

Presentation to the NT S71 Webinar

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*Revival of South Africa's
Open Government Partnership (OGP) Programme*

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Department:
Public Service and Administration
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Presentation Outline

(1)

- 1. BACKGROUND**
- 2. RECAP ON THE OGP/ APRM COMPLEMENTARITY**
- 3. OVERVIEW OF THE OGP 5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS**
- 4. CONCLUSION**

1. BACKGROUND

(2)

- 1.1 In September 2011, South Africa endorsed the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Declaration of Principles, thereby committing itself to work with civil society towards enhancing transparency, public participation, accountability, and the fight against corruption in both the public and private spheres.
- 1.2 In endorsing the OGP Declaration of Principles, South Africa became the founding member of the OGP together with the following countries: Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, United Kingdom, and the United States.
- 1.3 The OGP is thus a multilateral initiative aimed at securing commitments from national and sub-national governments to promote open government, combat corruption, and improve governance.
- 1.4 This global partnership initiative on open government is in line with the African Union's African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) which encourages African governments to improve good governance - including participation, openness, and service delivery to their populations.
- 1.5 Open Government in the South African context is premised on our progressive and transformative Constitution which enshrines the Bill of Rights and the principles of good governance.

1. BACKGROUND Cont

(3)

1.6 Institution building is a critical pillar of enhancing good governance and the White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service, 1995 [White Paper] states among others that:

“The Ministry for Public Service and Administration aims to facilitate the transformation of the South African public service in accordance with the vision and mission outlined above”.

1.7 Institution building and management is one of the priorities which the White Paper assigned to the Ministry for the Public Service and Administration.

1.8 This interface primarily informs the designation of the Minister for the Public Service and Administration as the Focal Point for the good governance programmes such as the APRM and OGP.

1.9 Good governance programmes such as the APRM and OGP are thus not DPSA programmes per se but are rather **country's programmes** in which the DPSA as an institution acts as a host to support the Minister in his/her capacity as the designated Focal Point on behalf of the Cabinet and South Africa.

1.10 The role of the institution is thus important for continuity and whoever is appointed as the Minister becomes the Focal Point for these programmes

1.11 The value of these good governance programmes should be judged from the country's perspective, especially what the Cabinet and non-governmental stakeholders have to say.

2. RECAP ON THE OGP/ APRM COMPLEMENTARITY (4)

- 2.1** In view of the complementarity of good governance programmes under the ambit of the Minister for the Public Service and Administration (Minister), when the Cabinet adopted the APRM Country Self-Assessment Report on 08 December 2021, it also endorsed the principle of complementarity among all good governance programmes.
- 2.2** The APRM-OGP complementarity was further reinforced when the Cabinet endorsed the APRM National Plan of Action on 22 June 2022.
- 2.3** The adoption of the APRM-OGP complementarity, as part of the APRM National Plan of Action implementation, has enabled South Africa to revive the OGP process.
- 2.4** On 13 March 2024 the Cabinet supported the submission of the Country's OGP fifth (5th) National Action Plan to the OGP Secretariat titled: "Consolidating the Revival of the OGP Process in South Africa - OGP 5th National Action Plan 2023-2026", thus reaffirming the national executive's support for the OGP programme.
- 2.5** The Cabinet Statement that followed on 14 March 2024, further narrated the rationale for the OGP programme as the whole of government programme as it relates to civil society organisations and innovations that contribute to improved service delivery.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE OGP 5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS (5)

3.1 In essence, the OGP 5th National Action Plan's two commitments anchor the revival of the OGP process in South Africa.

3.2 The National Treasury leads the **first commitment** on “**transformative fiscal transparency**”, which seeks to ensure that citizens have access to fiscal information that will empower them to hold public representatives accountable and in turn combat corruption.

3.3 By reinforcing the accountability of public officials, this commitment by extension supports the APRM's thematic area on “democracy and political governance”.

3.3.1 The Vuleka-mali portal which is hosted by the National Treasury, has been the primary platform to anchor transformative fiscal transparency, with a focus on national and provincial financial data.

3.3.2 The Vuleka-mali portal has been successful in ensuring that civil society has access to the budget data of national and provincial departments.

3.3.3 Evidently more needs to be done to tackle the challenge of corruption and to re-inforce accountability by the government, especially at the local sphere of government.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE OGP 5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS (6)

3.4 The solution that is specifically proposed is to expand the scope of institutions whose financial data will be available in the **Vuleka-mali portal** to also include Schedules 3A and 3C public entities as defined in Public Finance Management Act, 1999.

3.4.1 Schedules 3A and 3C public entities have the mandate to fulfil a specific economic or social responsibility of the government.

3.4.2 Schedules 3A and 3C public entities rely on government funding and public money, either by means of a transfer from the Revenue Fund or through statutory money.

3.4.3 Additionally, financial data for the local sphere of government will be added to be part of the transformative fiscal transparency through the addition of the **GoMuni portal**.

3.5 The CSIR Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), leads the **second commitment** on “**open data transparency across the three spheres of government**” which seeks to facilitate the development and eventual adoption of a common protocol by the metropolitan municipalities for the sharing of open data.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE OGP 5TH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN COMMITMENTS (7)

3.6 The APRM Second-Generation Review Report, under the thematic area on “democracy and political governance” has identified “promoting the rule of law, re-inforcing accountability and combating corruption” as one of the critical issues.

3.6.1 Open Data Transparency across the three spheres of government is an essential feature of the accountability of the public representatives.

3.6.2 The lack of a common framework/ protocol among the three spheres of government on sharing of open data, creates challenges for those who seek to hold the government to account.

3.6.3 Cities generate a significant amount of data that is useful to citizens however, this information is often hidden from public view and is confined in line department archives or is difficult to access.

3.6.4 Hence the (CSIR) Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), seeks to facilitate the development and eventual adoption of a common framework/ protocol with the metropolitan municipalities for the sharing of open data.

3.6.5 The engagement with the metropolitan municipalities will thus pilot the development and eventual adoption of a common framework/ protocol for sharing open data with six metropolitan municipalities, as a precursor to the eventual adoption of the national framework/ protocol on open data sharing across the three spheres of government in South Africa.

3.6.6 The CSIR Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), has done the baseline work of developing a draft Framework/ Protocol on Open Data sharing, working with the metropolitan municipalities.

- 4.1** In submitting the OGP 5th National Action Plan, the complementarity principle is being put into practice through the implementation of the APRM-OGP complementarity and methodology for good governance programmes that fall within the purview of the Minister for the Public Service and Administration.
- 4.2** The two commitments that are led by the National Treasury and the CSIR Centre for the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), demonstrably support the implementation of the APRM National Plan of Action in strengthening the thematic area on democracy and political governance.
- 4.3** The OGP 5th National Action Plan 2023-2026 and the subsequent plans will serve as a mechanism to implement the APRM National Plans of Action, in line with the Cabinet endorsed complementarity principle of good governance programmes.

Thank You



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