

# **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**National Capacity Building Workshop on “Improved Local and National Government Capacities for Localizing SDGs Through Voluntary Local Reviews” in Eswatini**

**“The VLR preparatory process: overview of approaches, milestones and deliverables”**

**Date: 15 October 2024**

**Venue: ESIBAYENI LODGE, ESWATINI**

▶ **Presentation by: Mr Julian Nkoana**

# Presentation outline:

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ How the VLR Process began?
- ▶ The VLR preparatory process: overview of approaches, milestones and deliverables
- ▶ Key elements and milestones in the process
- ▶ Challenges faced during VLR and how they were overcome
- ▶ Lessons learnt from the VLR
- ▶ Areas for strengthening and improvement during VLRs
- ▶ Example of SDGs Attire
- ▶ Conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) issued an invitation to all municipalities to apply for participation on the Voluntary Local Reporting (VLR) of the SDGs, within the Northwest Province only the Rustenburg Local Municipality was selected.
- ▶ Efforts to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals are backed by civil society, private sector, organizations as well as the public sector.
- ▶ It is the municipality's wish to have everyone on board in order to have a collective effort towards the realisation of meeting the targets for the SDGs. At the ultimate end, if we all take responsibility for fulfilling the SDGs, it becomes possible to attain and meet the targets. Together we can when we leave no one behind.

# How the VLR process began?

- ▶ SALGA engaged the Municipality Around August 2023 following the invite and subsequently an approval to partake in the VLR
- ▶ UNDESA appointed a Consultant to assist in the process.
- ▶ Monthly workshops organised by UNDESA and SALGA
- ▶ Report writing retreat by SALGA and UNDESA
- ▶ Item to Council - Item 12 of the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024
- ▶ Engagement with internal and External Stakeholders

# Global and regional recommendations to approach a VLR

- ▶ Establish Global and regional Partnerships -
- ▶ VNRs must be coordinate from the Presidency's Office which will in turn cascaded to VLRs
- ▶ Engage in working sessions
- ▶ Centralise data

# Key elements and milestones in the process

- ▶ Identify SDGs to Report on.
- ▶ Approval of the process by the Council
- ▶ Establish Technical Committee for coordination Processes
- ▶ Internal SDGs Working Committee
- ▶ Budget/Funding
- ▶ Identify key internal and external stakeholders in line with identified goals
- ▶ Education and Awareness - Various Media
- ▶ Workshops inclusive of all identified stakeholders
- ▶ Request data from Stakeholders
- ▶ If data is not from the Department responsible data in the Country - follow the process to have your data validated by them
- ▶ Report writing in line selected goals
- ▶ Review of the Report by SALGA and Planning Commission - Presidency
- ▶ Extract data from VLR to eventually Develop VNR - For Country Reporting

# Key elements and milestones in the process continues.....

- ▶ Knowledge Sharing - 10<sup>th</sup> ARFSD - Ethiopia
- ▶ Preparatory Process - Eswatini
- ▶ Delegation from Seychelles
- ▶ 11<sup>th</sup> ARFSD - Uganda

# Who leads the process and who must be engaged?

- ▶ Process is led by:
  - ▶ At National - Planning Commission and SALGA leads the Process
  - ▶ Local Level - Municipal Council leads the process
  
- ▶ Who must be engaged?
  - ▶ Technical Committee appointed by the Accounting Officer after expressing an interest to Partake in VLR Process.
  - ▶ Portfolio Committees
  - ▶ Multi-stakeholder Forum ( Government Depts, Mining Houses, Vulnerable group - Women, disabled people, youth, elderly; Civil Society, Financial Institutions, Academia, Faith-Based Organisations, Traditional Authorities).
  - ▶ Internal SDGs Working Committee (Represented by Planning and Human Settlement, Special Projects, Technical and Infrastructure, Community Development, Strategy and Planning).
  - ▶ Marketing and Awareness Committee.



# Challenges faced during VLR and how they were overcome

- ▶ Sourcing of data - relied mostly on STATSSA Data, which is insufficient

To overcome - citizen generated and admin generated data to be used after it has gone through South African Statistical Quality Assessment Framework (SASQAF) quality check.

- ▶ Data analysis - No financial resources to appoint researchers.

To overcome - through partnerships.

- ▶ Consideration of the Municipal Participation on the VLR by Council

To overcome - The Executive Mayor and Mayoral Committee to be on board and VLR to be a standing Item at the Executive Management Meetings.

- The process is seen to be additional work and colleagues do not embrace it.
- Language barriers - Interpreters
- Lack of knowledge of SDG from the Community - More awareness needed

# Lessons learnt from VLR

- ▶ Importance of Reporting on VLRs.
- ▶ Linkages between SDGs, planning processes, Implementation and Monitoring and evaluation.
- ▶ Indicators to be aligned with municipal priorities and objectives
- ▶ Need for Ongoing education and awareness to communities and stakeholders.
- ▶ Academia to encourage more research papers on SDGs.

# Areas for strengthening and improvement during VLRs

- ▶ Data availability.
- ▶ Citation and referencing.
- ▶ Uniformity of reporting.
- ▶ Linkages between the selected SDGs, relevant indicators and other non-selected SDGs and their indicators.
- ▶ Enhance participation of stakeholders to ensure no one is left behind.

# Example of SDGs Attire



# Conclusion

- ▶ Strengthening of partnership with stakeholders is key so as to ensure the implementation and reporting of the SDG targets by the Municipality

**THANK YOU**