



# REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

RUSTENBURG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



**Local level reporting to accelerate implementation of  
the Sustainable Development Goals: How VLRs  
Contribute to VNRs**

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# Introduction

- ▶ The Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) is a category B municipality
- ▶ MDB code NW373
- ▶ It is situated in the North-West Province within the Bojanala District
- ▶ It is divided into 45 wards
- ▶ Serves a population of 562 031 people. (Males – 292 332 and Females – 243 674 = 536 006)
- ▶ The RLM is a water services authority
- ▶ Distribution of electricity is done by both the RLM and Eskom in some parts of the municipal area

# Introduction

- ▶ In the Northwest Province and within the Bojanala District, the Rustenburg Local Municipality is the only municipality participating in the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) project and in fulfilling some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ▶ The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) issued an invitation to all municipalities to apply for participation on the VLR and within the Northwest Province only the Rustenburg Local Municipality was selected.
- ▶ This is the first (1<sup>st</sup>) VLR produced by the RLM which may be deemed a pilot. With this first report the Rustenburg Local Municipality is reflecting how the Performance Management System is linked to Sustainable Development Goals and how projects implemented by other stakeholders responds to the SDGs.
- ▶ Efforts to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals are backed by civil society, private sector, organizations as well as the public sector. With this report, the municipality will take a critical look at how progress is registered in implementing the SDGs and highlight areas where not much is done to fulfil all the goals that are necessary for consideration of the RLM.
- ▶ It is the municipality's wish to have everyone on board in order to have a collective effort towards the realisation of meeting the targets for the SDGs. At the ultimate end, if we all take responsibility for fulfilling the SDGs, it becomes possible to attain and meet the targets. Together we can when we leave no one behind.

# Efforts to raise awareness on SDGs and the VLR process

- ▶ Item to Council - Item 12 of the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024
- ▶ Engagement with internal and External Stakeholders - 16 and 17 November 2023
- ▶ Education and Awareness programmes
- ▶ Social media statement by Office of the Executive Mayor

# Institutional structures put in place for preparation of the VLR

- ▶ Municipal Council.
- ▶ Technical Committee appointed by the Accounting Officer after expressing an interest to Partake in VLR Process.
- ▶ Portfolio Committee on Integrated Development Planning, Performance Management System and Legal
- ▶ Multi-stakeholder Forum ( Government Depts, Mining Houses, Vulnerable group - Women, disabled people, youth, elderly; Civil Society, Financial Institutions, Academia, Faith-Based Organisations, Traditional Authorities).
- ▶ Internal SDGs Working Committee (Represented by Planning and Human Settlement, Special Projects, Technical and Infrastructure, Community Development, Strategy and Planning).
- ▶ Marketing and Awareness Committee.

# Relationship between existing coordination structures and new institutional structures for VLR preparation

- ▶ Engagement with Internal SDGs Working Committee as and when through physical meetings, email and calls.
- ▶ The coordination is centralised at the Technical Committee appointed by the Accounting Officer.
- ▶ Implementation is done through Internal SDGs Working Committee.

# Future use of VLR institutional structures

- ▶ Annual Reporting to Council.
- ▶ Ongoing education and awareness to communities and stakeholders.
- ▶ Development of research papers on SDGs.



# Prioritization of SDGs and indicators

**The Municipality selected the following SDGs as a starting point:**

**Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

**Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

**Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

**Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

**Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

**Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development.

1. Water and Sanitation - SDG 6: Target 6.1: Related indicator 6.1.1 & 6.2.1
2. Climate Action - SDG 13: Targets 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3
3. Sustainable Cities and Communities - Housing - SDG 11: Target 11.1, Indicator 11.1.1, 11.7.2
4. Decent Work and Economic Development - SDG 8: Target 8.3: Indicators 8.3.1, 8.3.2 and 8.3.3
5. Sustainable Cities and Communities - Waste Management: SDG 11 Target 11.6, Indicator 11.6.1

# Data collection methodology

- ▶ Desktop
- ▶ Questionnaire
- ▶ Stakeholders Engagement

# Methodology for stakeholder engagement

- ▶ Meetings.
- ▶ Focus groups consultations.
- ▶ Written Communications.
- ▶ Social Media.

# Methodology for ensuring inclusion of those groups that are among those most “left behind”

- ▶ Use of Special Programmes Unit.
- ▶ One on one engagement with them (People with disabilities)

# Findings of the VLR and current status of SDGs (baselines and targets)

- ▶ STATSSA Data
- ▶ Inability to source data.
- ▶ Language barriers

# How the VLR process contributed to accelerated implementation of SDGs

- ▶ Through the alignment of the IDP targets to SDGs

# Links between the VLR and development planning and implementation

- ▶ Inclusion of SGDs in the IDP.
- ▶ Cascading SDGs into Performance Plans. e.g:

SDG	KPA	KPI	TARGET	RELATED SDG INDICATOR
Clean water and sanitation	Basic services and infrastructure development	1. Percentage of drinking water samples complying to SANS241.	11.1 - Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	1-1 is 6.1.1 – Access to improved water KPIs 3-4 is 6.2.1 – Access to Improved Sanitation.

- ▶ **Projects** - Construction of water pipeline to replace aged one from Cashan (fed by Rand Water) to industrial and Geelhout Park Reservoirs (fed by Magalies Water)

# Anticipated next steps

- ▶ Beefing up existing committees on SDGs.
- ▶ Feedback on the VLR Final Report and submission to the Municipal Council.
- ▶ Feedback report to Multi-Stakeholder Forum and IDP Rep Forum (Representation of communities).
- ▶ Submission and presentation to COGHSTA, National Treasury and the National Planning Commission.



# Challenges faced during VLR and how they were overcome

- ▶ Sourcing of data - relied mostly on STATSSA Data, which is insufficient

To overcome - citizen generated and admin generated data to be used after it has gone through SASQAF quality check.

- ▶ Data analysis - No financial resources to appoint researchers.

To overcome - through partnerships.

- ▶ Consideration of the Municipal Participation on the VLR by Council

To overcome - The Executive Mayor and Mayoral Committee to be on board and VLR to be a standing Item at the Executive Management Meetings.

- The process is seen to be additional work and colleagues do not embrace it.
- Language barriers - Interpreters
- Lack of knowledge of SDG from the Community - More awareness needed

# Lessons learnt from VLR

- ▶ Importance of Reporting on VLRs.
- ▶ Linkages between SDGs, planning processes, Implementation and Monitoring and evaluation.
- ▶ Incremental process
- ▶ Indicators to be aligned with municipal priorities and objectives

# Areas for strengthening and improvement

- ▶ Data availability.
- ▶ Citation and referencing.
- ▶ Uniformity of reporting.
- ▶ Linkages between the selected SDGs, relevant indicators and other non-selected SDGs and their indicators.
- ▶ Enhance participation of stakeholders to ensure no one is left behind.

# COUNTRY-WISE REPORTING:

What kind of support and advice is most needed to promote the contributions of local and regional governments to localize the SDGs and to monitor and report on progress?

- ▶ To promote the contributions of local and regional governments to localize the SDGs and monitor progress, support and advice are needed in several areas. This includes capacity-building initiatives to enhance data collection, monitoring, and reporting capabilities at the local level, technical assistance in aligning local development plans with the SDGs, fostering partnerships between local governments, civil society, and the private sector, and providing financial resources to support local initiatives. Additionally, promoting knowledge sharing and peer learning among local governments can facilitate the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches to SDG implementation.
- ▶ • Funding because its volunteer and unfunded mandate.
- ▶ • Collaboration with Civic Society Organisation
- ▶ • Municipal Data

# COUNTRY-WISE:

What kind of institutional framework is in place to promote multilevel governance for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 at the national and subnational levels?

- ▶ SALGA piloted the acceleration of SDGs through VLR and Volunteer Subnational Review which will be a program for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 for local government.
- ▶ SALGA is developing a framework to institutionalise the SDG and the current program will be the baseline for the joint development and the publication of a “Report on the process of localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals” This framework includes mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between national, provincial, and local governments, as well as engagement with civil society, academia, and the private sector.

# COUNTRY-WISE, continuation

- ▶ Coordinate the process of preparation of “the VLR” with the National Government of South Africa, particularly Statistic SA, NPC and Civic Society Organisations (African Monitor, Sonke Gender Justice)
- ▶ Developing a Master Class for SDG accelerations (Requires Funding)
- ▶ Development of Gender Based Assessment for the SDG to be the baseline for the SDGs.
- ▶ Establish National Urban Planning Forum with the support of UN Habitat to be the catalyst of SDG 11: Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Establishing intergovernmental forums or platforms to facilitate dialogue and cooperation on SDG implementation across different levels of government.
- ▶ SALGA plays a key role in advocating for the interests of local governments and ensuring their participation in decision-making processes related to sustainable development.

# Conclusion

- ▶ Close gaps identified within the VLR.
- ▶ Strengthen political and administrative buy-in.

**THANK YOU**