

Enhancing the capacity of local government practitioners: the experiences of eThekweni Municipality

eThekweni Municipality's
Municipal Institute of Learning
Municipal Capacity Enhancement *for* local
government practitioners, *by* local government
practitioners



Purpose of Presentation

To share the experience of establishing the Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE):

The rationale

The offerings from MILE

Progress made to date



Background : Key Challenges

- Challenges facing local government in South/ern Africa are well known
- Whilst addressing these challenges will require a multi-faceted and holistic strategy, a key element will be that of enhancing the existing capacity of local government practitioners
- Must begin by acknowledging the value played by many initiatives and agencies to help build technical capacity of local government
- It is our contention that one unique opportunity that has not been explored sufficiently is the ability of well capacitated Metropolitan municipalities to begin to play such a role (internally – externally; local – international; learning and sharing)



Background : The emergence of MILE

- The eThekweni Municipality did NOT have an adopted **Knowledge Management Framework** to guide how we create, share, document and store our knowledge.
- Given innovative work in several areas : water and sanitation delivery, solid waste management, environmental management, revenue generation, and urban strategic planning many of our senior officials have been asked to assist municipalities by enhancing their capacity through **learning sessions**, MILE structures the leanings and the integration of such efforts to be more effective.
- MILE initiates, co ordinates and draws many resources to enhance the learning opportunity (Universities, Technicons, Expert Specialists, NGO's Business etc)



Our Vision

To be Africa's premier learning
Institute **for** local government
practitioners, driven **by** local
government practitioners



Our Mission Statement

To support municipalities in the global south with capacity and knowledge in order to be effective in the delivery of local government's competencies (new and old!).



4 Pillars of Mile

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Capacity Enhancement

Empowering Officials with Tools through Learning and sharing

Municipal Learning Partnerships And Networks

Learning, Sharing And Network building

Collaborating With Academia

Leveraging Partnerships With Tertiary Institutions

Municipal Technical Support

Offering a Municipal Technical Support service

Knowledge Management
Co-ordination of Ethekewini Knowledge Management Agenda



Progress made to date

Capacity Enhancement

- **Municipal Executive Dialogue Series (MEDS)** are Breakfast Seminars held with senior managers (a feel, taste on key topics for City Governance).
- Urban Safety; Green Jobs; The Science and Negotiating Climate Change; Topical Research Results and Implications etc.

Successful Master Classes Delivered :

- Strategic Urban Planning
- Solid Waste Management
- Water and Sanitation



Learning Exchanges:

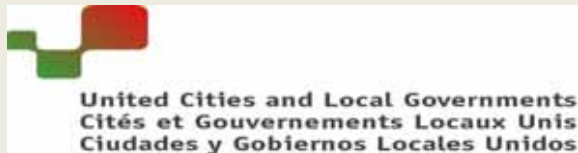
These are two-three day focused learning sessions with site visits:

- Informal Settlements International Learning Exchange: in partnership

with



- Sanitation Learning Exchange: Ekurhuleni Metro
- Urban Strategic Planning Learning Exchange in partnership with



Progress made by MILE (3)

Municipal Technical Support

MILE, through the Inter-governmental Relations Unit and local govt associations and agencies - CIFAL programme; UCLG ; SALGA; SACN is offering structured support to selected municipalities and associations, some examples :

- ❑ Harare City Council (Zimbabwe)
- ❑ Mzuzu Town Council (Malawi)
- ❑ Namibian Municipalities
- ❑ Umdoni Local Municipality (UGU District, KZN)
- ❑ Ezingoleni, Vulamehlo, Umzumbe, Newcastle, Enambithi and Ulundi.



Progress made by MILE (4)

Collaborating with Academia

- MILE facilitated the signing of a **Pledge for Academic Collaboration** to work in partnership with tertiary institutions to strengthen and synergise efforts to enhance research, enhance skills, and contribute to knowledge sets within the municipal context and within our tertiary institutions:
 - Research
 - Internships
 - Partnerships



Progress made by MILE (5)

Knowledge Management

During 2010/11 KM has developed a KM framework for the municipality, web site, learning electronic platform etc.

www.mile.org.za

mile@durban.gov.za

- Several publications have been launched:
 - Innovations in Local Sustainability: Good Practice from eThekweni, South Africa;
 - Municipal Lessons Learnt in Urban Governance, Communities of Practice Learning Notes etc.
 - MILE also coordinates and provides City support to knowledge management initiatives on local government for other networks, organizations etc (to bring in the practitioner response).



Operationalising MILE

- MILE is a FIVE YEAR PILOT PROGRAMME “located” within the Corporate Policy Unit in the Office of the City Manager.
- Internal Sector Work Groups ; Steering Committee and External Reference Team.
- Staff are drawn from within Units in Council to run the learning programmes, and opportunities to compliment as required - consultants, academics, research students etc.
- Existing funds are being used to operationalise MILE.
- A cost recovery and partnership approach for logistics and support (only) is implemented
- Active fundraising for MILE from donor agencies initiated – outcomes specific.



Thank You- Siyabonga - Obrigada

