**Chapter 9**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**9.4 DISTRICT Development Model**

**9.4.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this section is to emphasize and outline the rationale of the District Development Model approach of the 6th Administration as a game changer in Intergovernmental Relations and Co-operative Governance. The implementation of this approach commenced in 2019 and it is being refined and developed in the roll out process with adaptations to the circumstances of each District. The critical factors for monitoring the success of the roll out is the achievement of its key objectives and adherence to the guiding principles, which are outlined in this section below.

**9.4.2 Legislative mandate**

Key guiding legal frameworks currently are :-

* Constitution of SA , Act No. 108 , 1996
* Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act No. 13, 2005

**Constitution**

The principles of cooperative governance are pursued in Chapter 4 of the Constitution which (amongst others) calls on “all spheres and all organs of state” to “…secure the well-being of the people of the Republic; [and] provide effective, transparent, accountable and coherent government for the Republic as a whole; ….”

In strengthening Cooperative Governance, the Constitution further places an obligation on National and Provincial Government to work with Local Government:

*Section 154 of the Constitution:*

“The national government and provincial government, by legislative and other measures, must support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their own affairs, to exercise their powers and to perform their functions.”

Local Government is the closest sphere to communities and represents all of government at local level. A functional and developmental LG is a necessary requirement for an effective Developmental State.

The Constitution also gives “developmental duties” to local government in section 153, with the overall requirement that local governments:

“a. provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;

b. ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;

c. promote social and economic development;

d. promote a safe and healthy environment; and

e. encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.”

**IGRFA**

The IGR Framework Act (IGRFA) sets out the general principles and objects of intergovernmental relations: the focus is primarily on the outcomes that the system must achieve:

* Coherent government
* Effective provision of services
* Monitoring implementation of policy and legislation; and
* Realisation of national priorities.
* Sec 47 of IGR Act

**9.4.3 Application**

**Objectives**

The priorities set for the 6th Administration include renewal and rebuilding of a capable developmental state.

The National Development Plan 2030 makes it clear that “meeting our transformation agenda requires a much higher and more focused intergovernmental commitment towards functional municipalities and a capable machinery at a local level that can create safe and healthy and economically sustainable areas where citizens and people can work, live and socialize”

The District Development Model seeks to achieve the following at both district and local level:

* Institutionalize long term co-planning whilst addressing ‘burning’ short term issues -Ensure sustainable development whilst accelerating initiatives to promote poverty eradication, employment and equality
* Changing the face of our rural and urban landscapes to achieve Spatial Transformation and Spatial Equity. This requires that government determine and manage spatial form, land release and land development
* Integrating the Silos in planning, budgeting and implementation at a horizontal and vertical level across 3 spheres to maximise impact and align resources including ensuring inclusive and gender mainstreamed budgets
* Narrow the distance between the people and government through enhanced public participation
* Deliver Integrated Services through forged cohesion
* Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation of impact at district and local levels to promote transparency, and eliminate corruption
* Ensure long-term infrastructure adequacy to support integrated human settlements, economic activity and provision of basic services, community and social services
* Determine and/or support local economic drivers with emphasis on LED

**Guiding principles**

To achieve this coherent governance in the implementation of projects by all stakeholders at local government sphere in this 6th Administration, the following principles must be applied:-

* A coordinated approach- “we are going to do away with this fragmented approach to development.”
* District level approach to business- that the 44 Districts and 8 Metros in the country are being viewed as the high impact zones for the country
* Existing Constitutional Framework Remains as is, whilst strengthening the regulatory framework for Cooperative Governance. Redirect and confirm what government is supposed to be doing (Chapter 3 of the Constitution and the Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act). The District Development Model is a practical Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) mechanism for all three spheres of government including its State Owned Entities to work jointly and to plan and act in unison building on previous and current initiatives.
* Developmental change is shaped and owned at district level in partnership with communities, citizens and social partners. Ensure that we bring to life the aspirations of the people shall govern and bring government closer to the people through the District with the support of provincial and national government, so as to enhance development and cooperative governance at all spheres. Reinforce Local Government and its Proximity to Communities.
* A process of joint collaborative planning and implementation is undertaken at district and metropolitan level together by all three spheres of government resulting in a single strategically focused District Development Plan. Distinction Between Long-term and Medium-term Strategic Planning/Implementation Mechanisms with a common Spatial Development Strategy for sector departments and State Owned Entities. Reconfigure Integrated Planning Responsibilities and Institutional Arrangements through an agreed suite of plans with aligned planning and budgeting cycles across the spheres and sectors, and ensure that the plan is a product of a wider consultation.
* Build on Lessons from implementing previous similar and Existing Good Practices – Current MTSF Alignment (DPME) and Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) and District Shared Services and PGDP institutional framework and District Development Agencies and other emerging models

**SOURCE DOCUMENTS**

Documents outlining the concept, the progress being made and the District profiles are available on the COGTA website.