

Institutionalising planning, monitoring & reporting reforms in metropolitan municipalities



PDG has provided on-going technical assistance to the National Treasury (NT) and the Cities Support Programme (CSP) in the reform of planning, monitoring and reporting arrangements for metropolitan municipalities. The technical assistance builds on the reform work of Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) Circular No. 88 (2017), which was updated in December 2021 for the 2022/23 municipal financial year.

Metropolitan municipalities are now planning for, monitoring and reporting against a set of standardised indicators for local government on a quarterly and annual basis. Through PDG facilitated engagements in metropolitan support forums, sector technical indicator working groups and feedback letters to municipalities, there has been progressive improvement in the completeness and reliability of reporting. This is yielding valuable analytical insights as metropolitan municipalities compare common performance standards, outcomes and service data.

Continuing technical assistance is being provided to support the expanded roll-out to other categories of municipalities. As the reform becomes institutionalised, use of the data is increasingly becoming a prompt for evaluative enquiry in local government. Mike Leslie, one of the PDG technical assistants involved in the project, will participate in the South Africa Monitoring & Evaluation Association (SAMEA) 2022 Conference to present a paper on this subject.

Ultimately, the MFMA Circular No. 88 performance indicators will be regulated and differentially applied to all of local government through a forthcoming update to the Local Government: Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations of 2001. This will mark the first successful



reform of performance information planning, monitoring and reporting since the advent of democratic local government.

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IBER8 PROJECT:

Project Profile: Institutionalising planning, monitoring & reporting reforms in metropolitan municipalities

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