

Notes of the City Economic Development Managers' Forum, 12th May 2020

Apologies: Nosipho Hlatswayo (COT), Gcobisa Magazi (National Treasury), Hugh Cole (CCT), Nasele Mehlomakulu (DALRRD), Amina Khaled El Zayat (WBG)

Cities Present: EThekweni Metro (ETH), City of Tshwane (CoT), EKurhuleni (EKH), City of Cape Town (CCT), Nelson Mandela Bay Metro (NMBM), Umhlatuze

National Departments: DRDLR, COGTA, Treasury, DSBD, DTIC, DALRRD

Others:

Chair: Karen Harrison, CSP ED Component Lead

No.	Agenda Item	Discussion	Follow-up Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Ms Karen Harrison welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated a round of introductions.	
2.	Minutes of the Previous meeting	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EThekweni requested Msunduzi to join – COGTA has extended the invite. Annexure to MFMA Circular 99 to be attached to the minutes – action complete. Application form COVID-19 Agricultural and Disaster Support Forum to inform city information request to the DALRRD – action complete. Pursue participation of national departments – DTIC and DSBD are now formally part of the Forum. CCT requested to present its strategy to the next ED Managers' Forum – action complete. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COGTA to provide further information on available donor and multilateral agency support – COGTA is undertaking ongoing donor and private sector engagement and will provide feedback to the Forum. • Cities invited to approach the Open Data Lab for support – no cities reported follow-up in this regard. • Use of the CSP COVID-19 business support portal – the portal resource was re-emphasised. 	
3.	Update on government's economic response	<p>Mr Stephen Umlaw presented the DSBD business support schemes on behalf of the department. (Presentation attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DSBD stressed that the roll-out of most grants were at the early stages. • The DSBD works primarily through their provincial offices, however they do engage municipalities and welcome co-operation with the metros. The DSBD indicated that if the metros wanted to target interventions at specific localities, this could be considered. • A need to streamline what is taking place at provincial level was stressed. <p>Mr Kelvin Naidoo confirmed that agricultural support applications closed on the 22nd April and that 55 000 applications have been received. The DALRRD is verifying and processing the applications and the department will share information with the metros of small farmer take up as soon as it is ready.</p> <p>Mr Shaun Moses uploaded the following information on the Chat: Do you have a question about the operation of companies in the Manufacturing or Global Business Services sectors? Please email lockdownenquiries@thedtic.gov.za</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you want to apply for an export permit? Please email exportpermits@thedtic.gov.za • Do you want to apply for an import rebate? Please email importrebates@thedtic.gov.za • Do you have a complaint about workers being forced to work without adequate Personal Protective Equipment? Please contact the Department of Employment and Labour • Do you have a complaint about a business operating that is not an essential service? 	<p>DSBD to share its presentations.</p> <p>DSBD to share more stratified information on the take up of its support schemes with the metros.</p> <p>DALRRD to share information on small farmer support grant applications and awards as soon as it is ready.</p>

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		<p>Please contact your nearest Police Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a question about traveling between Provinces, attendance of funerals? <p>Visit http://www.cogta.gov.za</p>	
4.	Discussion	<p>Mr Nkabinde indicated that the DSBD could provide a breakdown of grant take-up information by programme and municipality. He also requested the metros to share information on informal trader permitting and to assist with the verification of information from the department against their own databases.</p> <p>The DSBD requested that the metros provide them with the contact details of relevant officials for the advancing of the different schemes amongst businesses e.g. textile, automotive</p>	<p>DSBD to send an email detailing the information they require from metros re informal trader permit databases.</p> <p>DSBD to put forward a formal request to metros for the provision of contact details for relevant officials to assist with the promotion of different support schemes.</p>
5.	City of Cape Town: Economic Action Plan	<p>Mr Lance Greyling presented the City of Cape Town's COVID-19 economic response. (Presentation attached) He indicated that the Water Crisis that faced the CCT has prepared the City for the COVID-19 disaster, although it feels as though "Day Zero has hit us". The City is responding to COVID-19 in partnership with the Western Cape Government (WCG). The City takes its lead from the WCG as it is responsible for the provincial health response.</p> <p>The CCT's immediate COVID-19 response has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating business between the BPO and hospitality sectors, so that BPO staff could work from empty hotel rooms and conferencing venues during Lock Down. Facilitated linkages with the data providers in the City to enable broadband connectivity so the BPO sector could also work from home. • Refocusing its work with its SPVs or Strategic Business Partners, e.g. assisted companies to repurpose for PPE, acquiring real-time data, enhancing business retention efforts and reducing the cost of doing business. The City has teamed up with Productivity SA. The focus is on getting behind growth sectors, e.g. ED-Tech and 	<p>CCT to share its presentation to be circulated with the notes of the meeting.</p> <p>Productivity SA to be invited to attend the City ED Managers' Forum.</p>

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		<p>retraining workers who have been retrenched e.g. in the Hospitality Sector retrain them for the BPO sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of a Rates Rebate for the tourism sector but was concerned re the financial viability of the measure. The City subsequently implemented a 6-month rates repayment scheme. • Reclassification of Guesthouses and B&Bs from commercial to residential zoning so that they pay lower rates and tariffs. When occupancy is more than 40% commercial, then they can be reclassified again. • Interpreting the COVID-19 regulations and lobbying for different amendments in behalf of firms. • Instituting business continuity measures, such as the online Business Hub. • Supporting provincial-led initiatives, such as WESGRO’s Maskathon campaign. <p>The City’s “Adapt and Recover” support includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of businesses for the infection peak - businesses will be disrupted by labour supply and reduced demand. City is assisting firms to get on-line to do deliveries and weather the shock. <p>City will then focus on economic stabilising actions. The City is committed to keeping an “Eye on the future” through continuous learning and engagement and an “Ear to the Ground” through work undertaken by its Investment and Facilitation Unit and the WCG on conducting Industrial and sector Surveys.</p>	
6.	Discussion	<p>A question was asked as to why the City has not considered financial support to firms. It was stated that there had been hard pushback from the City against this proposal. The City is facing huge health expenditure demands, whilst its revenue is declining, resulting in a cash crunch for the city. A dilemma was that if financial relief is offered, how should it be targeted.</p> <p>Participants queried the focus of the CCT in the digital space and on Infrastructure Build and it was confirmed that the City sees both are critical to stimulate economic recovery.</p>	
7.	Sub National Doing Business	<p>Ms Letumile Sebolai presented on the SNDB Reform support programme and its relevance to City economic recovery. (Presentation attached) She proposed City economic recovery responses for consideration by the Metros.</p>	

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8.	Leveraging the IUDF to support metro urban recovery	Ms Karen Harrison presented on work undertaken by the IUDF team focused on supporting urban centres in their immediate and short to medium term responses to the current economic challenges. It was emphasised that this work builds on the City COVID-19 Economic Response Think Tank held on the 15 th April, as well as discussions within the City ED Managers' Forum. (Presentation attached)	
7.	Discussion	<p>COGTA invited Forum participants to send through comments on the IUDF presentation for consideration.</p> <p>The collaborative approach was welcomed and that the DDM is being infused within the IUDF. The need for the DDM to be responsive to different municipal capacities and contexts was highlighted and the fact that the co-ordination role should lie with the institution that has capacity, and that the district municipality should not always be the default.</p> <p>COGTA stated that the DDM is focused on better co-ordination, integration and alignment through the development of district hubs. There are dedicated DDM teams in place and the intention is to produce daily reports to the JOCs. COGTA is willing to take discussions offline with each municipality and metro.</p>	<p>Cities to provide feedback on the IUDF presentation for consideration by COGTA.</p> <p>Cities are invited to engage directly with Stefanie from COGTA on the DDM approach implementation.</p>
8.	Next Meeting	<p>Ideas for the next Forum agenda included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Metro support to the energy sector and IPPs b) Department of Tourism's support measures c) DTIC – PPE Procurement measures and incentives offered by the IDC and NEF – relevant information will also be shared prior to the next Forum meeting. d) GCRO data analysis <p>Karen thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.</p>	