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A Qualitative Analysis of Democratic Participatory Development in Ngaka Modiri Molema District, North West Province, South Africa

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ABSTRACT Democratic participatory development has recently been identified as one of the key driving forces behind the successful and sustainable implementation of community development programmes and projects in South Africa. Its contribution to the successful completion of community development programmes and projects cannot be compromised. Within the context of this manuscript, the term 'democratic participatory development' is understood to mean a people-driven process that calls for all government institutions, local authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and community-based organisations (CBOs) to modify not only the ways in which they do things (*modus operandi*) but also their attitudes, methods, and procedures in their attempts of enhancing and consolidating the functionality and performance of their development programmes and projects. It is the intent of this article to provide a detailed qualitative analysis and critique of the underlying assumptions and coherence of democratic participatory development as they have manifested themselves in the Ngaka Modiri Molema District of the North West Province. Four pertinent dimensions that are considered to be the prerequisite of a functional and performing democratic participatory development are identified, namely: (1) viability and sustainability; (2) capability; (3) accountability; and (4) purpose-driven, and these are used as the basis for this analysis. Qualitative paradigm and its corresponding research design, as well as qualitative data collection methods and analysis techniques are employed, and the findings reveal that, overall, the functionality and performance of democratic participatory development in the District are not viable and sustainable. Finally, the article suggests a democratic participatory development model that if properly implemented, can lead to the improvement of democratic participatory development process in the District.