

Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA)

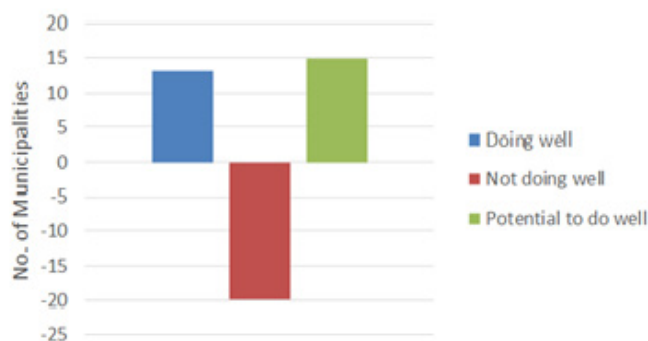


The local government Back to Basics (B2B) Approach was formulated in 2014 as government's plan of action to revitalise local government. The review undertaken by COGTA which informed the establishment of the B2B programme found that one third of municipalities were categorized as dysfunctional and in need of intense support or intervention. There was therefore a need to improve performance through implementing a differentiated approach to enable municipalities to become functional centres of good governance.

To understand and analyse the extent of implementation vis a vis the said B2B objectives, challenges encountered, successes and good practices achieved. The research assignment looked to draw the lessons that have been learned and the impact or effect thereof.

The methodology for carrying out the assessment was a combination of desk-top research and limited fieldwork. The analysis of qualitative and quantitative findings was used to develop a Research Report with recommendations. The research was conducted by way of an electronic survey with councillors and relevant officials from all municipalities, and a limited set of one-on-one interviews (face-to-face and telephonic) with key stakeholders.

There was little evidence to suggest that B2B had a significant impact on municipal performance overall; although, some reporting suggested that municipalities were in a better position compared to the start of the Programme. The reliability of the evidence was in question, given that it was contradicted in certain areas by the Auditor General and municipal officials themselves admitted that the information reported was often inaccurate. Where municipal perfor-



Change in Municipal Performance 2015/16 - 2016/17

mance improved, it was not clear that this was an effect of the B2B Programme. National and provincial stakeholders argued that the value of B2B is not the monitoring programme. Rather, it is the continuation through B2B of the work of municipal support programmes like that initiated through the Local Government Turnaround Strategy, particularly in dysfunctional municipalities that receive direct support. Little evidence suggested that municipalities themselves bought into the Programme. Reporting was irregular and quality low. From an outcomes perspective, broad-based effectiveness and sustainability of the B2B Programme outside of dysfunctional municipalities where direct support was provided was inconclusive.

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ABBM PROJECT:

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