



**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A THREE-DAY
WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE**

**ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT (IDAM)**

UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

ON

**PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING/GENDER RESPONSIVE
BUDGETING NEXUS: AFRICAN CONTEXTS AND
PERSPECTIVES**

**HELD AT THE EAST LONDON INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, SOUTH
AFRICA**

14TH - 16TH OF NOVEMBER 2018

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE PARTNERS



DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT

Development Assistance Management embodied several trans-disciplinary fundamentals aimed at demystifying many unresolved issues in management of development cooperation through the provision of technical support in addressing societal development needs. The introduction of development technical assistance and cooperation in South Africa is a unique opportunity towards building trust in the leadership and management of the new niche area in South Africa, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and other African Union (AU) countries.

PREAMBLE

Participants from the academic community and relevant government departments, as well as local and international Participatory and Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) stakeholders attended the three-day workshops and conferences, which was hosted by the Institute for Development Assistance Management (IDAM) of the University of Fort Hare, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The workshops and the conference attracted many local, regional and international participants ranging from students, representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Rutgers University to the Ugandan and South African and representatives from other African governments and institutions.

WORKSHOPS

The pre-conference workshops explored the subjects of South African Local Government Results Based Budgeting, Gender Responsive Budgeting with a focus on Bridging the Participatory Gender Budgeting Gap, and Gender Based Development Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation; all within the context of Participatory Budgeting.

At the end of the workshops, participants identified a set of criteria for determining gender responsive participatory budgeting projects. These criteria were applied on a sample community – the Duncan Village community of Eastern Cape. Posing as citizens of Duncan village, workshop participants voted for a library project among two other competing needs - repaving the streets of the village and the construction of a village playground.

CONFERENCE

The Chief Host and Vice Chancellor of the University of Fort Hare, Professor Sakhela Buhlungu welcomed the participants to the event with a charge to ensure that the outcomes address the issue of prioritisation of budgeting to meet the needs of the beneficiaries. He cited the huge revenue expended on Christmas decorations in the Eastern Cape annually, at the expense of projects that could alleviate the acute poverty in the province, where women bear the burden of maintaining households with absentee fathers.

Speaking in the same vein, the Special Guest of Honour, Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ayanda Dlodlo, , emphasised the need for meaningful outcomes that are sensitive to issues of access

and the bridging of the gender gap, as well as issues of economic development, specifically for women. She commended the University of Fort Hare for looking into issues around gender mainstreaming. The minister promised to take steps to increase access to employment for young graduates beginning with prioritising digital over the analogue process of applying for employment into the public service.

The Guest of Honour, Mr Oscar Mabuyane, MEC for Finance, Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, an alumnus of the University of Fort Hare and former president of the university's Students' Representative Council, described Gender Responsive Budgeting as "the answer to our societal inequalities" and urged academics and students alike to assist the government to make the right decisions on the matter. The MEC also pledged to champion youth empowerment by emphasising potential over experience, as a requirement for entry level employment.

Professor Edwin Ijeoma, the project Head of IDAM, organiser of the event, enjoined participants to bear in mind the need for the outcome to serve as a pool of fresh data for research, to replace existing outdated and baseless data prevalent in most centres of learning and research.

In exploring the theme of Participatory and Gender Responsive Budgeting, the participants agreed that gender responsiveness as a concept has always been in existence. However, in the context of Participatory Budgeting, attention should be given to the following, among others:

- Public institutions need to have clear gender responsive objectives that fit into the budgeting process
- Provide a link between participatory budgeting and gender responsive budgeting by incorporating gender elements into the budgeting process (For instance: If you chose a library project, how would it impact various demographic groups equitably?)
- Bridge the widening gap between the rich and the poor, and rural and urban citizens, especially women, with regard to economic empowerment
- Deal with cultural factors that promote gender inequality
- Make it constitutionally imperative to invest in proper health care and support organisations and societies seeking funding to integrate gender issues
- Ensure that the government's National Health Insurance Scheme impacts services for women and girls and other demographics
- Use Gender Responsive Budgeting to integrate women into the decision making process
- Enhance capacity in gender issues by emulating the Ugandan example of integrating Gender Studies into tertiary education curricula

- Provide Gender and Equity Planning and Budgeting guidelines to ensure consistency
- Prioritise assistance for activities to build the home and that would have a multi-focal contribution to society, beyond mere equal gender representation
- Provincial governments must make a difference locally by adding value to what they have through diversification of revenue sources and investment in research and innovation
- Ensure greater budget transparency by providing legal and policy frameworks for compliance
- Address the yawning gap in employment equity in the private sector where very few women are in leadership positions
- University councils should ensure that executive managers implement equity plans, comply with government policies and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)s with regard to women empowerment
- Improve citizens' participation in budget planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

A comparative analysis of Participatory and Gender Responsive Budgeting of countries around the world, including Canada, Mexico, USA, Brazil, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda, and South Africa revealed that the concepts evolved from civil society advocacy to government adoption of the processes, albeit to different degrees. Beyond how the instrument is used to address the issues of Gender Responsiveness in Participatory Budgeting, there was a focus on what worked well, what did not work, and why not.

It was noted that despite governments' acknowledgement of the idea that Gender Equality can be achieved through the strengthening of policies, there are challenges which include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of continuing commitment of government officials and civil society stakeholders
- Unavailability of disaggregated data by gender
- Lack of resources or dwindling revenues which impact directly on the economic wellbeing of women, as the bearers of the brunt of maternal health, child care, and household headship roles occasioned by labour migration of men to urban areas

The conference enjoined the government to ensure consistent monitoring and evaluation, beyond providing project funding and formulating strategic policies and legal frameworks. To this end, participants recommended a Service Charter that mandates the commitment of the employer and employee as well as annual surveys on how people view government service delivery. In addition, open government partnerships and collaboration with the African Peer Review Mechanism should be a key part of the evaluation process.

Although citizen participation in the allocation and use of local public funds can enhance development outcomes, the conference noted that it is imperative to address the question of whether stakeholders fully understand the budget mechanics when they participate in the budgeting process, and whether they can interact effectively with the budgeting processes that are increasingly being conducted in digital format.

Also, does having women sit in Participatory Budgeting & Gender Responsive Budgeting meetings at national, regional or local government levels necessarily translate into women's voices being heard? These, and other related questions, provide the basis for further engagement on the subject.

The workshops and conference organisers are now billed to working with relevant stakeholders in developing an implementation strategy and direction towards operationalising the workshops and conference outcomes as articulated on the Communique and the comprehensive conference report.

CONSULTATIVE STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

The underlisted South Africa's National Departments have been identified for possible collaborations with IDAM, the University of Fort Hare and other institutional interest groups towards establishing a Consultative Forum that would collaborate to identify relevant subject matter specialists and researchers with a view to incorporating the GRB issues in policy articulation and decision-making structures of government.

- *Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)*
- *Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)*
- *Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)*
- *Department of Women in the Presidency*
- *Nine (9) Offices of the Premiers (OTPs) and*
- *Many others*

END REMARKS

The conference ended with an expressing of deep appreciation to all participants by the IDAM Project Leader and Head of School of Government and Public Administration of the University of Fort Hare, to all the facilitators, the media, project partners, the Department of Agriculture of Forestry, and Fisheries and other various partners for their unreserved commitments and willingness towards achieving the envisaged workshops and conference objectives.

A handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of a series of vertical lines on the left and a more fluid, cursive-like script on the right.

*Professor EOC Ijeoma
IDAM Project Leader
University of Fort Hare
South Africa.*

16th November 2018