Towards improved waste management services by local
government – A waste governance perspective by Dr Suzan
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CSIR
Outline of Presentation

• Background
• Governance challenges
• Materials and methods
• Results
• Conclusions
News Reports: 2005-2008

SA’S RUBBISH CAPITAL
Big stink continues as piles of garbage dumped in streets hit crisis levels

City is drowning in waste
Toxic waste at municipal dump

Outrage at massive toxic waste dump
City’s filthy rivers of waste hard to swallow

Medical waste in river: Tsolo warns
Half SA’s waste sites are illegal – minister

‘Human tissue, old bandages and used syringes pile up as waste disposal crisis spirals out of control

‘The industry is in crisis.. It is cut-throat and something is very wrong. The stockpile is symptomatic of a bigger problem’

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Background

- Waste generation in RSA = 533 Million tons per annum

- Mining 87.7%
- Domestic & trade 1.5%
- Agriculture & forestry 3.8%
- Power generation 3.9%
- Industrial 3.1%
- Sewage sludge 0.1%
- Mining 87.7%

0.7 kg/person/day
Shockling facts

- 39% of households no regular waste collection
- 8.3% of households use bucket sanitation system
- 66% of landfills operate without permits
- 90% of non-permitted is municipal landfills
- 96% of micro small and medium sewage plants not adequately operated and maintained
- 30 000 people, mostly children, die annually of diarrhoea or related diseases
Governance challenges

- 2007/08 municipal capacity assessment of 231 local municipalities
  - 11% no capacity for waste management functions
  - 37% no capacity for sanitation functions
- Primary reasons
  - insufficient budget
  - too few staff
  - lack of appropriate equipment
  - poor access to service areas
- Secondary reasons
  - lack of reliable waste data
  - function allocations between departments
Materials and methods

- Five urban local municipalities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Population (2007) (1)</th>
<th>Households (2007) (1)</th>
<th>2006/07 Operational budget for refuse (R/annum) (2)</th>
<th>Operational budget per household (R/annum) (3)</th>
<th>% households with access to refuse collection (2007)</th>
<th>Operational budget per serviced household (R/annum) (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>268 954</td>
<td>79 191</td>
<td>R30 238 000</td>
<td>R382</td>
<td>83.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>435 217</td>
<td>105 592</td>
<td>R29 735 495</td>
<td>R282</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>R490</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>449 776</td>
<td>146 542</td>
<td>R27 887 535</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>527 203</td>
<td>137 353</td>
<td>R30 294 830</td>
<td>R221</td>
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<td>R755</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>349 087</td>
<td>89 831</td>
<td>R12 151 263</td>
<td>R135</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>R890</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

• Four broad themes of challenges identified
  - Financial management
  - Equipment management
  - Labour (staff) management
  - Institutional behaviour
    • Management
    • Planning
Results

- Underlying reasons
  - Capping of municipal budgets (year on year growth) by National Treasury
  - Ineffective cost recovery at disposal sites
  - Delays in finalising municipal budgets (up to 3 months)
  - Theft of infrastructure i.e. fencing, power cables
  - Reducing of operational budgets by senior managers
Local interventions

- Awareness creation
  - Public
  - Municipal planners
  - Politicians
- Capacity building
  - Training
  - Mentoring
  - Practical experience
- Maintenance
  - Routine maintenance
  - Repair
Local interventions

• Holistic planning
  - Integrated development plans
  - Integrated waste management plans
  - Water services development plans

• Enforcement
  - By-laws
  - Illegal dumping
  - Littering
  - Compliance to waste site permits
  - Compliance to water use licence conditions
Conclusions

- All municipalities are faced with similar challenges
- Local nuances may require local solutions
- Certain challenges are beyond the control of municipalities
- Good planning and out-of-the-box thinking may provide solutions
- Ongoing research into local solutions
- Innovative ways to improve waste management and sanitation services is required
Thank you