Planact Contributes To The 2016 State Of Local Governance Publication

As a member of the Good Governance Learning Network (GGLN), Planact highlights its extended Participatory Governance Programme to small mining towns in Mpumalanga Province, in this year’s State of Local Governance publication.

Planact’s contribution is titled, The Intersection Of Participatory Governance And Social Labour Plans In Communities Within Mining Towns: The Experiences Of Sikhululiwe Village In Mpumalanga. The publication theme, “(Re) Claiming Local Democratic Space” is central to Planact’s underpinning values of promotion social justice and inclusivity. This has significantly shaped its work in facilitating community development processes in low-income communities.

This case study highlights that despite the economic importance of the mining industry, communities in mining towns struggle to make their voices heard in decision-making processes, particularly so in the case of Sikhululiwe Village.

Planact’s Community Tools For Service Delivery

Planact has developed a set of tools to promote collaboration between communities and municipalities in development processes. Specifically, the tools serve as Planact’s Action Plan for Communities to Address Interruptions in Service Delivery. The action plan is entitled ‘Paper Tigers Grow Teeth-Participation to Empower Citizens’. It is designed to be a user-friendly intervention that communities and non-governmental organisations working with government can use to address
problems (interruptions and potential interruptions) in project delivery processes.

The Action Plan is primarily intended for use by communities, empowering them for engagement, soliciting accountability and building community-government relations that will nurture developmental outcomes. The Action Plan is equally designed for use by developmental non-governmental organisations working closely with local municipalities in joint efforts to overcome problems of mismanagement, corruption and poor accountability. Planact furthermore envisages that the Action Plan will add to scholarship on democracy, direct democracy and public participation.

Download the Action Tools document here: http://bit.ly/2ac3mNt

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Public Procurement Training For Planact & Springvalley Community

Planact, along with four Springvalley community members underwent a three-day public procurement training to better understand government procurement processes at local governance level.

The need to understand the monitoring of government procurement processes in Springvalley prompted Planact to conduct the training. As part of the participatory governance programme which seeks to influence improved participation, specifically at local government, the training highlighted on issues of procurement and supply chain management with the Emalahleni Municipality as a case study.

“After we discovered that the water service delivery was irregular and unmonitored in Springvalley during the social audit process in February 2016, Planact was compelled to fill the knowledge gap in the community about how the local government provides services for them through a public procurement process,” said Shumani Luruli, the Planact Programme Coordinator.

This training, which was supported by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), covered specific objectives such as identifying the different phases in the public procurement process; determining responsibilities for a specific procurement service and locating of bid documents for a service amongst other things. The IBP has done extensive research and provides a lot of support in terms of government engagements internationally.
‘One Stop Shop’ Precinct Plan For Wattville

Planact, together with the Wattville Ward Councillor are currently putting together a precinct plan which will guide future development and ultimately integrate municipal service in one area.

The main aim of the Wattville Precinct Plan is to integrate a range of municipal services and other complementary amenities such as shops, business premises, police station, day-care centre, community hall, clinic and a park, so they can serve as nodal points for the precinct. Currently, there are physical barriers between the existing municipal service buildings i.e clinic, the library and the community hall.

Planact is currently involved in three projects in Wattville i.e Aerotropolis Social Housing, Wattville Precinct Plan and the Harry Gwala Social Housing project.

Planact Trains Agricultural Cooperatives

Over the last months, a great deal of work has gone into getting the cooperatives off the ground through workshops and technical agricultural training. Planact, as part of its Community-Based Organisational Development programme, was requested to assist with capacity building and training of three cooperatives in Jabulani and Eland Farm, in the Randfontein Municipal Area.

These three cooperatives are working together to learn, share their work and skills on planting vegetables with the aim of changing their economic and livelihoods status through vegetable gardens.

Although there are several unique challenges per cooperative, intervention needs such as organisational, technical and financial skills are a common factor. Planact is liaising with interested stakeholders for financial assistance to build offices, pack houses and cool storage containers for the vegetables produced in the gardens for the cooperatives.

Interested partners to assist the cooperatives with cool storage containers, pack houses or office building material are welcome to contact Planact directly on shumani@planact.org.za
Planact has distributed 64 bins to the KwaZenzele community after a request came up on the need for bins to minimise littering and environmental pollution.

Through a questionnaire, during the enumeration and shack numbering process, Planact together with the selected community members in KwaZenzele were alerted on the need for bins as waste was scattered all over the community and posing a potential health hazard.

Planact then compiled a report which was submitted to the Lesedi Local Municipality to request for bins on behalf of the settlement. The municipality provided 64 dustbins and the outgoing councillor is making efforts to get the rest of the bins before the end of his term in August 2016. This is part of the ongoing service delivery plans for KwaZenzele which Planact is involved in.

As the community is divided into 3 sections (A, B and C) the first twenty households from the enumeration and shack numbering list in each section received bins and the rest are due to follow in the near future.

While other informal settlements were blamed for attacking foreigners in their communities, Thembelihle took an unexpected stance and defended them from being looted.

The short film on community cohesion against xenophobia in Thembelihle, documented by Planact in June 2016, gives an unheard-of perspective of a community coming together to defend the rights and safety of foreign nationals living and trading in the township as told by the community members themselves.

Watch the video on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3XEOLgdA-I
Corridors Of Freedom Project

On the 24th of June 2016, Planact hosted a consultative meeting on the Corridors of Freedom to promote effective involvement of communities and stakeholders. The consultative dialogue was a melting pot of ideas which pooled together City officials, academics, community leaders, Wits School of Architecture and Planning students and civic organization representatives.

Delegates from Civic organisations and community leaders applauded the corridors of freedom in Johannesburg as a major development instrument but also encouraged continuous engagement, meaningful participation and improvements in terms of communication for public meetings arrangements.

At the end of the forum, the participants produced a clear set of recommendations some of which called for the expansion of the consultative forum to include other relevant stakeholders; and to use such consultative dialogues as a test forum for other projects that the City of Johannesburg is working on.

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