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Harold Wolpe Trust in
partnership with
Goedgedacht Forum held
a conference

3 – 4 March 2011

Cape Town

Topic:

**THE STATE OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH
AFRICA**

Speakers:

Dr Dale McKinley

Dr Derek Powel

Mr. Johan Mettler

The aim of these dialogues is to create a space for open and informed dialogue and debate around key local and global political, social and economic issues facing South Africa.



The State of Local Government in South Africa

Summary

The dialogue, held March 2011 in Malmesbury, Western Cape, sketched a broad picture of local government – its challenges, citizens' expectations and its relationship with other tiers of government. Infighting along factional lines within local municipalities for resources, accompanied by threats to media, was seen as a major hindrance to effective local government. The rise in local protests was seen as a direct result of poor governance. The effects of the national government's central economic policy on local government – and the differences by decade post-liberation - were also discussed.

Forms of political representation, including the current inter-party competition, and their effects on local government delivery were discussed. The relationship of other tiers of government and the role of capacity building programmes such as Siyanze Manyi were seen to be important influences on local government. The abilities and responsibilities of local government professionals such as engineers and leaders such as councillors also came under discussion – with lack of capacity and corruption highlighted as major concerns.

Participants were asked as to their experiences of local government. Finally, participants were asked to offer possible solutions to the problems of local government.

List of speakers and sessions:

Keynote speech: “The State of Local Government in South Africa – a few eclectic insights from the Black Sash”

Speakers: Elroy Paulus, Advocacy Programme Manager – Social Services and Subsidies: Black Sash Trust and Nkosikhulule Nyembezi, Advocacy Programme Manager: Black Sash Trust

Session 1: Setting the Scene

Speaker: Dr. Dale T. McKinley: Independent Writer, Researcher, Activist

Session 2: Expectations

Speaker: Mr. Derek Powell: Senior Researcher: Community Law Centre – the University of the Western Cape

Session 3: Resources and Relationships

Speaker: Mr. Johann Mettler: Executive Director: SALGA

A full transcript of the processings, including presentations, is available on the Forum website: www.goedgedachtforum.co.za.

Participant Details

Keynote Speaker: The Black Sash

Facilitator: Mr. Vernon Rose: Vernon Rose and Associates

Session 1: Setting the Scene

Speaker: Dr. Dale McKinley: Independent writer-researcher-activist

Session 2: Expectations

Speaker: Mr. Derek Powell: Senior Researcher: Community Law Centre - UWC

Session 3: Resources and Relationships

Speaker: Mr. Johann Mettler: Executive Director: SALGA

Participants:

Dr. Lionel Louw: National Director: Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust

Prof. Martin Legassick: Emeritus Professor of History: University of Western Cape

Mr. Heinrich Magerman: Acting Chief Director: Department of Local Government,
Chief Directorate: Governance, Directorate: Community Development

Mr. Christian Prins: Director: Economic Development Department

Mr. Hassen Mohamed: DDG – Outcomes Facilitation: Department of Performance,
Monitoring and Evaluation: The Presidency

Mr. Elroy Paulus: Advocacy Programme Manager – Social Services and Subsidies: Black
Sash Trust

Dr. Adrian Sayers: Independent Public Policy Analyst

Ms. Christi van der Westhuizen: Author & Columnist

Mr. Michael Benu: Chairperson: Khayelitsha Development Forum

Ms. Nonhlanhla Chanza: Political Researcher: Institute for Democracy (Idasa)

Prof. Shirley Pendlebury: Director: Children’s Institute: UCT

Ms. Colleen Ryan: Project Coordinator: Democracy Development Programme

Mr. Nkosikhulule Nyembezi: Advocacy Programme Manager: Black Sash Trust

Mr. Tyrone August: Freelance Journalist

Mr. Phindile Ntliziywana: Researcher: Community Law Centre

Mr. Mazibuko Jara: Co-managing Editor: Amandla Publishers

Mrs. Alison Tilley: Executive Director: Open Democracy Advise Centre (ODAC)

Mr. Jasper Walsh: Chairperson: Goedgedacht Forum Management Board

Debate Rapporteur:

Mr. Stuart Rothgiesser: Independent Consultant

Welcoming comments

Ms. Felicity Harrison, Project Director: Goedgedacht Forum for Social Dialogue:

The Forum is very pleased to host this discussion with our partners the Community Law Centre (at the University of the Western Cape) and the Harold Wolpe Trust; and with participants of such a high calibre. It gives us a chance to look at local government in more detail than mere sound bytes.

Dr. Lionel Louw, National Director: Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust:

This debate raises issues so that as the local government elections approach we can rest assured that they have been crystallized. We envision having a public platform and engaging in a public event so that we know what to expect (at least for the City of Cape Town) after the May 18 election once we know which party is in government and which is the largest opposition. There is a diverse background of people here.

Keynote speech:

“The State of Local Government in South Africa – a few eclectic insights from the Black Sash” by Elroy Paulus, Advocacy Programme Manager – Social Services and Subsidies: Black Sash Trust and Nkosikhulule Nyembezi, Advocacy Programme Manager: Black Sash Trust.

THE STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA – A FEW ECLECTIC INSIGHTS FROM THE BLACK SASH

Goedgedacht Forum for Social Reflection
– Goedgedacht Farm

3-4 March 2011

Elroy Paulus and Nkosikhulule Nyembezi
(Advocacy Programme Manager)

BRIEF OVERVIEW

- *A changing context*
- *Responses by govt to persistent and new challenges*
- *Evidence of the disproportionate impact of current funding model on poor communities*
- *Perspectives on the gaps of resource allocations and revenue challenges*
- *Insights through the lenses of health; social security; access to S27 rights*
- *What this may mean for 2011 Local Govt Elections – your views re what voters should ask of their parties and candidates*

Slide 2: Brief Overview – using eclectic examples and lenses (such as the social determinants of health) to demonstrate the accomplishments, challenges and ongoing

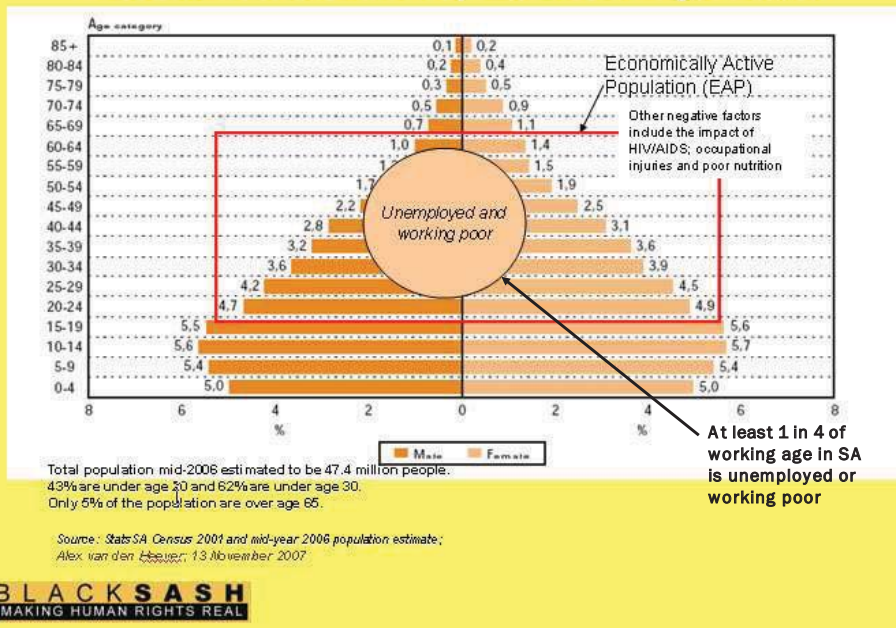
problems facing local government – insofar as these two functions intersect and are dependent on each other.

UNICEF PROGRESS OF NATIONS REPORT (1998)

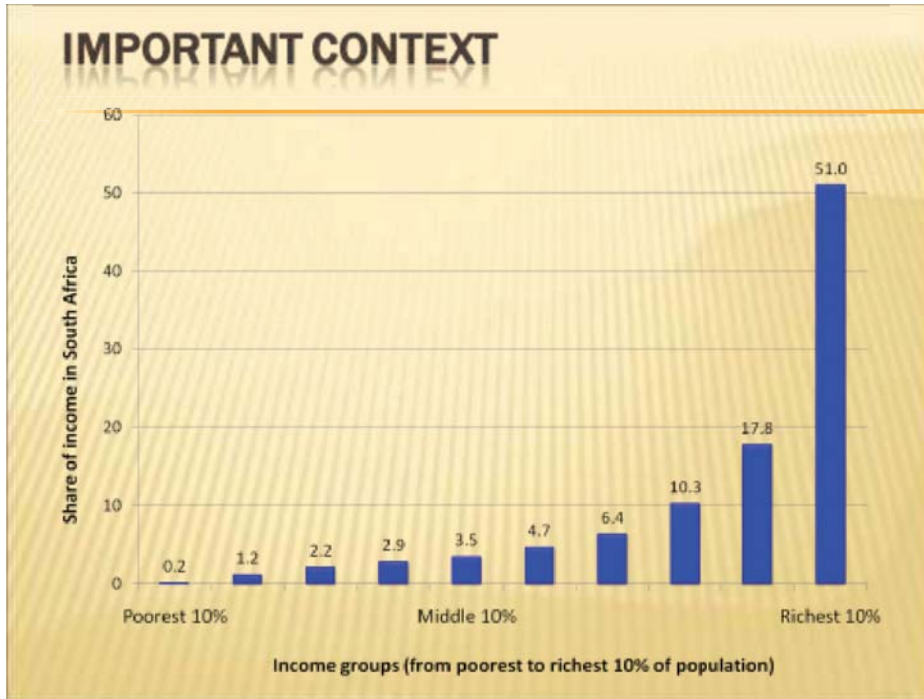
"The day will come when nations will be judged not by military or economic strength, nor by the splendour of their capital cities and public buildings, but by the well-being of their people: by, among other things, their opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labour, their ability to participate in the decisions that affect their lives; by the respect that is shown for their civil and political liberties; by the provision that is made for those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged"

Slide 3 - Statement of UNICEF Progress of Nations Report (1998) – demonstrating the importance Section 27 Rights and the realisation of socio-economic rights over the pre-occupation of infrastructure investment ONLY – and how these are manifested at a local govt level.

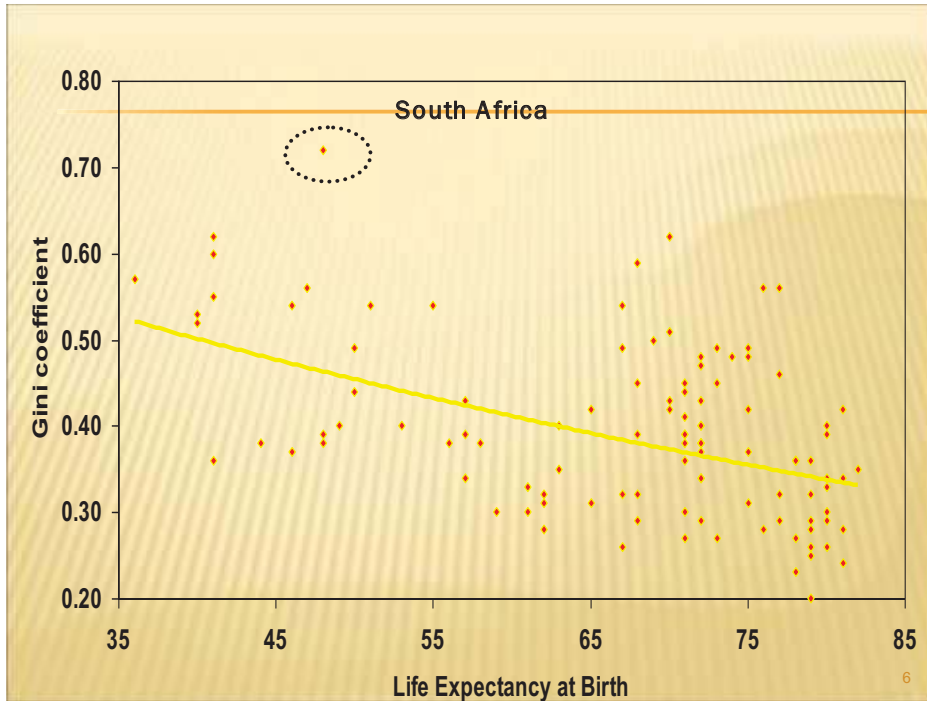
South African Population Pyramid



Slide 4 - Classic demographic diagram – red window representing the economically active window. In reality – THIS average (i.e. Unemployment “hole” of 25% is much worse in poorer, especially more rural municipalities – given the high income inequality, varying rates of economic activity in the 283 municipalities in South Africa.



Slide 5 - Income distribution graph of SA – in deciles (demonstrating the “super – rich” . For every R51 spent by the top 10% decile of income earners, the poorest decile only spends 20 cents! In some municipalities – this income inequality distribution is even worse.



Slide 6 - The Gini –coefficient – an index of inequality (where 1 represents complete inequality and 0 complete inequality) [y-axis] is compared with life expectancy. Increasingly the impact of inequality on development is being studied. Each red dot represents a country. SA is a clear outlier – very high Gini coefficient and a low life expectancy (especially for a middle-income country). Yellow line shows a trend that could represent a correlation between higher life expectancy in countries with lower income inequality.

INSIGHTS THROUGH THE LENSES OF HEALTH; SOCIAL SECURITY; ACCESS TO S27 RIGHTS

- × 2-day Consultative hearings held in 6 provinces:
 - + Key challenges include:
 - × Poor intergovernmental relations – clinic in NMBM
 - × Poor and inappropriate staff attitudes - despite significant infrastructure initiatives
 - × Lack of access to medicines – at clinic – linked to local transport; district<--> province relationships
 - × Poor transportation – access to ambulance services

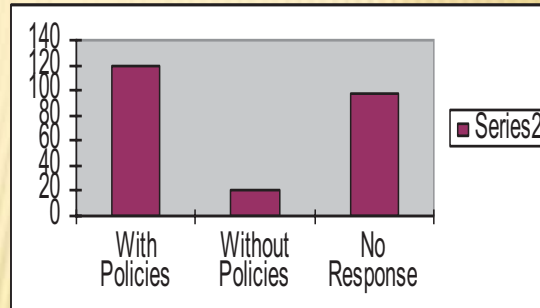
Slide 7 – re example of clinic - Clinic in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro Municipality – funding withdrawn due to unresolved disputes between councillors from the same political party – as to the municipal ward in which the clinic was to be built.

For more on these hearings – please click here

http://www.blacksash.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2756&Itemid=292

EXTENT TO WHICH MUNICIPALITIES HAVE BEEN UTILISING INDIGENT POLICIES – AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2005

- ✘ 120 municipalities nationally have formal “indigent policies”
- ✘ 21 municipalities nationally do not have formal indigent policies
- ✘ 98 did not respond



8

Slide 8 - For a long time (approx 5 years +) – many municipalities were unable to provide subsidies to support the poor – due to limited resources. Again evidence of increasing responsibilities without the concomitant funding. Recent studies (2009) on indigency shows huge variations in application, capacity and efficacy, and the questionable division of revenue (given development challenges) between the 3 spheres of government – capacity building and support drying up now.

Municipalities in crisis – the de Doorns Experience



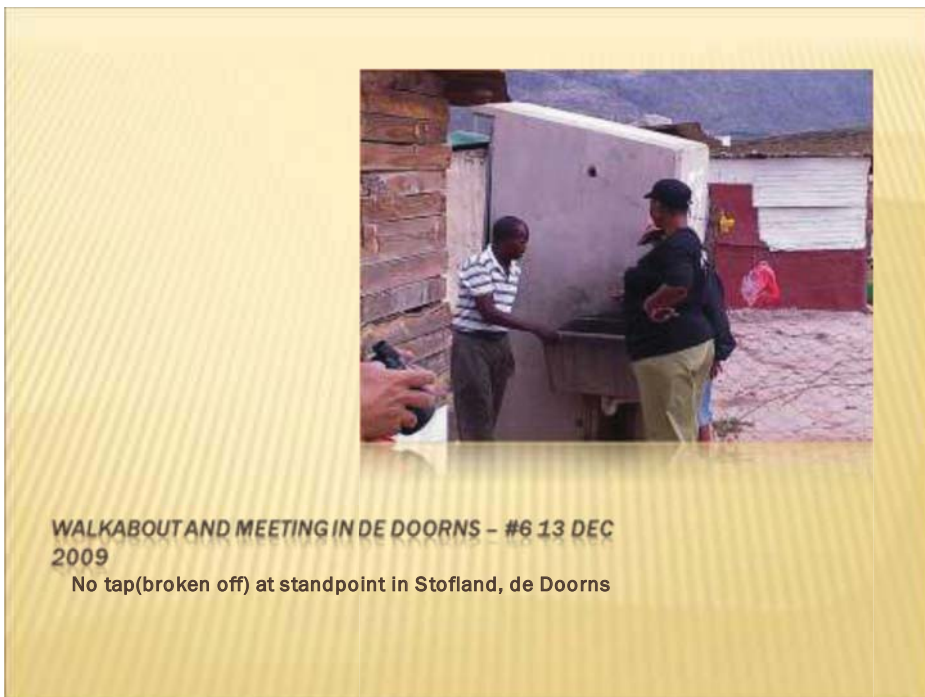
**Gathering in Stofland, de Doorns 13 Dec 2009 09h15
Community Leaders Government Officials and
Monitors**

Slide 9 - When municipalities face a natural – or humanitarian crisis (in this case xenophobia in de Doorns), it calls on extraordinary leadership and resources to address a crisis



**Dumpsite at entrance to Stofland as at 13 Dec
2009**

Slide 10 - The State of Local Government? Rural, more remote sections are not serviced and in this case has directly contributed to social tensions.



Slide 12 - When monitoring and awareness by senior local government officials and councillors are neglected – situations of xenophobic proportions arise – these pictures

were part of a walkabout to directly confirm allegations made by the local community of de Doorns. Community Development workers , the SA Human Rights Commission (Western Cape), Police; CBO's, NGO's' Premier's Office and local government leaders on such a "tour" – entirely preventable with regular visits, meetings, sharing of information – as described in many laws and policies of local government.



**WALKABOUT AND MEETING IN DE DOORNS - #8 13 DEC
2009**

Highly unhygienic conditions in Stofland prevails



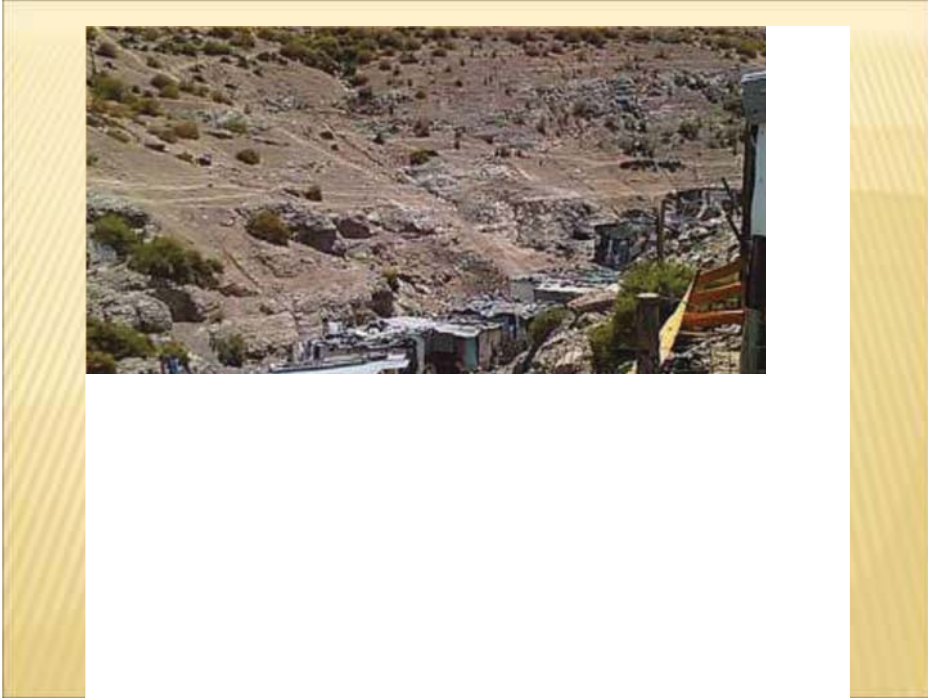
**WALKABOUT AND MEETING IN DE DOORNS - #9 13
DEC 2009**

Local Leaders explaining a point 13 Dec 2009



**WALKABOUT AND MEETING IN DE DOORNS - #10-13
DEC 2009**

Ward Councillor Lubisi explaining flood plains
and settlement pattern disputes



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