

Challenges Faced by the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality in Implementing the Back-to-Basics Programme

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ABSTRACT The aim of this study was to investigate the challenges faced by Raymond Mhlaba Municipality in implementing the Back-To-Basics (B2B) programme. The objectives of the study were to identify the challenges faced by Raymond Mhlaba Municipality Manager in implementing the Back-To-Basics programmes; to examine the perception of the community members of the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality on the implementation of Back-To-Basic Programme. The study used a qualitative research design to collect data from 5 (five) participants using in-depth interviews. The finding of the study revealed that some of the challenges faced by Raymond Mhlaba Municipality in implementing Back-To-Basics programme include: corruption and mismanagement of funds; improper understanding of the municipality's IDP and roles of the different government departments; poor communication skills between the municipality ward councillors and the community members; and poor service delivery. Importantly, the community members also revealed that the municipality had not done well in their implementation because of many evidences of water crises, empty promises, and unrealistic/fake promises. Hence, the implementation of the B2B programme in this Local Municipality had failed to meet the people's demands and make their dreams and expectations become reality. The paper recommended that the municipality management should put the interest of communities as greatest priority in their Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and manifestoes.