

UEMP: "Shopping list" or "Programmatic Approach" ?

- *som suggestive clues aimed to make the best process of UEM Programme Workshop, the Joint Programme review in October/November + the budgets of the last 3 years.*

Context in the UEM Programme

At the last PSC (070524) the chair and others raised this point, "Shopping list or Programmatic Approach?" as a reflection to the business plans & budgeting for next year.

Overall the budget 2007-08 for component 3 in the Programme comprises more than 60 budget lines (av. more than 10 per municipality). Some of the lines contain just small figures. The concerns were whether this is the best approach – w. r. t. *overall strategic overview* + w. r. t. *to transfer costs* (budgeting, reporting, financial reporting are needed in relation to each and every line). Opposite concerns were also raised: that the list a *flexible accommodation* of partner wishes + a *transparent display* of Programme activities. It was concluded that the partners should assess this balance in the months ahead, e. g. on the workshop in September.

Possibly the true reflection of the current approach of the UEMP is between these two poles. As can be seen from the attached table of committed Programme funds all budget lines support one of the mail outputs. In this sense each budget line is absolutely in due accordance with the Programme Document. Still synergies between the 10 partners from 3 government spheres and the collaborative activities are mainstreams of intention and the spirit of the programme. And possibly they can be both more clearly expressed and better pursued.

If so this may be done in different ways. Here are 5 landmarks, one of each of the 5 environmental themes of the programme. These are offered as possibilities for intensified focus and pursuit, with the general scope of enhanced synergy and collaboration between the partners who may go for this. Their origin is the discussions in the PSC or with the partners. Others may be possible, e.g. Sustainable housing..

AIR: Indoor air pollution/air pollution in the townships.

Within the UEMP, DEAT, one province and most cities have activities focussing on *indoor air pollution/air pollution in the townships*. This is a huge problem (no.2 baby killer of South Africa, etc.) with connection to: air, health, energy, some planning and some waste. As discussed in the PSC it is clearly poverty biased. Technically the solutions are fairly simple, but it takes a Programme and a comprehensive strategy to roll them out. DEAT in dialogue with all stakeholders is currently embarking on the strategy, and most of the municipal partners are tackling the problem on the ground in what could be pilot projects and practical experience to feed into the strategy. Indoor air pollution could be a specific focus, in which the Programme could make a difference and a footprint.

HEALTH: EH study + the implementation of 1-2 key recommendations

The Environmental Health sector in RSA includes numerous challenges and numerous officials in all three spheres of government, all with very different expertise, experience and assignments. With the Environmental Health Act passed, the goals and issues of the sector are now identified. One of the immediate next steps is to reorganize the sector and the actors in all three spheres for the delivery of the goals. In the Programme, currently, the DoH is executing the EH study, which will line up the current organisation and upcoming assignments of re-organisation between spheres and in administrations. Sedibeng is restructuring departments to accommodate tomorrow's goals. The Programme could make a difference by focussing on the *EH study + the implementation of 1-2 key recom-*

mentations (of those with poverty affiliation) of this in the cities through partner collaboration.

ENERGY: RE sources + Sustainable consumption

The issues of energy are widespread. One of them is RE. RSA in the National White Paper on Renewable Energy (2003) sets the target of 10 000GWh of energy to be produced from renewable energy sources (biomass, wind, solar and small-scale hydro) by 2013. This implies that RE's contribution to the total energy of South Africa will increase from 1 to 4 % in 10 years.

UEMP partner, eThekweni, is currently drawing up a strategy for the city's energy future, in which the targets are above national average. Elements are:

- In energy provision: Prioritisation of the various *RE sources*, and a strategy for the development of the prioritized ones tailor made for eThekweni.
- In energy consumption: *Sustainable consumption*, such as reduction of energy spending in *housing* (construction and reconstruction), and in transport (public transport, sustainable planning)

Cape Town is currently embarking on similar strategies and pilot projects.

The Programme could make a difference by focus and pursuit of one of these key elements, providing strategic platforms and pilot undertakings. Tailor-made strategies and implementation of RE strategies in a poverty alleviation fashion is a possibility.

PLAN: Environmental Management Frameworks

By default this Programme output is focussed on sustainable planning, i.e. spatial planning and the environmental effects in relation to this. The programme also comprises a cutting-edge-issue to planning: *Environmental Management Frameworks*, currently being prepared in Gauteng, in KZN and in Sedibeng (via DEAT). Tool kits for EMF were previously aimed for, but are, as of now, not in execution.

Briefly and bluntly an EMF is a master plan for a major area, outlining principles of management and of public permitting etc. Once in place the EMFs are expected to save substantial resources in public administration as well as in the interaction between the public and the governments (all spheres). Much planning, querying, applying (and decision making?) will be saved or made easier by the guidance from the frameworks.

However: Technically, politically, publicity wise the preparing and the processes are new to RSA. Only some 10-20 are currently in place or in the pipeline. The programme could make a difference by focussing on EMFs by transferring pilot project experience to general know-how and guidelines for this useful tool in public management and government-society dialogue.

WASTE: Waste Management Bill – implementation

The Waste Management Bill is about to leave DEAT for the Parliament (or has left?). The bill defines the major challenges and goals in the Waste sector. The implementation is yet to be fully prepared and executed. The programme and component documents highlight 'implementation of the WMAAct' as a key output. All partners - without exception have substantial Waste projects on the current BPs in the programme. The Programme could enhance the difference it is about to make and set some landmarks, also in this sector by prioritizing some key issues related to this implementation (XX e. g. *xxx or xxx* most adequate specific examples from the W Experts and W managers, please)
