

DEVOLUTION PROCESS of MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

- The devolution process in WDM has been concluded whereby the Environmental Health Practitioner from both Local Municipalities and Provincial Department of Health has been devolved to the District Municipalities 28 Officials has been devolved.
- The Cabinet took a decision in October 2002 for Municipal Health Service to be devolved to the District Municipalities and the implementation date was supposed to be on the 01st July 2004.
- WDM officially took over the service in May 2007 and it was the first District in the Limpopo Province to lead and finalize the process.
- Section 78 investigation was done internally and the report is available though it has not been taken for Council approval. The report will be taken together with GAP analysis report for Council approval.
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- WDM is currently in the process of GAP analysis to identify important elements which might have not been covered entirely during the process.
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- The definition of Municipal Health service is found in the newly promulgated National Health Act 61 of 2003 and reads as follows: "Municipal Health Service" for the purpose of this Act, includes:
 - Water quality monitoring.
 - Food control.
 - Waste Management.
 - Health Surveillance of premises.
 - Surveillance and prevention of communicable diseases excluding immunization.
 - Vector control.
 - Environmental pollution control.
 - Disposal of the dead.
 - Chemical Safety.

But excludes port health, malaria control and control of hazardous substances.

- The District has already initiated the process of authorization by Minister of Health to enforce food cosmetics, disinfectant Act.
- Provincial Department of Health and Social Development is currently supporting the service financially.

MILK PROGRAMME

- Milk quality monitoring is one of the core responsibilities of Municipal Health Service.
- WDM and Dairy Standard Agency will enter into MOU on the milk quality monitoring programme which is part of their National Monitoring project.
- This is monitoring system implemental by DSA in association with the Environmental Health Practitioners to determine the quality of raw and pasteurized milk sold to consumers.
- After collection and analysis of the samples, the sample results are presented to the EHP's which gives the information on the safety and quality status of each product in respect of the legal specifications.
- The programme is introduced to improve the professional and scientific evaluation of fresh milk sold to consumers based on all product quality and safety standard present in terms of Health Act 61 of 2003 and food stuff, cosmetic and disinfectant Act 54 of 1972.
- The main aim of the programme is simply to improve compliance with legal standards to limit the supply of substandard fresh milk to the mericet.
- All food outlets selling milk and milk products might therefore be visited by Environmental Health Practitioner for evaluation and monitoring and for sampling programme.

MUNICIPAL HEALTH BY-LAWS

The Department has already developed draft Municipal Health by-laws, which will soon be taken out for public comment.

MUNICIPAL HEALTH SUMMIT REPORT

Theme “ Waterbergthe great leaders of real followers in Municipal Health ”

- WDM completed the devolution process early 2007
- WDM is the first in the Province to finalise the devolution process as such the arrangement of a summit has been realized as the appropriate step to follow.
- The summit was held on the 22nd and 23rd April 2008 at Aventura Forever Resorts
- The intention of the summit was to find a comprehensive and informed wayforward after the hectic process of devolving Municipal Health Service from different spheres of government.
- the objectives of the summit was to:
 - * Standardise the operational activities.
 - * Unify the way of Municipal Health service delivery.
 - * To give strategic direction of the service.

- The Summit was a success and attendance was very good.
- the following topics were presented:
 - * Overview development of MHS in WDM : Political and Administrative perspective
 - * The scope of MHS and innovative approach.
 - * Standardization of MHS delivery: Possibility or Impossibility
 - * Section 78 assessment processes
 - * Gap analysis of MHS Section 78 assessment in WDM
 - * Academic challenges and directives influencing Environmental Health Service delivery in South Africa
 - * Practical Approach to Strategic Planning and management of MHS
 - * Cost Recovery potentials of MHS
 - * Scope of MHS and Innovative approaches
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- See the programme for the topics covered.
- The summit was registered with HPCSA for continuous Professional Development.