

## Notes of the City Economic Development Managers' Forum, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Apologies:** Dawn Mc Carthy (NMBM), Hugh Cole (CCT)

**Cities Present:** Ethewini Metro (ETH), City of Tshwane (CoT), Ekurhuleni (EKH), City of Cape Town (CCT), Sol Plaatjie (SPM), Stellenbosch (SM),

**National Departments:** DRDLR, COGTA, Treasury

**Others:** Open Cities Lab

**Chair:** Karen Harrison, CSP ED Component Lead

No.	Agenda Item	Discussion	Follow-up Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	The chair opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and apologised for the technical glitch in accessing the zoom meeting link.	
2.	Minutes of the Previous meeting	<p>Reports on matters arising from the previous meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CSP conducted productive city bilaterals with Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Cape Town, Tshwane and Nelson Mandela Bay to facilitate alignment between the City's COVID-19 responses and the CSP ED component support programmes and to unblock any obstacles in project delivery.</li> <li>• SEDA has shared the SMME support communication resources with the participants of the Forum as requested.</li> <li>• Cities were urged to make use of the CSP COVID-19 portal as information was being uploaded daily and the portal was the instrument being used by the CSP to distribute the materials to prevent overloading City ED Managers' mailboxes. It was stressed that useful business information and procurement opportunities were being uploaded that should be shared with city firms. Cities are invited to create a web link with their own web portals.</li> <li>• COGTA confirmed that the following secondary cities have been invited to join the Forum, namely: Stellenbosch, Umhlatuze, Polokwane, Drakenstein and Mogale City.</li> </ul>	Ethekweni requested that Msunduzi also be invited to participate in the Forum.
3.	Update on government's economic response	<p>National Treasury provided an input on governments economic and social response and relief measures announced by the President as part of the second phase of the country's COVID-19 response. A detailed presentation is attached.</p> <p>Participant responses to the presentation included:</p>	Annexure to MFMA Circular 99 should be attached to the minutes.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metros requested clarity on the kind of fiscal support measures cities were able to provide given the tension between business relief measures and fiscal sustainability.</li> <li>• Metros were interested in government’s infrastructure build strategy and were also considering expanding public works programmes into broader areas of metro business.</li> <li>• Metros were concerned about the operational aspects of government’s support and relief commitments and how this funding could be accessed.</li> <li>• Clarity regarding the desired objectives of government spend is required.</li> </ul> <p>National Treasury responded that the Minister of Finance is leading work teams to finalise the budgeting process for the COVID-19 response and a mini budget will be tabled soon. The ED Managers were referred to the <b>Annexure to MFMA Circular 99</b> where the generic principles for considering a municipal COVID-19 response are set out, together with the proposed guiding principles in considering the budgetary implications of these responses.</p> <p>The DARDLR indicated that the department had set aside R1.2 Billion to assist farmers. Applications had closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and over 42 000 had been received. There is consideration of a Phase 2 round of applications. The department intends to verify the list by the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and is willing to share information with the metros in this regard. Information on the application form that would be relevant would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipality</li> <li>• Home address</li> <li>• Postal address</li> <li>• Farm Number, Farm Portion</li> <li>• GPS co-ordinates</li> <li>• Type of Farming</li> <li>• Jobs created by the farming activity – permanent, seasonal and short term (broken down by gender, youth and disability)</li> </ul> <p>The DRDLR cautioned that they were faced with a daunting task and would be capturing the application data manually.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the Application Form COVID-19 Agricultural and Disaster Support Fund for Smallholder and Communal Farmers would be reviewed to inform a request to DRDLR for information to be shared with the metros. The form is attached to the minutes.</p>
4.	Feedback from the Urban Economic Recovery Think-Tank	National Treasury presented on the Urban Economic Recovery Think Tank that was held with 43 participants (some cities, sector departments, academia and agencies) on the 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020.	Pursue participation of national sector

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		<p>This presentation had also been made to the City Budget Forum on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020. (Presentation attached)</p> <p>Issues raised by participants in the discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The response of the City Budget Forum to the presentation and whether City Managers and CFOs were open to the proposals.</li> <li>• A concern was raised regarding the ability of cities to co-ordinate and that the economic recovery programme should not be driven top-down. There should be stronger information flows on national programmes. A concern was raised that in terms of government's response to date, cities were receiving information in the form of statements that have been released in the media, without having the opportunity to engage with national government beforehand.</li> <li>• The level of co-ordinated response differed amongst provinces. In the Western Cape the provincial and district JOCs were facilitating communication flows.</li> <li>• Some cities feel overwhelmed by pressure by SMME for relief, whereas the support instruments are located within national departments.</li> <li>• National Treasury stressed that economic development is everyone's business in the municipality and executive management teams must be engaged in the economic response. The need for sector departments to engage cities on relief measures was stressed. It was reported that flowing from the first Forum meeting, NT had sent formal communication to the DTIC, DSBD and DRDLR requesting their participation. The DRDLR has joined and the DSBD had confirmed.</li> </ul> <p>National Treasury confirmed that the CBF is supportive of the work being undertaken through the City Economic Development Managers' Forum and of the work related to the Think-Tank. The City ED Managers' Forum reports into the CBF and this will facilitate alignment between the economic reforms being proposed and discussed and the city's broader COVID-19 response and fiscal strategy.</p>	<p>departments in the Forum.</p>
5.	EThekwini presentation on their Business Survey and Economic Recovery Plan	<p>Ajiv Maharaj from Ethekwini made a presentation (attached) on the city's Business Survey and draft Economic Recovery Plans.</p> <p>Issues raised by participants in the discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants were generally extremely complimentary of the initiative taken by the City. Some cities indicated they could use the presentation as a way of bench marking.</li> </ul>	<p>The CCT would be requested to present its strategy at the next ED Managers' Forum.</p>

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6.	COGTA input on available donor funding	COGTA indicated that the National Minister is developing an Economic Response Plan and is currently busy with the drafting of the COVID-19 Level 4 Regulations. There has been significant input from the formal and organised business sector, but less so from SMMEs and informal businesses. COGTA is working with multilateral agencies and donors, e.g. Oxfam, UNDP, UN Habitat and the CLGF, to structure MOUs focused on issues such as job creation and support to vulnerable urban centres, such a mining towns. The intention is to co-ordinate the COVID-19 response as far as possible. The IUDF is currently being revised with the intention of reflecting on how the support comes together.	COGTA committed to providing further information to the metros on available donor and multilateral agency support and how this support could be accessed.
7.	City economic data	National Treasury reported that formal requests had been submitted to the DSB, DoEL and the CIPC requesting the sharing of economic data with cities. The intention is to link into a process underway with the South African Council for City Data to identify all COVID-19 data sources and to make this information available on its SCODA Platform. Richard Gevers from the Open Data Lab presented (see the presentation attached) on the work that his NGO is doing to support certain cities in accessing and interpreting data.	Cities are invited to approach Richard Gevers from Open Data Lab regarding available support.

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8.	Planning for next meeting	The next meeting is scheduled to take place at 14:00 on the 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2020. Participants suggested the following items for the agenda: a) Digitisation of development planning application system b) DSBD Presentation on the awarding of SMME support funds c) GCRO presentation on vulnerability mapping	