WASTE SERVICES CHALLENGES FACED BY MUNICIPALITIES
Introduction

• Waste Management is administered by different role-players and regulated under various pieces of legislation to protect the environment and human health,

• Waste Management is a basic service that require integrated approach,

• Participation and involvement of public, private, government and NGO’s to identify solutions to improve waste management services and explore other waste treatment technologies,

• Waste Hierarchy : guide the waste management practises, adopted internationally,

• Waste as a business sector revenue ( make revenue for waste).
Challenges
• Low cost recovery and underprizing does not adequately cover the expenditure of waste management services, due to non-payments of services by generators, tariffs not activity based and insufficient revenue collection system,

• Prioritization of waste management services as other basic services in terms of planning, designs, development and implementation,

• By-laws: Outdated, implementation, enforcement and alignment of By-laws to NWA,

• Community engagement structures to promote environmental awareness (e.g. littering and illegal dumping)

• Waste Management service disparity between urban and rural local municipalities,

• Institutional arrangements: waste management services fall within other Departments that does not prioritise waste as a basic service,

• Poor operations and management of waste management facilities: non-compliant with environmental legislation (e.g. non-determination of airspace, cover material, equipment, technical expertise)
• Lack of consistence and coordination between local/district municipalities to improve waste management service delivery,
• Limited understanding of considering waste as a resource that has a potential to contribute to economic growth (creating job opportunities) is taken as a nuisance
• Limited resources (human, technical skills and financial, equipment and etc) which impact on the integrated waste management services and procurement and financial processes delays,
• Rapid change of environmental legislation creates instability of keeping up with the latest development,
• Waste management infrastructure aging and maintenance, (no maintenance plans for assets),
• No proper implementation of Integrated waste management plans and budget allocation,
• The waste tariffs of municipalities are determined through total cost accounting and therefore impacting on the sustainability of the service;
• Poor attendance of Waste Management Officer’s forums and trainings/others not designated the WMO,
• Limited resources at provincial level assist with waste management projects (e.g. recycling) and recycling haulage system,
• Lack of waste collection, capturing and reporting to Waste Information System (reliable data, access to information, identify priority waste streams requiring government intervention and raise awareness)
• Non-registered and control of waste reclaimers on landfill sites and exposure to illegal hazardous waste disposed on landfill sites due to poor operations and management of the landfill sites.
• Prices of recyclables are determined by the potential buyers and landfill sites overloaded with uncollected waste,
• Mushrooming of informal housing, extension of Waste Collection to unserviced areas and revenue collection,
• Limited Waste Management infrastructure funding, compared to other basic services (Planning and Design capacity mainly for Infrastructure/Technical Services).
Recommendations
• Organisational Structure: Establish functional units for Waste Management with clear allocation of responsibilities to environmental legislation and enforcement of appropriate by-laws,
• Waste Minimization and Recycling initiatives: shift away from disposal and more adopting Waste Hierarchy approach, e.g. waste to energy projects
• Registration and reporting to waste information system (WIS), research and development initiatives, training and awareness programmes, etc
• Creation of conducive economic conditions to enable implementation of IWMP’s and allow private investment on waste management facilities,
• Intergovernmental co-operation with regards to waste management,
• Common planning, implementation and reporting framework for municipalities,
• Set up community engagement structures: to promote environmental awareness,
• Provincial Departments to support waste minimization initiatives, and each province to establish all waste stream processing plant to minimise haulage distance for potential reclaimers,
• Integrated waste management infrastructure needs to be assessed and costed;
• Refresher courses on integrated waste management to be implemented at tertiary institutions to improve skills and the capacity of municipal waste managers.
• A dedicated Municipal Infrastructure Grant fund for waste management is needed as such;
• The service delivery mechanism of municipalities will have to relook at to get more private sector involvement and alternative funding for municipal waste management services;
• Funds collected from the waste pricing should go directly to municipalities to fund integrated waste management infrastructure,
• The use of rail to transport waste and recyclables should be investigated and implemented;
• Regionalisation of waste management services as a solution to make waste management more affordable should be implemented;
• Waste Management services to be prioritised and appointment of skilled, technical and committed personnel;
• The three spheres of government campaigns should be establish to raise awareness to communities and political leaders on waste management issues and be prioritised;
• Formalization of rural areas, effective implementation of SDP, EMF, Township Planning and etc,
• Integrated Planning Forums within each municipality to optimise planning, design, license and authorisation costs, led by Planning Cluster
• Registration of informal reclaimers should be prioritised to improve waste diversion and to create sustainable jobs and entrepreneurs.
THANK YOU