can influence the movement of policy evaluation
❖ Non-involvement of other stakeholders in the monitoring process;
❖ Limited coordination among stakeholders in the monitoring process;
❖ Biases among data collectors leading to poor analysis of the policy;
❖ Poor training on policy monitoring activities
CONCLUSION

❖ The stages/cycle of policy making processes guidelines is relevant to Namibia.

❖ The stages of policy making processes present a basic framework that policy makers can use.

❖ It’s crucial not to skip any stage in the process.

❖ If all OMAAs follow the guidelines it will results:
  ▪ In effective public service delivery,
  ▪ Good governance and quality standards of government policies,
  ▪ Utilization of resources effectively,
  ▪ Enhance coordination and harmonization among stakeholders.

❖ Public policy making is an essential tool for governments and therefore must be used carefully in dealing with issues affecting the society.
THANK YOU