



POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website (www.mile.org.za) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

Knowledge Exchange: eThekweni - Kerala Institute of Local Administration

2. The DATE attended:

11/09/2014 to 18/09/18

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

India. Kerala is internationally recognised for innovation in decentralised and participatory governance. The government of Kerala has used decentralised governance as a tool to deliver basic services, social services and reduce poverty – where theories have been complemented by a number of sincere practices applicable to local governments facing similar challenges. Noting that the geographical contexts may differ, the experiences of Kerala State have much in common with eThekweni Municipality in responding to our social, economic, gender, technological, safety and fiscal governance challenges.

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Cllr B Dlamini (Dep. Chair of Governance and HR Committee) - representing our Political leadership; V Cebekhulu (Head: Community Participation), R Bob (Project Executive: Community and Emergency Services Cluster), N Shembe (Senior Manager: Social Crime Prevention), and C Pillay (Program Manager, Academic Collaboration: MILE)

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Culture, heritage and sport | <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering and the built environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | IT and Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic development and Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health and Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> | City strategy and planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy and the natural environment | | Good governance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other:

6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?

- To promote knowledge generation, dissemination and sharing among practitioners dealing with poverty eradication, social upliftment, citizen safety and community participation
- To provide a platform for the review to strengthen the policy development process on Food Security and Community participation\ building
- Provision of inputs for further development and consolidation of a cohesive social and charity network on sustainable local development topics that correspond to regional capacity development needs
- To enhance our knowledge on strategic collaboration with emphasis on private sector (CSI and CSR). Government and civil societies
- To enhance community participation and safer cities methodologies, practices and tools for effective citizen governance and engagement

7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?

PANCHAYAT (Ward Committees)

The site visits included visits to Panchayat (Ward committee equivalent) both Urban and Rural Panchayats. The Panchayat are situated in an environment/infrastructure that provide comprehensive social services in the form of pension application and pay-out, birth and death registration, agricultural extension support, sports, health, education and revenue collection facilities. It is important to note that the devolution of powers for social services resides within the local sphere. The Panchayat are made up of both the elected and Administrative components together with community representatives and they plan as a collective for their respective annual programmes and projects and this informs the Budget allocations. Quarterly meetings are held to monitor implementation of programmes and projects and expenditure patterns. Also, if the project exceeds allocated expenditure, than it is the responsibility of the Panchayat to source external funding through various means such as PPPs, Donor Funding and Sponsorships. Loans can also be secured however, this must be authorised by the State Government. This process is similar to our Community Based Planning processes although we have not place much emphasis of the operations and the value add of citizen prioritisation, selection and engagement.

KUDUMBASHREE (Family Prosperity Programmes)

Poverty Alleviation project (Kudumbashree – Family Prosperity programmes concentrating on Women Empowerment), was also presented and there after best practises were visited. The aim of the project is on social, economic and women empowerment. Various economic sector project such as sewing, agriculture, school food aid programmes, canteen and catering services, IT support and paramedic support. This project is a State Poverty Eradication Mission and is supported by government to organise like-minded woman within a specific village to come together and organise themselves to generate income. The programme builds capacity for the beneficiaries to enter into micro-financing mechanisms and micro-enterprise formulation (equivalent to co-operatives). Through this project women have access to loans via various financial institutions and the loan repayment rate sits at 98%.

Linked to Food Aid Programmes, the Kudumbashree that prepares and provides the food nutrition packs was visited and this was followed to schools that are supported by the project were undertaken to understand distribution. These site visits has shown that we need to develop, strengthen and enhance policies that are aim at providing sustainable poverty reduction and food security programmes.

JAMUMATHRI (People Friendly Policing)

A visit to the Police Commissioner of Kerala was also undertaken. The Jamumathri (People Friendly Policing) programme was discussed. There are two projects linked to this programme viz. Student Policing (similar to our School Safety Programme) and Community Policy Programme (similar to our Community Policing Forums and Ward Safety Committees Structures). Additionally, their police structure has a Police Station dedicated to Women and Children issues at a local level. This process should be explored within our Metro Police structures to address issues of street begging, women begging with children, commercial sex workers and domestic and sexual violence.

Meeting with University of Kerala:

MILE requested that Kerala Institute of Local Administration facilitate a meeting with the University of Kerala to explore opportunities of collaboration that could inform the city's strategic research agenda. The initial discussions on the use, benefits and application of Ayurveda/traditional medicine have potential for the eThekweni's public health programs - noting the Kerala State have rolled out government led programs in Ayurvedic medicine.

Action: The areas of public health, regional economic development and decentralised planning were suggested as potential themes for comparative studies.

The meeting with Dr. M.K Muneer, Honourable Minister of Panchayats and Social Justice is a follow up to the outcomes of Kerala delegation visit to Durban in July 2013, managed by the World bank Institute. The primary objective of meeting with Dr Muneer was to continue the knowledge sharing and networking opportunities on local government and urbanisation between Kerala and Durban. Action: Minister Muneer pledged political support for the process.

The Minister further noted that given KILAs interest in learning and replicating the experiences and approaches of capacity building in local governments' as operationalized by MILE, that KILA and MILE identify areas of strategic collaboration. Action: Establish a Memorandum of cooperation in areas of mutual interest related to local government and urbanisation.

8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?

- MILE and KILA identify areas of common and strategic interest and work towards a Memorandum of Cooperation
- MILE fosters a strategic relationship with the University of Kerala to augment collaborative research in the thematic areas of public health, social innovations & entrepreneurship; regional economic development and decentralised planning. Research opportunities in the areas of water and sanitation; sustainable human settlement and alternative energy should also be encouraged.
- MILE supports CPAS Unit in the planning and hosting of an international conference under the theme “Deepening Democracy” in March 2015.

9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?

Please contact Collin Pillay, Program Manager: Academic Collaboration - MILE for further details.

10. One of the key functions of our MILE website is to serve as a repository of LEARNING DOCUMENTATION, VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIAL. Please can send such material to mile@durban.gov.za so that it can be uploaded onto our website.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION