



The Failure of Decentralisation in South African Local Government: Complexity and Unanticipated Consequences

By Andrew Siddie, Thomas A. Koelble

University of Cape Town Press, South Africa, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The Auditor General has just issued a damning report on the financial state of affairs in municipalities across South Africa. Protests against service delivery failure have become commonplace in this country and constitute perhaps the most serious challenge this young democracy has yet faced. So just what is the problem? The failure of decentralisation in South African local government: complexity and unanticipated consequences examines the design of the local government framework and its contributing role in the crisis. It identifies 12 dimensions of decentralisation and studies the extent to which these dimensions are incorporated in the South African local government framework. Through empirical research conducted at 37 municipalities across the country, this study finds that municipalities are frequently incapable of meeting the demands imposed upon them by a highly complex model of local government. This complexity, coupled with the absence of essential conditions for success and the presence of a number of threats which are commonly identified in decentralised systems, leads to the failure of policy and the erosion of sound local governance. The aim of this book...

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South Africa has experienced immense changes in the post-apartheid era and coordinated local public policy has sought to expand and improve the level of basic services provided to disadvantaged people. Local government has played a pivotal role in this process and has been subjected to intense reform in an effort to enhance its effectiveness and broaden its range of activities. The economic literature on government failure generally, and public choice theory specifically, can shed considerable light on the nature and limitations of government intervention in market economies. Both anecdotal evidence and the recent official Ncholo Report provide graphic illustrations of widespread government failure in South Africa. South African Government. www.gov.za. Let's grow South Africa together. Main menu. Home. The Local Government Turnaround Strategy was introduced as a government programme of action and a blueprint for better service delivery aimed at responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government. Five focus areas aimed at fast-tracking implementation of the strategy have been identified. "South Africa was already at the precipice of a fiscal cliff and in an economic recession at the time the country went into lockdown," Jannie Rossouw, a professor at School of Economics and Business, Wits University, told DW. Some South Africans blame the country's economic woes on current President Cyril Ramaphosa (left), while others say the responsibility lies with former President Jacob Zuma (right). "Naturally, the Zuma administration is to be blamed, and Ramaphosa must share in such blame," Rossouw added. Many schools in South Africa – especially the government schools – are in poor shape, particularly in rural areas. Observers say that maintaining hygiene and hand-washing measures at schools is impossible, as most schools have no running water. South Africa's Auditor General Kimi Makwetu says most municipalities in the country are dysfunctional. Flickr/CGR. Email. The failure to fill key personnel positions is also a problem, as is the fact that there's clearly a lack of political will to ensure accountability. There are serious consequences to this unacceptable state of affairs. The most important is that municipalities are unable to deliver services such as clean water, sanitation and electricity. It also means there's a lack of maintenance of infrastructure in towns and cities all over the country. The rise in protests by disgruntled citizens is a clear sign of people's frustration and the failure of local government to provide basic services. Africa accepts recommendation 20 on the preventive deployment of peacekeepers and strongly urges that regional organizations apply the same strategy in their respective regions. However, the UN should not abdicate its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Conventional Weapons. The illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread as well as the utilization of child soldiers in many regions of the world, particularly Africa, should be prohibited. Africa will collaborate