LOCALISING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN RURAL MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS: A CASE STUDY OF NKANDLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

By

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DECLARATION

I, **MPHATHESITHE MZWANDILE MKHIZE** declare that:

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          Dr Cheryl Mohamed Sayeed

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my mother,

Phuzaphi Mkhize,

and

all my siblings,

ukungibekezelela nokukholelwa kwenu kimi kuyintokozo enkulu.

Makhabazela, bambo abamhlophe, bomzingani, nina basembo,

nime njalo.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABSTRACT

The implementation of the Agenda 2030 requires that all stakeholders get involved towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a result, the global partnership process places responsibility on all relevant stakeholders, including spheres of government to take action if the SDGs are to be achieved. The purpose of this study was to investigate the role of local government in localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships towards achieving Agenda 2030. The study responded to the central key question asked, namely, to what extent the rural municipalities localise the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships? The significance of this study was mainly for two reasons: 1) that it will contribute to research on SDGs, and 2) that it will contribute to the growing area of research on localising SDGs and the role of partnerships.

Towards localising the SDGs, local and regional governments are seen as key to ensuring sustainable and inclusive development in their areas. There has been no study specifically focused on rural municipalities in localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships. There has been an emphasis on the significance of an integrated multi-level and multi-stakeholder strategy to be used in promoting a transformative agenda if the ownership of the Agenda 2030 within municipalities is to take effect. In South Africa, many municipalities face development challenges, such as unemployment, economic growth, poverty, and weak infrastructure, with the worst affected being rural ones. In this regard, Nkandla Local Municipality was no exception, the municipality within its region remains one of the poorest and confronted by similar development challenges.

This study was carried within Nkandla using the municipality as a case study, with a qualitative approach being adopted. In the study, the appropriate methodology was employed to explore the experiences and perceptions of local stakeholders in localising SDGs. The study applied an interpretivism paradigm and used semi-structured interview methods for data collection.

The findings of this study revealed that in Nkandla there is basic knowledge of the SDGs, although this is very limited. Multi-stakeholder participation also was found to be very significant to achieving the SDGs despite the municipality being poor and inactive. Also, the study discovered several challenges that the municipality faces, which were found threatening towards the success of localising the goals.

As a result, the study then recommends that small municipalities like Nkandla should strengthen their multi-stakeholder participation approach. Also, specific training on SDGs localisation is recommended, to equip all local stakeholders with key knowledge about localising the goals towards achieving Agenda 2030. Therefore, from the findings of the study, it is clear that multi-stakeholder partnerships have an important role to play in localising the SDGs in rural municipalities. However, small municipalities must take a strong position to improve these partnerships if they are dedicated to achieving the goals towards Agenda 2030.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ACSC	African Civil Society Circle
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CoVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
GEAR	Growth, Employment and Redistribution
HLPE	High Level Political Experts
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
ICSC	International Civil Society Centre
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IFP	Inkatha Freedom Party
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KZN CoGTA	KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LRG	Local and Regional Governments
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEC	Member of the Executive Council
MSP	Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
NLM	Nkandla Local Municipality
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
NRGSD	Network for Regional Governments for Sustainable Development
PG&DP	Provincial Growth and Development Plan
R	Respondent
RDP	Reconstruction Development Programme
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SA SDG Hub	South Africa Sustainable Development Goals Hub
SACSWG	South African Civil Society Working Group

SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDRA	Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis
Stats SA	Department of Statistics in South Africa
TC	Traditional Council
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UKZN	University of KwaZulu-Natal
UN Women	United Nations Women
UN	United Nations
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
WPSR	World Public Sector Report

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction and Background to the Study

Since the dawn of democracy, the South African government has been involved with a number of global partnerships that have required it to contribute towards different global agenda policies, primarily being led by the United Nations. The Millennium Development Goals, signed by 189 countries, including 147 Heads of State and Governments in September 2000 (Gumede, 2014: 56; Fukuda-Parr, 2011), was recently revised and translated into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015. According to the United Nations (2018), the SDGs ambition and scope is now broader than the Millennium Development Goals. These goals build on the successes and address the outstanding work that was left by Millennium Development Goals (Manamela, 2017: 1; Haywood, Funke, Audouin, Musvoto, & Nahman, 2018).

The post-2015 global agenda has created a platform for working towards an equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future for all (Radebe, 2018: 1). Ngubane (2017: 04) suggests that the SDGs emphasise the role of economic prosperity, and the protection of the planet as key areas for intervention, while simultaneously aiming to address the fundamental causes of poverty and implementing responsive development initiatives. Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP and UN Habitat (2016: 02) states that in the definition of SDGs, different regional and local governments have played a significant role.

According to the United Nations (2015: 01), the talks for a "new sustainable development agenda" started from the 2002 outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It was then followed by the 2010 Summit on MDGs and by the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (Rio+20), and different opinions within the world. At the Summit in September 2010 which took place at the United Nations, different global leaders came in their numbers to discuss the post-2015 development agenda since the MDGs deadline was around the corner (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2015: 10).

Moving forward, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (2015: 10), after the September 2010 summit, led the discussions at a follow up meeting in 2011, which was organized by Japan,

together with the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and other partners. There was also a meeting of Informal Ministerial-Level on the MDGs that took place at the United Nations General Assembly in the same year (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2015: 10). In June 2012, the United Nations in Brazil again held a Rio+20 Summit on Sustainable Development; in this Summit it was decided that the Sustainable Development Goals will be created to succeed the MDGs (Griggs, Smith, Gaffney, Rockstrom, Ohman, Shyamsundar, Steffen, Glaser, Kanje & Noble, 2013: 1). Given this decision, a forum on "intergovernmental Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs OWG) was established, and in July 2014, following negotiations held among nearly all UN member states, the SDG's OWG proposed SDGs consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2015: 12). The new development goals ambition was then set within the 17 goals and 169 targets initiated via a consultative dialogue by UN member states, local and regional governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders (UCLG, 2019: 12).

This chapter presents the introduction of the policy research on localising SDGs in rural municipalities through multi-stakeholder partnerships, within the province of KwaZulu-Natal, using a case study of one rural municipality.

1.2 Problem Statement

Research problems are referred to as outstanding difficulties and issues that the researchers have faced or experienced within the environment, and that they intend to come up with the solutions towards them (Fox & Bayat, 2013: 22). Research problems can further be understood as various pitfalls found during the research process (Jupp, 2006: 266). Towards the effort in localising the SDGs, the UNDP (2014: 12; 2014: 14) highlights that local and regional governments are key to ensuring sustainable and inclusive development in their areas. There is no study specifically focused on rural municipalities in localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships towards Agenda 2030. The UNDP (2014: 12; and 2014: 14) emphasised the significance for an integrated multi-level and multi-stakeholder strategy to be used for promoting a transformative agenda if the ownership of the Agenda 2030 within municipalities is to take effect. Reddy (2016: 7) further emphasises that in localising the SDGs, local stakeholders are critical to promote key values such as culture and transition of knowledge as strong drivers towards sustainable and inclusive development. Local governments are best

positioned to ensure that the needs of local people are understood and met, and that the SDGs are locally owned, inclusive and leave no one behind (Slack, 2015). Steiner (2017) further articulates that local governments are critical for turning the Agenda 2030 from global vision into local reality. Thus, local governments together with their partners are critical in making sure that there is successful implementation and realization of the SDGs, if the global agenda is to be achieved (Steiner, 2017).

In South Africa, most municipalities are faced with development related challenges, such as unemployment, economic growth, poverty, and weak infrastructure, with the worst affected municipalities being rural ones (Ncube & Monnakgotla, 2016: 75). In this regard, Nkandla Local Municipality is no exception, the municipality within its region remains one of the poorest municipalities confronted by similar development challenges (Nkandla IDP, 2019/ 20: 13). This study seeks to examine the extent to which localisation of the SDGs in rural municipalities through multi-stakeholder partnerships is currently being undertaken. Further, the study seeks to make recommendations in this regard.

1.3 The Rationale of the Study

The study is important and necessary for two reasons: it will contribute to research on SDGs, and it will contribute to the growing area of research on localising SDGs and the role of partnerships in achieving the goals of the UN towards Agenda 2030.

1.4 Research Questions

This study was guided by the following research questions:

- What is the role of local government in South Africa?
- To what extent are multi-stakeholder partnerships important for the functionality of municipalities in South Africa?
- What are the current arrangements for localising SDGs in rural municipalities in South Africa and in Nkandla in particular?
- To what extent are multi-stakeholder partnerships key towards achieving the development priorities of the SDGs?

1.5 The Aims of the Study

The main aim of study is to examine the role of local government in localising the SDGs, through multi-stakeholder partnerships and discover challenges faced by small municipalities to achieve the Agenda 2030.

1.5.1 Research Objectives of the Study

The main aim of this study is to examine the role of local government, in the context of localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve Agenda 2030. Several objectives have guided the study:

- To ascertain the role of rural municipalities in localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- To explore key challenges faced by rural municipalities in localising the SDGs.
- To examine the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs.
- To discover ways that can be used to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs.

1.6 Theoretical Framework of the Study

Burke-Johnson and Christensen (2014) explains theory as used to simplify explanatory systems which discuss a phenomenon in terms of how it operates and why it operates in that manner. Theory can also be understood as a generalization or a set of words well developed to allow others to draw attention from it for further exploration (Burke-Johnson & Christensen, 2014). In policy implementation, theories can be broadly classified into three different groups. The groups comprise top-down, bottom-up and hybrid theories (Hottenstein, 2017: 28). In this study on the localisation of SDGs by means of using multi-stakeholder partnerships, a hybrid theory will be adopted as the main theory that underpins the study. Hybrid theory was proposed by researchers such as Elmore (1985), Sabatier (1986), Goggin (1990) and Winter (1990). A comprehensive approach with other contributions was already made by scholars such as Scharpf (1978), Mayntz (1977), Windhoff-Heritier (1980) and Ripley and Franklin (1982) (Irwani, 2015: 18; Pulzl and Treib, 2006: 95). Hybrid theory views policy implementation as

what takes place because of a wide range of stakeholders through their interaction between different levels (Cerna, 2013: 19).

In the history of public policy, more in particular for its implementation, the fundamental purpose of the development of hybrid theory was to try and combine both elements of both theories top-down and bottom-up to avoid the implications caused by the use of a single dimensional approach (Irwani, 2015: 18; Stachowiak, Robles, Habtemariam, Maltry, 2016: 23; Pulzl & Treib, 2006: 95). The integration of both elements of these two theories assisted in eliminating the weaknesses of the two theories and combining them creates an opportunity for the strengths of both theories to meaningful contributions by means of equal influence on policy implementation (Joja, 2016: 17). The combination of both theories was recognized by several scholars; this was due to belief that it will enable numerous actors across all levels to equally participate in the success of policies (Joja, 2017: 17). Cerna (2013: 19) also accords that both central policy makers and local actors are important for successful policy implementation.

Therefore, for the interests of this study, the use of hybrid theory provides the theoretical background, that the achievement of localising SDGs will only succeed if all stakeholders concerned are involved. Khan and Khandaker (2016: 540) state that for a policy to succeed, implementation is one of the significant steps in the process of policy making. This is viewed by means of executing laws, in which different stakeholders work together to achieve the intended outcomes. Implementation as a process and involves several stakeholders and organisations for a specified goal to be achieved (Khan & Khandaker, 2016: 540). This study focuses on the use of multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving the SDGs to meet the Agenda 2030. Hybrid theory is an approach that encourages collaboration to achieve the identified goals. While it understands the importance of central actors, at the same time itappreciates and values the need for having all lowerlevel actors on board (Hottenstein, 2017: 29).

1.7 Research Methodology

In research, methodology is understood by means of considering systematic ways in which the research problems are solved, and it is different to research methods (Kothari, 2004: 08; Ugwuowo, 2016: 04). Methodology's original purpose is not to give solutions to research

problems, but instead to offer theoretical understanding underpinning the selection of suitable methods for a study (Ugwuowo, 2016: 04). The study was informed by the interpretivism paradigm. Bhattacherjee (2012: 103) describes interpretivism paradigm as the assumption generated for social reality that is not singular or objective, but rather focuses on the human experiences and social contexts.

Secondly, for the study, a qualitative approach was used as the appropriate methodological approach for the study. The qualitative approach is scientifically designed to explain events, people and matters concerned with them (Fox & Bayat, 2013: 07). For data collection methods used in the study, the study used numerous data collection methods which primarily consisted of secondary sources such as the review of all relevant documents including legislative frameworks concerning the study. The study then mainly used primary sources of data collection, which were semi-structured interviews. In this study, the non-probability sampling technique was employed. Burger and Silima (2006: 662) commend non-probability sampling technique for being one of the more appropriate, economical, and less complicated techniques in research.

For the data collection of the study, the purposive sampling technique was also utilized for the benefit of the study. Oliver (2006: 245) the advantage of using purposive sampling is that the researcher is able to identify specific participants that can likely provide relevant and required data. For the study, a preliminary investigation into a number of participants who are actively involved in the localisation of SDGs was conducted, using purposive sampling techniques. In this study, a total number of 16 participants were selected to participate in the study. The participants consisted of 8 officials and 3 councillors from Nkandla Local Municipality, 2 participants from two different NPOs, 1 participant from the business sector and 2 participants from two research institutions. The overall participants were selected as key informants of the study due to their credible perceived source of knowledge for the subject under investigation. Therefore, from the selected participants the study was able to conduct 13 successful interviews. Despite the withdrawal from the study, this did not negatively impact the validity and reliability of the research findings. It is also important to mention that this study was conducted during the CoVID-19 outbreak. As a result, the study was affected but not negatively by the lockdown restrictions set by the university for data collected during this period.

For the analysis of data of this study, thematic analysis was employed. The study also used numerous data quality control methods of trustworthiness to ensure the quality of data of the study. The methods comprised with the credibility, dependability, confirmability and transferability.

1.8 Location of the Study

This study was conducted under one of the rural municipalities in the KwaZulu Natal province known as Nkandla Local Municipality. Nkandla Local Municipality forms part of local municipalities found under local government level, within category C, the King Cetshwayo District Municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal province. Its allocation is approximately 55 kilometres from the uMthonjaneni Local Municipality, 60 kilometres from the uMlalazi Local Municipality and with an approximate of 50 kilometres away from the historical battle mountain of Isandlwana (Stats SA, 2011). Nkandla Local Municipality consists of 18 traditional authority areas and 14 wards with the established ward committees across its villages which the last of them is ward 14 where the former President of South Africa, Mr Jacob Zuma comes in. Nkandla Local Municipality is historically well known for its tourism attraction areas, firstly with the existence of Nkandla natural indigenous Forests, Ntingwe Tea, Amatshezimpisi Game Reserve, and the King Cetshwayo grave inside the forest and other unmentioned attraction areas which have taken the area into another level in terms of its development status. Nkandla Local Municipality now comprises 11.7% of the population (Stats SA, 2011). In this population, the ratio in terms of gender representation is that in the municipality, 44% people are males and 56% people are females, which together constitute the total number of the population. With regards to the population under traditional areas, Nkandla Local Municipality comprises 93% of the population of the people living under the traditional tribal areas and only 7% of the population is found in the urban settlement environment. In Nkandla, Stats SA (2011) indicates that 42.1% of the population has no income, while 74.5% rely on the government assistance of social grants to fight poverty. Based on these statistics one can conclude that in Nkandla most people live with poverty. Therefore, it is the result of this context that Nkandla Local municipality was selected to form part of the study as the case study.

1.9 Structure of the Dissertation

This dissertation is divided into six different chapters. The chapters are shortly outlined as following what they are going to cover in the dissertation.

Chapter One: Introduction and Background of the Study

This chapter gives the introduction and background of the dissertation. The chapter comprises an introduction and background, problem statement, aims and objectives, research questions and rationale of the study.

Chapter Two: Public Policy Implementation and the Role of Multi Stakeholder Participation

This chapter presents the literature review of public policy and its implementation. It starts by giving conception for what is public policy, public policy making process and its steps, public policy implementation and its theories. It then concludes by the link between public policy implementation and stakeholder participation in the processes.

Chapter Three: Localising the Sustainable Development Goals

This chapter provides the literature review of the Sustainable Development Goals and their localisation. It then moves on to contextualise the role of local government in localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships. The chapter also provide analysis of the relevant legislative frameworks, and two other countries localising the SDGs, the Republic of Uganda and Australia. It then concludes by providing an analysis of the challenges of local government in localising the goals.

Chapter Four: Research Methodology and Design

This chapter presents the methodological issues of the dissertation through outlining the research paradigm, strategies, techniques, methods, and tools that were used to ensure the academic empirical findings with the credibility and reliability of the study.

Chapter Five: Research Findings, Results Analysis and Presentation

This chapter provides a presentation on the analysis of the findings of the research using different data presentation tools. The presentation of the findings of the chapter is based on the case study of Nkandla Local Municipality.

Chapter Six: Recommendations and Conclusion

This chapter closes the dissertation by providing recommendations, further research, and conclusion of the study. This is aimed to help the concerned audience and researchers draw

attention to areas requiring improvement and further research. Lastly, the chapter concludes the study and is followed by a variety of references and annexes.

1.10 Summary

This chapter presented the introductory part of the research. The chapter firstly gave the introduction and background, problem statement, rationale, aims and objectives of the study. It then presented the research questions, theoretical framework, research methodology, location of the study and the structure of the dissertation. The next chapter of the study will present the relevant literature review on public policy implementation and the role of multi- stakeholder participation.

CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND THE ROLE OF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an examination of public policy implementation which underpins the study. The chapter starts by laying out the foundation for public policy, giving its fundamental conceptual meanings and processes. The chapter then goes further to discuss theories of policy implementation and thereafter chooses between the theories that are suitable for the study and provide the rationale for the chosen theory. For the study, the theories of policy implementation that are discussed below comprise the top-down, bottom-up and hybrid theory. The hybrid theory is chosen to underpin the study. The chapter then will conclude by providing an examination of the role of multi-stakeholder participation in policy implementation.

2.2 Defining Public Policy

In the literature, a considerable amount of scholarship work has been published about public policy for its meanings and understanding. Many scholars who write about public policy, like Hogwood and Gunn (1984: 23-24), define public policy as "a series of patterns of related decisions which many circumstances and personal, group and organisational influences have contributed". Another definition of public policy is provided by Fox and Meyer (1995: 107), who define public policy as an "authoritative statement made by legitimate public institutions about the way in which they propose to deal with policy problems".

Gumede (2008: 8) states that public policy refers to a broad formal decision that is made by governments in the public interest. Moran, Rein and Goodin (2006) cited by Gumede (2008: 08) viewed public policy as "the business end of political science, where theory meets practice in the pursuit of the public good". Public policy may also be explained as the intervention by the government to deal with the outstanding challenges that society is faced with. Easton (1953: 129) as a seminal author in policy defines policy as the authoritative allocation of values through the political process to groups or individuals in the society.

Hanekom (1987: 7) explains that policy making is the activity preceding the publication of a goal, while policy statement is the making known, the formal articulation, the declaration of intent or the publication of a goal to be pursued. Ranney (1968: 7) as a seminal author in policy described public policy as a declaration and implementation of intent.

2.3 The Process of Public Policy Making

The policy process concerns the way in which policies are formulated than their content or causes and consequences (Dye, 2013: 33). Shandu (2016: 27) refers the policy process as to what means a policy that is being formed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated. Anderson (2003: 28) explains that at some point the policy process is interchangeably named as policy cycle. The policy process consists of several steps (Shandu, 2016: 27). Hill (1997: 107) it also involves several actors of society such as politicians, appointed civil servants and representatives of pressure groups. It has important advantages such as centering around the attention of officials and institutions who make policies and factors and conditions that influence their actions (Anderson, 2003: 28). Anderson (2003) further provides that the policy process consists of several steps which includes the steps such as problem identification and agenda setting, formulation, adoption, implementation, and evaluation. The steps of the process are presented here on the below diagram.

Figure 1: Public Policy Making Process
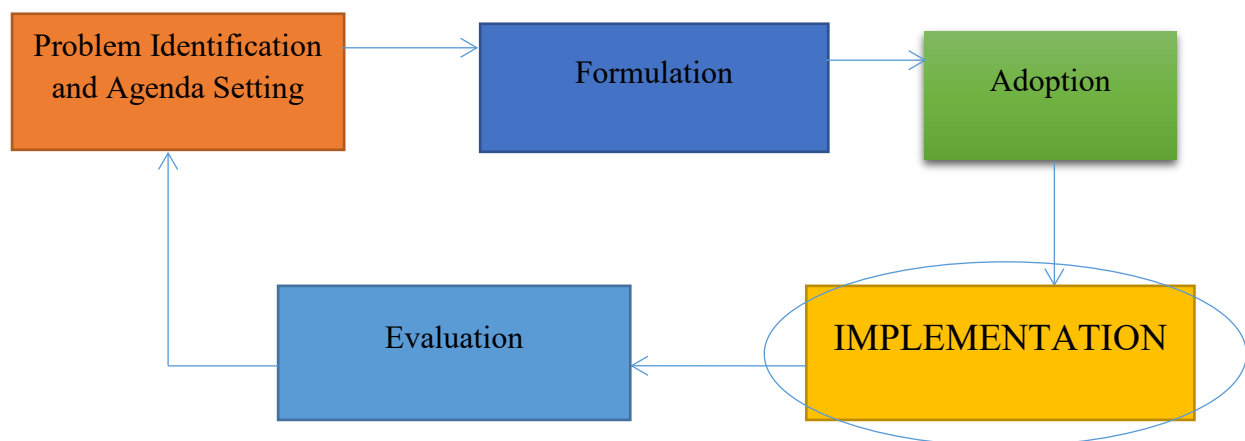
Adopted from Anderson (2003)

2.3.1 Problem Identification and Agenda Setting

In the process of policy making, Birkland (2006: 63) defines agenda setting by referring to it as a process in which problems and alternatives for solutions receive or lose public attention. It can further be understood as a tool that is used to facilitate the proceedings of the meeting to ensure main purposes are achieved (Cloete, 2018: 137). Anderson (2003) explains that the focus is on how the problems are identified and specified to become public policy targets. During agenda setting, Dye (2013: 33) states that "people can define their own interests, organize themselves, pursue others to support their cause, gain access to government officials, influence decision making, and watch over the implementation of government policies and programs". Cloete and Meyer (2011: 87) also argue that policy agenda setting can be what is the planning process of policy issues facilitated by means of identification, definition, and prioritisation for a decision to be taken against a particular policy problem.

In public policy making, it can be concluded that the agenda setting comprises a set of processes where the agenda is set, sustainable alternatives are specified, and the authoritative choice is made amongst available alternatives to deal with policy problems (Kingdon, 2014: 03). Anderson (2003: 86) argues that for the achievement of agendas, public problems need to be translated into issues or matters that require government to urgently intervene. The policy agenda setting from its broader range, Howlett and Daniel (2016: 222) note, consists of three multiple streams which were originally proposed by Kingdon (1984). The streams comprise of problem, policy, and politics (Howlett & Daniel, 2016: 222). According to Kingdon (1995), problem stream can be understood to what several problems are obtaining government attention and civil society interest groups.

On other hand, for policy stream, Kingdon (1995: 116) further argued that once problems have been successfully identified, a number of role players come together for sharing the ideas on how the prioritized problems can be solved. For political stream, the focus becomes more to what concerns national mood (Kingdon, 1995). According to Kingdon (1995), in the political stream, people feel a mood and come together to share the feeling about a particular problem irrespective of their political differences.

2.3.2 Policy Formulation

Policy formulation refers to the creation, identification, or borrowing of the proposed plan of action which is encompassed by a series of alternatives and options towards providing solutions

to existing problems (Anderson, 2003). According to Dye (2013: 42), policy formulation is interchangeably understood as policy development of alternatives to deal with problems of public agenda. Further, it normally takes place in various organisational levels which not in limit includes government bureaucracies, interest groups, legislative committees, commissions meetings, and with policy planning from other organisations (Dye, 2013: 42).

When policies are formulated is important that appropriate goals and objectives are selected (Cloete, 2018: 159). The achievement of an identified policy problem is dependent on the manner in which the policy content has been designed by policy makers (Cloete, 2018: 161). According to Hai (2013: 01), during the formulation of policies the stakeholder involvement is critical if governments are to improve the quality of transparency and effectiveness in their policies. However, despite higher significance for multi-stakeholder participation in policy formulations, Nzimakwe (2013: 123) acknowledged that not all stakeholders always get involved when policies are formulated, even though all the processes can be well undertaken to ensure the success of the formulated policies.

Cloete (2018: 162) argues that there are limitations confronting the success of policy formulation, and these include budget, politics, government and technical, inadequate information, legal issues, fear for change, overqualification, level of subjectivity, and funding. In developing countries, policy formulation is different to developed countries. The differences vary mainly on poor institutional capacity and lack of accountability from states (Hai, 2013: 01). Nzimakwe (2013: 123) thus argues that in South Africa, for a strong policy to be formulated, community involvement and relevant stakeholders are required.

2.3.3 Policy Adoption

In public policy, policy making can never be complete until a decision of a policy is expressed in forms of statutory frameworks (Anderson, 2002: 194). Decision making can be understood as what it means to adopt options that meet the criteria developed and that these are satisfactory to all stakeholders concerned (United Nations Environment Programme, 2009: 17). Anderson (2002: 119) explains policy adoption as a policy decision, which involves some officials taking a particular action for adopting, modifying, or rejecting preferred policy alternatives. Wu, Ramesh, Howlett and Fritzen (2013: 51), concurring with the above view, maintained that policy adoption involves the selection of action of a particular course amongst many available

potential solutions. Despite policy decisions having key significance roles on the policy processes, it is argued that it has some challenges. The challenges for policy adoption are that at some point policy decisions are "often dominated by immediate imperatives, which then lead to policies being made without thorough consideration". Also, this goes to include poor policy planning, which can result in poor policy outcomes (Wu *et al.*, 2013: 54). Policy decisions can further be hijacked by political ideologies and agendas, short time to allow adequate planning, lack of reliable information, and lack of available necessary skills for policy analysis (Wu *et al.*, 2013: 54).

For the success of policy processes based on the above, one can conclude that policy adoption has a critical role to play in the policy making process. It also appears that policy adoption is complex, and as a result, much attention is thus needed if it is to be carried out with success.

2.3.4 Policy Implementation

This policy step of the process is thoroughly analysed in the literature from the below section, here it is briefly articulated as part of the public policy process. According to Paudel (2009: 36), policy implementation basically "means to carry out, accomplish, fulfill, produce or complete a given task". It can also be understood to as Musoka, Mweemba and Katebe (2017: 4) state, as to what comes after the formulation of policies. Dye (2013: 55) argues that it involves quite a number of activities which are designed to ensure that the policies adopted by parliament are carried out with success. De Coning, Cloete and Burger (2018: 195), policy implementation "is a multifaceted concept, attempted at various levels of government and pursued in conjunction with the private sector, civil society and NGOs".

Birkland (2011: 263) states that in the success of policy implementation the behavior of policy implementers and policy targets is key. Kraft and Furlong (2018: 172) also argues that for its success, it is dependent on the programme details developed to ensure that the goals and objectives of the policy are achieved. Another interesting question is, who implements policies? Answering the question, Anderson (2003: 196) states that policies are implemented by administrative agencies in a form of tax collection, postal operations, prisons, schools, bank regulations, utility companies, and agricultural productions etc. Despite administrative agencies being primarily the policy implementers, Anderson (2003: 198) further argues that there are so many policy implementers involved in policy implementation. However, like any

policy process step, policy implementation faces its own challenges. Davids (2009: 226) points out some of its key challenges which relate more to capacity, such as institutional, organisational, and human resources capacity.

2.3.5 Policy Evaluation

According to Wu, Ramesh, Howlett and Fritzen (2013: 83), policy evaluation "refers to all the activities carried out by a range of state and societal actors to determine how policy has fared in practice and to examine how it is likely to perform in the future." Dye (2013: 63) illustrates that policy evaluation is to learn about the consequences of public policy. He further explains that it can also be understood as "the assessment of the overall effectiveness of a national program in meeting its objectives" (Dye, 2013: 63). Policy evaluation can be undertaken in different forms (Rabie & Cloete, 2011: 199) and there are several types of evaluations such as formative, ongoing or process, summative, short, medium, and long term, impact, and scope evaluations.

According to Kraft and Furlong (2018: 174), in policy evaluation, policy evaluators are only interested to look for evidence which tests whether a particular program has been able to achieve its intended objectives. Despite its significance to policy processes, Wu *et al*. (2013: 89) further argue that policy evaluation is encompassed by several constraints, which include lack of organisational support, lack of evaluation expertise, narrow perception of the scope of perception, and self-interest of public managers. In the policy process, the evaluation thus has much significance for the rationale of public policy processes in attempt to determine the effectiveness of policy outcomes (Rabie & Cloete, 2018: 294).

2.4 Public Policy Implementation

In the history of public policy, policy implementation has been critically viewed as one of the most influential policy steps that put policies into action. For the formation of policies, once the decision has been taken into consideration, normally the third step always precedes the policy implementation (Musoka, Mweemba & Katebe (2017: 4). The conception to understanding policy implementation in the literature is provided by several scholars. According to Meter and Horn (1974: 448), policy implementation is all actions taken by the public or private person with an aim to ensure that they are directed to the achievement of the

goals outlined from the policy. Pressman and Wildayvsky (1973) implementation means "to carry out, accomplish, fulfil, produce, and complete"

Moore (1995) further makes a very substantive point that policy implementation may not be only understood as it stands for operationalization alone; its position is also its value. In the meantime, policy implementation is different to program and project implementation. Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2002: 23) illustrate that it is "rarely a linear, coherent process" while programs and project implementation comprise the beginning and end, which is made up of timelines, targets and objectives, all clearly stated to reach all the targets.

Policy implementation is regarded as "the conversion of mainly physical and financial resources into concrete service-delivery outputs in the form of facilities and services, or into another concrete outputs aimed at achieving policy objectives" (Brynard, Cloete & De Coning, 2011: 137). It can be concluded that policy implementation generally thus means the execution stage, and provision of services to citizens by government. Moreover, it puts emphasis more on the strategic tasks such as legitimization, constituency building, resource accumulation, organisational design, and modification, mobilizing resources and actions, and lastly, progress (Brinkerhoff & Crosby, 2002: 25).

For Brynard (2007: 34), there are many different factors that influence the success of policy implementation. Historically, the focus was merely on the two approaches of policy implementation, top-down and bottom-up (Brynard, 2007: 34). In the literature, so far, there have been many developments regarding policy implementation. Currently, policy implementation is categorised into three main approaches (Pulzi & Treib, 2006: 90). According to Pulzi and Treib (2006: 90), the three approaches include top-down, bottom-up, and hybrid theory. The below section provides the theoretical understanding in this regard, before the main literature analysis begins. From the literature, implementation is acknowledged to being diverse, complex and broad (De Coning, Cloete & Burger, 2018: 205). De Coning, Cloete and Burger (2018: 205) state that "not only is implementation influenced by multiple actors, but it also operates at multiple levels, such as national, provincial, local, even international" depending on the kind of a policy implemented. Therefore, given the above analysis, the three approaches influence policy implementation. The section after the three theories will further provide literature analysis on the factors affecting the success of policy implementation, the 7C protocols.

2.5 Theories of Policy Implementation

Policy implementation research is influenced by many different factors. This section focuses on the three different theoretical approaches in the study of policy implementation. Therefore, this section aims to provide literature analysis in that regard. The section will then provide a rationale for the chosen theory underpinning the study.

2.5.1 Top-Down Theory

According to Miller (2006: 90), "top-down models put their emphasis on the ability of decision makers' to produce unequivocal policy objectives and control the implementation stage". Top-down theory also sees policy designers as the central role players and the attention they pay is that they focus only on matters that they believe can be resolved through the central level (Matland, 1995: 146). Anderson (2003: 195) also articulates that the top-down main focus is on the actions of the top-level officials through the factors that affect them on how the policy goals are going to be attained and the manner in which the policy was formulated. In the policy implementation, top-downers believe that they are the ones who are strong enough to generalize policy advice (Matland, 1995: 147). Treib and Pulzl (2006: 94) state that the key elements of top-down theory are that decisions need to be taken at a political level, and then translated into administrative execution. Also, central actors hold much ability to predict, strategies and recommends on issues concerning policy implementation.

Moving forward, within government mostly the top-down theory stresses its advice for government to set clear and consistent goals, to avoid unnecessary limits and the implementing agencies to systematically implement the policies with an understanding (Signe, 2017: 13). Therefore, one can conclude that the position of the top-down theory is to put the degree of trust to a central level that has power to enforce policy implementation. This further thus means that top-down occupies a central level in which what needs to be done only is said. However, in this regard, top-downers continue to have ambitions towards offering policy advice (Matland, 1995: 147).

2.5.2 The Bottom-Up Theory

In the literature, bottom-up is one of the well-known theories of public policy which were developed for the purposes of improving policy implementation. For Matland (1995: 146), the perspective of the bottom-up is that policy formulation takes place at a local level. The key elements of bottom-up are not limited but "includes street bureaucratic individuals to administrative networks, description or explanation, fusionist, participation, and decentralised problem solutions" (Treib & Pulzl, 2006: 94). According to Berman (1978) cited by Matland (1995: 148), policy implementation takes place in two levels. The two levels include macro and micro implementation. Therefore, at the macro level, the focus is for those centrally role players that set up the government programs, while the micro level focuses on the local issues such as local plans and programs implemented at the lower level.

Brynard, Cloete and De Coning (2011: 143) state that the development of the bottom-up theory in policy implementation research evolved because of a need to challenge the top-down theory. Policy implementation many years ago was well understood as one of the central responsibilities. However, due to the existence of bottom-up theories, top-down theories began to be challenged (De Coning, Cloete & Burger, 2018: 200). Bottom-up identified the weaknesses of top-down and came up with new suggestions towards improving policy implementation (De Coning, Cloete & Burger, 2018: 200). Sidiho and Sabran (2016: 267) argue that in policy implementation so much work has been done through the employment of bottom-up theory. The initial purpose of this theory in line with the main objective is to encourage local citizens and local authorities to take part in contributing towards policy implementation within communities (Isidiho & Sabran, 2016: 267).

Bottom-up theory believes that local actors are the only actors that can lead policy implementation into success. It argues that policy description and explanation thus take place into local levels. Therefore, local actors are more than strong within local levels if the policy is to be achieved.

2.5.3 Hybrid Theory

In the policy implementation research, hybrid theory is regarded as one of the three theories of analysing the implementation of policies. Hybrid theory was proposed by researchers such as Elmore (1985), Sabatier (1986), Goggin (1990) and Winter (1990). This developed in the search for a comprehensive approach, as other contributions were already made by scholars

such as Scharpf (1978), Mayntz (1977), Windhoff-Heritier (1980) and Ripley and Franklin (1982) (Irwani, 2015: 18; Pulzl & Treib, 2006: 95). Hybrid theory views policy implementation as what takes place because of a wide range of stakeholders through their interaction between different levels (Cerna, 2013: 19).

In the history of public policy, more in particular implementation, the purpose of the development of hybrid theory was to try and combine both elements of theories top-down and bottom-up, with a view to avoid the implications caused by the use of a single dimensional approach (Irwani, 2015: 18; Stachowiak *et al*. 2016: 23; Pulzl & Treib, 2006: 95). The integration of both elements of the two theories assisted in eliminating the weaknesses of the two theories and by combining them created an opportunity for the strengths of both theories to meaningfully contribute for equal influence on policy implementation (Joja, 2016: 17).

The combination of both theories was recognized by several scholars; this was due to belief that will enable numerous actors across all levels to equally participate in the processes of policy implementation (Joja, 2017: 17). Cerna (2013: 19) also accords that both central policy makers and local actors are equally important to policy implementation. Therefore, for the interest of the study, the use of hybrid theory provided an opportunity to obtain the theoretical background that to achieve the implementation of policies all stakeholders concerned are highly recommended to be involved.

This study focused on the use of multi-stakeholder partnerships to explore the extent to which policy implementation is achieved. The hybrid theory was used as an approach that encourages collaborations to achieve identified goals. Despite its understanding of the importance of central actors, at the same time it appreciates and values the need of having all lower-level actors on board (Hottenstein, 2017: 29). In conclusion, from this approach it is clear that in the success of policy implementation the combination both elements of theories are key. The combination of both theories helps to close the gap that exist when one theory is employed.

In this study the use of hybrid theory has provided an important theoretical meaning for the study. The study was able to put into context its rationale that to achieve policy implementation, multi-stakeholder participation is key. It also thus provides the study with insight to consider the need for multi-stakeholder participation if the implementation of policies is to be achieved. The below chapter continues to discuss the 7C protocols affecting policy implementation.

2.6 7C Protocol Factors Affecting Policy Implementation

This section presents the critical analysis of factors affecting the success of policy implementation. According to De Coning, Cloete and Burger (2018: 206), the factors were interchangeable as 5C protocols in policy implementation research, and now broadened into new additional variables, communication, and coordination. The purpose of the section is to briefly give an analytical view of their influential position towards policy implementation.

Brynard, Cloete and De Coning (2011: 147) argued that in its content, policy should always reflect its mission, vision and goals which determine the future of achieving the state affairs. Policy also needs to clearly state programs, projects, and activities in which the policy aims to achieve its goals. It "is a function of the level and type of coercion by the government" (Brynard, 2000: 180).

In terms of context, policy implementation to succeed there is a great need for strategic planning to what extent is going to be implemented, looking at the strategies that are in place to make sure that the policy successes, and whether the policy informs its desired outcomes (Brynard *et al*., 2011: 147). Brynard *et al*. (2011: 147) further state that context needs to inform the understanding of social, economic, political, and legal realities.

Capacity, Brynard *et al*. (2011: 148) argued that it concerns all those general systems of thinking as the structural, functional and cultural ability to implement government policy objectives. For Brynard (2005: 660), capacity can also be understood as the abilities of government in delivering the services that are aimed at increasing the quality of life for people.

Clients and Coalition informs that in the success of policy implementation, government needs to be collaborated with different outside stakeholders playing an important role for analysing policies of government because it concerns them (Brynard *et al*., 2011: 148). Brynard (2005: 661) referred to Elmore (1979: 610), who acknowledged that "implementation is affected by the formation of local coalitions".

Communication today has become one of the key factors affecting the success of implementation. According to De Coning, Cloete and Burger (2018: 212) communication of

policy can be regarded as what contributes transparency and good governance to which several stakeholders are engaged. Also, coordination thus means the process of interaction between various stakeholders of policy implementation (Leite & Buainain, 2013: 137).

Based on the above, one can conclude that the 7C protocols are influential to policy implementation, especially to which the policy requires for it to succeed. Policies thus require proper content, context, capacity, clients and coalition, communication, and coordination if are to succeed implementation.

2.7 Multi Stakeholder Participation in Policy Implementation

According to Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2002: 38), policy implementation requires active intervention from policy managers and their organisations. However, this is not limited and may include other partners such as public agencies, NGOs, community groups, business associates and policy managers with required capabilities (Brinkerhoff & Crosby, 2002: 38). Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2002: 85) state that worldwide, there are several recognitions that the socioeconomic problems can not only be solved by government alone, but instead different critical partners are important and required. In this regard, the role of NGOs and the private sector is essential. Such partnerships understandably can be pointed out as cross-sectoral interactions that their purpose is to achieve certain objectives using different strengths in a combined manner (Brinkerhoff & Crosby, 2002: 86). Partnerships take place in numerous forms, and as a result it is not possible to have a single definition of them (Lipsky, Gribble, Cahaelen & Sharma, 2016: 284).

Khan and Khandaker (2016: 540) state that for policy success implementation is one of the significant steps in the policy making process. This is viewed by means of executing laws, in which different stakeholders work together towards achieving the intended outcomes. Implementation as a process, thus need to involve several stakeholders and organisations to achieve the specified goals (Khan & Khandaker, 2016: 540). According to Xiaodong, Xiaoping and Feng (2019: 2), the purpose of multi-stakeholder participation is to ensure that social interests are strengthened and protected. Lipsky, Gribble, Cahaelen and Sharma (2016: 288) argue that several factors can affect the success of partnerships in policy implementation. These can be factors like "perceptions of partners towards power tolerance, passionate to adopt to

partnership needs, trust, confidence, senior management support, ability to meet performance expectations, clear goals, partner compatibility, and conflict (Lipsky, *et al*., 2016: 288).

One can close by saying that multi-stakeholder participation is highly important to achieving policy implementation. However, that being said, Xiaodong, Xiaoping and Feng (2019: 2) then illustrate the significance of public policy to ensure that several activities are carried out in an attempt to impress public and social interests. "Partnerships between policy makers and multi-stakeholder partnerships are necessary for strategy implementation to address complex challenges that require a multi-stakeholder approach towards a certain goal" (Lipsky *et al*., 2016: 284).

2.7.1 The Role of Multi-Stakeholder Participation in Policy Implementation

From the above, it is clear that multi-stakeholder participation varies, with many different partners getting involved into policy implementation, whether internally or externally. The study also argued that multi-stakeholder participation is essential and critical. In this regard, the purpose of this section is to reflect on the critical role played by multi-stakeholder participation in policy implementation. Since multi-stakeholder participation takes place in a form of different stakeholders getting involved in policy implementation, Anderson (2003: 206) outlines the role of these multi-stakeholder partners in policy implementation. The stakeholder partners are referred to as actors, and these include, internally, the implementing agencies, and externally, stakeholders such as civil society organisations made up of pressure groups, community organisations, media, and political parties. According to Anderson (2003: 196), the role of implementing agencies is not limited to "collecting tax, operating postal systems, prisons, and schools, regulating banks, utility companies, and agricultural productions and performing many other tasks of modern governments. Externally, Anderson (2003: 201) states, pressure groups ensure that their interests during policy implementation is protected. According to Popoola (2016: 50), the role of civil society organisations thus to advance and advocate for their interests to be secured.

2.7.2 The Benefits of Multi-Stakeholder Participation

Multi-stakeholder participation importance and roles have widely been acknowledged from the literature. The use of multi-stakeholder participatory processes to policy implementation is of

benefit to all. To complement this view, Sarmiento-Barletti and Larson (2019: 8) points out some of the benefits of multi-stakeholder participation. According to Sarmiento-Barletti and Larson (2019: 8), the benefits of multi-stakeholder participation include "alternative to state-driven processes for input, conflict, and collaboration, creating opportunities for different groups to learn about each other, communicating, and building relationships and trust". The benefits further include "power shift to local or previously marginalised groups, bringing more diverse viewpoints and skills that produces synergies, enhance capacities to innovate, foster multi-sectoral collaboration, and allow access to spaces of discussion with more powerful underrepresented actors" (Sarmiento-Barletti & Larson, 2019: 8). As a result, one would agree that if the implementation of policies is to be achieved, the role of multi-stakeholder participation is key. It thus requires all stakeholders to take seriously their role in multi-stakeholder participation.

2.7 Summary

This chapter has discussed the relevant literature of public policy for the benefit of the study. The chapter firstly discussed the meaning of public policy and followed by public policy making process and policy implementation. It then moved to discuss in detail the theories of policy implementation and thoroughly analysed and rationalized the choices made in the study. The chapter went on to discuss multi-stakeholder participation in a broader context, giving the relevant aspects to policy implementation. The next chapter will focus on discussing the SDGs and their localisation and demonstrate the extent to which are implemented using multi-stakeholder partnerships.

CHAPTER 3
LOCALISING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), unpacking both pre- and post-2015 implementation periods. The chapter starts by describing the transition from MDGs towards the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It then moves on to analyse and discuss the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, and the rationale for the localisation of SDGs through a multi-stakeholder approach. The chapter gives the analysis of legal and policy frameworks underpinning the implementation of SDGs, and two other countries implementing the localisation of SDGs. It then closes by providing an analysis of the challenges facing the localisation of SDGs within the local sphere.

3.2 Transition from MDGs to Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals and their Agenda 2030 were adopted by 193 countries to continue from where the Millennium Development Goals ended due to their deadline, which was in 2015 worldwide (Patole, 2017: 01). The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were referred to firstly as universal or global goals to eradicate extreme poverty, hunger, achieving universal primary education, ensuring a sustainable environment, and developing partnerships for global development (Slack, 2015). The goals were the initiative of the United Nations Declaration, which was signed by 189 countries, including 147 heads of state and government in September 2000, and further agreement by member states from the 2005 World Summit. From these gatherings, a total number of eight MDGs were identified and served as a minimum commitment to the global development agenda. During the initiation of the goals, part of the strategic approach that was adopted by the member states was to set up the minimum standards that must be met by participating countries towards meeting development expectations. Since the MDGs were implemented by countries across the nations, many developments and achievements have taken place according to statistical indicators from the UN reports. For the goals, the UN gives update on the world progress for their implementation.

When the MDGs were about to reach their deadline in 2015, Griggs (2013: 306) stated that the United Nations held a summit in Brazil in 2012. This summit was organized to plan for the

expansion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the new agenda that would be integrated and succeed the MDGs after 2015 (Griggs, 2013: 30). Although the summit was set in 2012, according to Shewelo (2011) and Shittu (2015) cited in (Anuolawapo & Edwin, 2018: 83), initially the MDGs were meant to bring a positive standard of living to people and promote sustainable development in all countries. Therefore, as from the summit of 2012, in 2015 there was another summit which took place on the 25th of September 2015. At this summit, the 193 countries decided to integrate the MDGs into the so-called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to increase effort and energy in coming up with new ideas that would be of great importance in ending poverty globally (Parr, 2012: 02).

Moving forward, on 01 January 2016, the global goals were officially opened to global citizens for their implementation (Ngubane, 2017: 3). These goals were expanded from eight to 17 goals and 169 targets. According to Gumede (2015: 56), South Africa, as one of the 193 countries that adopted the MDGs in the first Millennium Declaration Summit in 2000, had already initiated its own goals that were aimed to be achieved in 2004. The goals included timelines were put in place in addressing issues such as reducing poverty and unemployment by half; offering skills that are required by the economy; dealing with the reduction of diseases such as tuberculosis, diabetes, malnutrition and maternal deaths, and HIV&AIDS prevention (Gumede, 2015: 56). This continued to serve to confirm that South Africa was one of the countries that have since committed to implementing the UN goals, and through its participation, many targets were met. However, some of the goals struggled to meet their targets due to time limits caused by the 2015 Agenda timeline, which was around the corner.

Ngubane (2017: 4) outlines Sustainable Development Goals in comparison to Millennium Development Goals as they build on the successes of the MDGs, emphasising economic prosperity while protecting the planet, addressing root causes of poverty and the universal need for development. The post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals focus and strategy of implementation towards Agenda 2030 are quite different from that of the past. Koehler (2016: 151) states that the commitment of the new goals, SDGs, is now more focused on transformation, human rights, and making sure that implementation is efficiently taking place across all the UN member states. For achieving these goals there is a need for a clear global policy statement of intent. Therefore, the below section focuses on the analytical review of Agenda 2030, to gain insight into what it stands for and to what extent it provides a vision for better world.

3.3 The Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Goals focus is more on the achievement of the global sustainable development agenda. Their achievement as goals is meaningless and non-existent without the realization of Agenda 2030. In the literature, the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development is explained by several scholars and institutions. According to the United Nations (2015: 5) the Agenda 2030 is "a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity". The plan aims to "strengthen universal peace in larger freedom" (United Nations, 2015: 5).

The new Agenda 2030 consists of different 17 goals, followed by 169 targets and almost 300 indicators (Abebe, 2016: 03). According to Guterres (2018), the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his closing address remarks at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York, the "Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals are a recognition of the need to address the gaps in the extraordinary expansion of the global economy over the last decades" (United Nations, 2018: 03). In addition to this, Agenda 2030 in all its efforts strive to ensure for a sustainable better world, promoting human rights equitably and inclusively; working together with different stakeholders to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth; social development and protecting the environment for the benefit of all in the world. This includes women, children, youth, and future generations to come (United Nations Development Group, 2018: 01).

Agenda 2030 is also informed by various international legislative frameworks and principles. These include the United Nations Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Human Rights treatises, Millennium Declaration, and World Summit Outcome Document. The fundamental purpose of the agenda is to emphasise "that the sustainable development agenda of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership now and in the future is indivisible" (Manamela, 2017: 2). According to Radebe (2018: 1), the Agenda 2030 outlines what he referred to as the "masterplan" which was introduced by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, to ensure issues of inequality, sustainability, and prosperity are prioritized.

For the vision 2030 on Sustainable Development, the aspirations of the new development goals are significant. According to the United Nations (2015: 7) in its SDGs founding document, these are.

In these Goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformation vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear and violence. A world with universal literacy. A with equitable and universal access to quality education at all levels, to health care and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene; and where food is sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and where there is universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

We envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity, and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity. A world which invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant, open and social inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

We envisage a world in which every country enjoys sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all. A world in which consumption and production patterns and use of all natural resources from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas are sustainable. One in which democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger one in which development and the application of technology are climate sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient. One in which humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected" (United Nations, 2015: 7).

Moving forward, in achieving this Agenda 2030 many partnerships and stakeholders need to be involved. From the SDGs this is emphasised by goal 17: to achieve the vision 2030, "partnerships for the goals" should take place (United Nations, 2016). Goal 17 instrumental in achieving the overall goals through setting conditions that favor the implementation of other goals (Chakrabarti *et al*., 2018: 87). The Agenda 2030 as already outlined, comprises 17 global goals, followed by 169 targets and approximately 300 indicators. The various goals are presented in the below table.

Table 1: The full context of Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
Goal 14	Converse and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial development ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and half and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Source: United Nations (2016)

Equally important for the implementation of the SDGs, the 193-member states have taken a new different approach moving forward. They have now moved away from the top-down approach to focus more on the multi-stakeholder partnership approach. This approach is the one that informs this study. This is evidenced by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP and UN-Habitat (2016: 07), where it says that "the achievement of the SDGs depends, more than ever, on the ability of local and regional governments to promote integrated, inclusive and sustainable territorial development". Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) (2019) reports that during the SDG symposium held in Durban it was stressed that the implementation of the SDGs cannot be achieved by local government alone, but all stakeholders must take part. In addition to this, Peer (2019), addressing the delegates at this gathering, asked all stakeholders starting from the private sector, civil society, and others, to ensure that all those that are marginalized to have their voices heard in participating towards

achieving the Agenda 2030. Brand (2019), giving input on the SDG17 during the symposium, shared that the SDG17 is a very active process of inventing new ways and ideas on how to work together and that what it requires is for all stakeholders to involve themselves in striving towards achieving the Agenda 2030.

3.4 The Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals

The post-2015 development goals, the SDGs, focus more on the localisation, mainstreaming, and domestication processes which are now at the centre for achieving the Agenda 2030. According to Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP and UN-Habitat (2016: 06), localisation is the "process of taking into account sub-national contexts when setting goals and targets in determining the implementation of SDGs. This includes the utilization of indicators in measuring and mainstreaming the progress made by the SDGs. Ngubane (2017: 13) believes that localising SDGs is all about advocacy and raising awareness of sustainable development goals to the localities. This requires numerous stakeholders to be involved, which may include political leadership and senior management (Ngubane, 2017: 13). As many more scholars argue, localisation means decentralising implementation to the ownership of localities, and in the case of SDGs, the idea is to involve all stakeholders to participate to achieve the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Localisation can also be understood as "something that is made locally in character by confining it in a particular area" (Patole, 2018: 02).

Moving forward, this gives the idea of localisation as a process that focuses on the implementation of SDGs on the local level. Its fundamental purpose is to see the SDGs succeeding through the involvement of local stakeholders. In support of this, the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) (2016: 09) argues that all stakeholders such as national, local governments, civil society, private sector, academia, and individual citizens, should play a role in ensuring understanding and ownership of the goals, by being involved in the implementation and monitoring of their processes. Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) (2019) further explains localisation as a process in which the global goals are integrated into all existing plans towards contributing to the achievement of Agenda 2030.

Reddy (2016: 06) outlines that localisation also should involve various mechanisms, tools, innovations, platforms, and processes that are substantive to change the agenda for

development towards a better outcome at the local level. Further, he adds that the localisation of the SDGs should be informed by sub-national government actors who are in the local and regional government levels (Reddy, 2016: 06). This provides an understanding that it is at the local level that local authorities have a huge role to play in localising the SDGs.

Admittedly, the local government is at best making sure that the needs of local people are acknowledged and delivered. It is also an objective of the United Nations that the SDGs are achieved within local government using delivering services if the sphere is to take ownership (Slack, 2015: 03). Reddy (2016: 07) states that "local stakeholders are critical to the process of the promotion of key values of culture (notably, heritage, creativity, and diversity) and the transmission of knowledge as drivers and enablers of sustainable and inclusive development". After conceptualizing the term "localisation" in this section, the discussion shifts to exploring the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs.

3.4.1 The Importance of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Localising the SDGs

Globally, the term 'multi-stakeholder partnerships originates from the 1992 Earth Summit of Agenda 21 on Sustainable Development, which took place for global partnerships. At this summit, multi-stakeholder partnership approach was outlined and suggested as useful between the public, private and community sectors to support the implementation of SDGs (World Public Sector Report, 2018: 77). The second summit held talked about the need and importance of reconfiguring multi-stakeholder partnerships, is the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development took place in Johannesburg. Again, during one of the preparatory meetings for possible expansion of the Agenda held in 2012, leaders of the member states discussed the continuing significance of partnerships in playing a role in the implementation of sustainable development (International Civil Society Centre, 2014: 07).

The consideration of the initiation of multi-stakeholder partnerships by global leaders showed the intention to enhance strong partnerships through networking channels and practice for hybrid governance, which encouraged numerous stakeholders to take part in the achievement of the Agenda 2030 (Backstrand, 2006: 290). Global Knowledge Partnership (2003: 10) outlined multi-stakeholder partnerships as being about helping the achievement of the then Agenda 21 and MDGs, through providing sustainable strategies and plans to reduce poverty within the society. This also included the use of a multi-stakeholder approach to work with

various key stakeholders such as governments, local authorities, religious people, non-state actors, and even international partners.

According to Chakrabarti *et al.* (2018: 13) multi-stakeholder partnerships helps for the enhancement of global partnerships that assist in mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources to support the SDGs across the world, but more so the developing countries. To understand the importance of working together, the World Public Sector Report (2018: 77) highlighted that many countries so far have started practicing multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs. The role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the implementation of SDGs, World Public Sector Report (2018: 77) further highlights that it was strongly emphasised and put forward from the Paris Agreement on Climate, which took place in 2015. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are also a subject to the leadership of the government, private sector and civil society working together towards achieving the agenda 2030 (World Public Sector Report, 2018: 77).

Brouwer *et al.* (2016: 12) further explain multi-stakeholder partnerships that are a form of governance collaborated with different people to achieve common objectives. Multi-stakeholder partnerships thus enable stakeholders to learn from each other in a form of interacting and exchanging lessons and ideas to find solutions to identified problems (Brouwer *et al.*, 2016: 12). On the other hand, the United Nations High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) (2018: 36) argued that multi-stakeholder partnerships are differentiated into broad categories. The categories consist of the public sector (the government), private sector (business) and civil society. Brouwer *et al.* (2016: 03) add that these partnerships also include the involvement of science represented through academia. For the success of localising the SDGs a variety of other stakeholders are required to come on board to participate. The other stakeholders may include media and trade unions (Prorok *et al.*, 2019: 20). Furthermore, Brouwer *et al.* (2016: 12) this can also be in a form of coalitions, alliances, platforms, participatory governance, stakeholder engagements and interactions taking place during policy-making processes.

However, Brockmyer and Fox (2015: 14) argued that multi-stakeholder partnerships are different in terms of their nature. There are partnerships between government and private sector namely public-private partnerships, and partnerships between government and civil society (Brockmyer and Fox, 2015: 14). The below section focuses on the role of local government in localising the SDGs through these partnerships.

3.5 The Role of Local Government in Localising the SDGs through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

There has been a large and growing body of literature on local government or sub-national government and its role in implementing the SDGs. The concept of sub-national government has been conceptualized by various scholars and institutions with the common understanding that it refers to the transfer of power to local areas (Oyedele, Osezua, Abdulkareem & Ishola, 2017: 143). This is while meeting the service needs of its local constituents (Mthethwa & Jili, 2016: 103), and more recently, striving towards fighting against global challenges identified in the SDGs (Madumo, 2016: 84). Reddy (2016: 04) highlights that there has been a growing awareness, recognition, and acknowledgment of the sphere of local government that is at best to facilitate and organize for local development stakeholders towards promoting an inclusive and sustainable development within local areas.

According to the World Public Sector Report (2018: 78), poor involvement of multi-stakeholder partnerships has been an issue, in the achievement of global goals. It is further highlighted that for achieving sustainable development there is a need to bring together various stakeholders (Steiner, 2017). Here, multi-stakeholder partnerships are seen as critical in the achievement of these goals, as is highlighted in SDGs goal 17 which calls for sub-national governments to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs (UN, 2019). According to the United Nations (2019: 03), "over the recent years, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnership has been increasingly recognized by UN member states as well as by different stakeholders including leading institutions in international development". Moving forward, the SDG Centre for Africa (2019: 05) in its latest report found that in Africa, states that 56% of countries have already multi-stakeholder partnership mechanisms in place for implementing the SDGs.

The UCLG (2019: 20) argues that it is the local level that has to come up with numerous policies to address various challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development. According to the UCLG (2019: 10), there is a need to strengthen discussions about multi-stakeholder partnerships, multi-level governance and multi-lateral system towards working together in achieving the localisation of the SDGs. This emphasises an earlier argument by Bregeon, Kasland, Kvedaraite and Madslien (2015: 30) in their study, which concluded that

the SDGs can only be successfully implemented if the Agenda 2030 will be implemented both at the national and local level.

3.6 The Relevant Legal and Policy Frameworks in the Localisation of the SDGs

In South Africa, the localisation of SDGs is underpinned by a variety of pieces of legislation and policy frameworks. Therefore, this section of the chapter focuses on reviewing and analysing these relevant frameworks. The purpose of the section is to give an analysis for the understanding of the aims, objectives, and provisions these frameworks have to the South African localisation of SDGs.

3.6.1 South African Constitution, 1996

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 Chapter 2 gives provisions for the fundamental Bill of Rights for all the people of South Africa. The Constitution stipulates that the Bill of Rights a cornerstone of democracy in South Africa. The Constitution section 7(1) stipulates the rights of all people and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality, and freedom. Based on the stipulated rights from the Constitution, the government is obliged for ensuring that all of them are democratically practiced within the state.

According to the South African Government (2019: 06), although the country has made significant progress on its developmental journey, the achievement of the SDGs is in the best interests of the state in pursuing the principles of the Constitution for having a united, non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous nation with peace. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 mandates local governments to be democratic and accountable to local communities by ensuring that the provision of services does sustainable take place. It should provide for social and economic development and encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in matters of local government. Through the above mandates, the Constitution does place very well the local government sphere as the custodian of SDGs, by ensuring that all their aspirations are achieved (South African Government, 2019: 28).

Therefore, given this analysis of the Constitution, it is clear that the local government is at the centre of leading a successful localisation of SDGs. According to the South African Constitution, 1996 section 151 (1) stipulates that the local government sphere consists of

municipalities that must be established within the whole territory of the country. In terms of section 155 (1) (a), (b) and (c) of the Constitution, these municipalities are categorized in terms of their different levels, which includes municipalities that are within the territory of cities, the Metropolitan and these fall under category A. While municipalities in rural areas fall under category B, referred to as local municipalities, at the same time municipalities that exist within the regional levels of local government are named district municipalities and belong to category C.

According to (South African Local Government Association, 2015: 16), the municipalities are not only mandated to provide the stipulated above mandates. However, these need to promote human rights, by reflecting the values of a country such as human dignity, equality, and freedom, and upholding the principles of the Constitution enshrined in the Constitution if the SDGs are to be achieved.

3.6.2 National Development Plan

The National Development Plan (NDP) is a South African policy plan envisioned for 2030 in solving the country's problems. The plan contains development aspirations and objectives for a better country. According to the South African Government (2019: 43), the initial purpose of the NDP was to contribute towards eliminating poverty and reduce inequality through different interventions such as job creation, enabling an environment for entrepreneurship to benefit all the people of South Africa. The NDP also proposed numerous strategies that can be used to unite South Africa towards having a common agenda, so can achieve prosperity and equity in South Africa (Fourie, Karuaihe, Mbanda, Mystris & Selebi, 2019: 8). According to Fourie *et al*. (2019: 8), the NDP in South Africa as a national context is necessary for that it aims to redress the injustices of the past created by apartheid. Haywood *et al*. (2018: 04) state, however, that "although the NDP pre-dates the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, there is much alignment in the NDP and the SDGs".

The NDP stresses the significance of ensuring that the environment enables a legal and policy framework all over the spheres of government including relevant stakeholders to work together for the delivery of its goals (Fourie *et al*. (2019: 8). Haywood *et al*. (2018: 04) state that the NDP thus provides the South African government with direction to achieving the SDGs towards Agenda 2030.

3.6.3 Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000

In the localisation agenda for SDGs, it is universally well understood that local governments are key for achieving the agenda 2030. The Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000 Chapter 5 Sections 23 and 25 of South Africa, require that all municipalities within local government strive towards a developmental orientation, have cooperation with other potential partners, and adopt the integrated development plans, the IDPs. The Municipal Systems Act, No. 32 of 2000 Section 25(1)(a) further specifically provides that (a) "each municipal council must, within a prescribed period after the starts of its elected term, adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of the municipality which links, integrates and coordinates plans and takes into account proposals for the development of the municipality; (b) aligns the resources and capacity of the municipality; (c) complies with the provisions of this chapter; and (e) is compatible with national and provincial development plans and planning requirements binding on the municipality in terms of legislation".

Therefore, the local government planning done by municipalities in South Africa is informed by nothing else but this legislation. All municipalities in South Africa have these plans, and because of the agenda 2030 and SDGs, they require commitment. The municipalities have already in their IDPs highlighted some of the aspirations of the SDGs as part of their first official acknowledgment of the localisation of the goals. Prorok *et al.* (2019: 51) articulate that although social awareness is paramount as the first step to localising the SDGs, municipalities must make sure that firstly they integrate all the goals into their local plans.

In localising agenda 2030 and the SDGs, municipalities do not necessarily need to adopt new strategies and plans, but because they have already existing plans, they need to integrate the aspirations of SDGs into those plans (Prorok *et al.*, 2019: 51). For example, Nkandla Local Municipality has already highlighted the aspirations of the SDGs to its IDP, although they still need to integrate the aspirations.

Nkandla Municipality IDP (2018- 32) acknowledges that the SDGs were formulated to end poverty, hunger, and disease, and to create gender equality and access to water services. However, almost all local government municipalities have highlighted SDGs in their existing

plans. UCLG (2017: 43) explained that even the province of KwaZulu-Natal government has aligned the SDGs to the strategic goals of the province.

3.6.4 Integrated Development Plan (IDP)

In the policy and legislative frameworks that relate to the localisation of SDGs, the Integrated Development Plan is one of the most critical and important planning frameworks that directs municipalities to where, when, and how they should deliver public services. The IDP contains numerous local government aspirations that municipalities are required to ensure their all achievement for a stipulated period. According to Ntuli (2011: 24), the IDP is a development plan for municipalities containing short-, medium-, and long-term objectives and a principal strategic management instrument that guides municipalities.

According to Harisson (2006: 186), this framework was introduced from the Local Government Transition Act and the second Amendment Act, in 1996. The IDP is normally prepared by local, district and metropolitan municipalities for five years aligned with the municipal council term of office (Harisson, 2006: 186). This major local government policy framework is critical, and important that the municipalities adhere to it, given all the broader development aspirations contained inside, for the benefit of people of South Africa.

In South Africa, the local government municipalities all have now included pieces of sections that articulate SDGs to their strategic plans the IDPs. This has been the main move towards the effort in localising the SDGs within the sphere. According to UCLG (2019: 02), in different regions local governments consisting of municipalities thus need to be treated as policymakers, catalysts for change, and for being a place where the best practice for the alignment of SDGs should take place, not only as implementers of the agenda 2030.

3.7 Localising Sustainable Development Goals in other Countries

This section of the chapter presents the analysis of the implementation of SDGs from two other countries, selected to form part of the study for comparative analysis. The purpose of the section is to explore the experiences of other countries contributing to the localisation of SDGs. This was intended to discover some insightful ways in which other countries implement the goals. The Ugandan and the Australian government were the selected countries as case studies.

The experiences of the two countries in the study were viewed as relevant and would boost the study for its comparative analytical view.

3.7.1 The Localisation of SDGs in Uganda

The government of Uganda from a global level is well known for its input about development agenda. After the extension of the global Agenda from 2015 to 2030, this government has continuously been active in participating in the common course. During the extension of the Agenda 2030, the country firstly had opportunity to have one of its leaders the president of the UN General Assembly at the time (Government of Uganda, 2016). In 2016, it was amongst the first countries to have participated in the Voluntary National Review to High-Level Political Forum at the UN (Republic of Uganda, 2016). Since then, the country has done much to implement the SDGs to meet Agenda 2030. According to Croese (2019), in 2018 the Republic of Uganda successfully started localising the SDGs and was the second leading country in Africa after South Africa.

In Uganda, the implementation of SDGs appears to be the civil society organisations that have been mainly at the forefront, to ensure that the global goals are realised within the country. This was indicated by the Uganda National NGO Forum (2018: 07), where the country's civil society organisations remain the first sector that has initiated the implementation of localising the SDGs process. As a result, this led to the embracing of the slogan that says, "leave no one behind", which has been the driving force to get the SDGs implemented towards meeting the agenda. Based on that effort was made by the NGO sector in the country, the government of Uganda then fully joined forces to participate in achieving Agenda 2030. Today in Uganda, the government has managed to come up with numerous development plans that have been developed and aligned to the aspirations of the SDGs (Republic of Uganda, 2017: 04). Brand (2019), addressing delegates at the Local Government SDG Symposium in Durban, also shared that the government of Uganda remains one of the first countries that has developed its 2015-2020 national development plan completely aligned to the SDGs. Also, in its alignment, 76% of the SDG targets were reflected in their national development plan.

Further, the government has embarked on a number of efforts to create structures that would effectively assist in coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the goals. This includes the established partnerships with numerous partners working towards Agenda

2030. Also, the country for its SDGs localisation process, aligned SDGs to its public sector, local government planning and with existing implementation frameworks (Republic of Uganda, 2016). Local governments were at the forefront of implementing the SDGs through addressing local challenges, defining priorities and solutions (United Nations Uganda, 2018: 13). In this country also the local sphere mobilises communities to actively participate in the processes of development (United Nations Uganda, 2018: 13). Other contributions made by the local government of Uganda is that the sphere also normally prepares data reporting structures for the SDGs (United Nations Uganda, 2013: 13).

The Republic of Uganda (2016) continuously highlighted that there is another great effort being made from the side of political commitment where the manifesto of the governing party embraces the principles of Agenda 2030. While government ensures that the SDGs are localised, numerous programs and plans are in place to strengthen the localisation effort of the goals. For the effective and efficient of implementation of these programs, the country has its monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. These include reporting mechanisms such as the national standard indicator framework which helps to track the progress of the implementation of SDGs (Republic of Uganda, 2016).

Inclosing, even though the country does much for implementing the goals, like other countries it faces challenges. Nakayima (2016) articulated that the success of the implementation of SDGs will only depend on the functionality and capacity of institutions that implement and coordinate the SDGs at the national level. This also requires more various coalitions with stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and academia being critical on the participation to implement the goals (Nakayima, 2016).

3.7.2 The Localisation of SDGs in Australia

According to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2019), since the inception of Agenda 2030, the Australian government has been one of the main member states that led the participation of implementing the localisation of SDGs. This has been through creating various activities influencing local and national levels across the country, to embark on implementing the goals. United Nations (2019: 11) in Australia, the SDGs have been primarily incorporated into sector-specific, relevant policies and plans. With the country, the implementation of the goals is done both at the national and international levels (United Nations, 2019: 11). In

Australia, also the youth is much more involved in participating in SDGs. To complement this view, the Australian Government (2018: 08) states that within the country, young people currently lead many initiatives and mobilise other young people to participate in the implementation of the SDGs at their homes and global level.

In the country, the implementation of the goals is overseen by an interdepartmental committee, which consists of multiple senior public officials and government agencies (United Nations, 2019: 11). This committee is chaired by the prime minister of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Parliament of Australia. Also, the private sector has come on board to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. Today, within the country the business sector given its understanding of the imperatives of the goals is very responsible for its business practices (Australian Government, 2018: 08). Across the country, SDGs have been specified their responsibilities of implementation according to relevant ministries (United Nations, 2019: 11), while continuously there has been a positive change in implementing the goals. The Australian government through its parliament has also initiated an inquiry into the SDG implementation to explore the country's possibilities towards achieving the SDGs. This was also intended to assess whether policies, programs and plans in place are well-positioned (United Nations, 2019: 12). The kind of an inquiry was well welcomed, and different stakeholders have participated in a form of submitting proposals across all sectors (United Nations, 2019: 12).

According to world development performance, the Australian government also was ranked as one of the most advanced performing countries towards achieving the SDGs (Thwaites and Kestiu, 2018). Thwaites and Kestiu (2018) further note the country in the SDG global index once was ranked number 37 worldwide. In 2019, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network named the country number 38 out of 162 (Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2019: 96). This year (2020), there has been a reported push back on the country's performance. This emanated from the recent Sustainable Development Report, which ranked the country with number 37 out of 166 UN member states. According to Michael (2020), the leading reasons for such a performance are related to poor performance in the alleviation of hunger, affordable and clean energy, responsible consumption, and production, and lastly, climate action.

However, like many member states, the Australian local government through its authorities has also embarked on implementing the SDGs by incorporating them into its planning, implementation, and evaluation (United Nations, 2019: 12). Therefore, based on the above two countries performance on implementing the SDGs, one can conclude that the two countries have initiated many different efforts towards implementing the SDGs. It further appears that the two countries also take seriously their commitment in implementing the goals towards Agenda 2030.

3.8 The Challenges of Localising the Sustainable Development Goals

The implementation of the SDGs by member states of the United Nations has provided opportunities as well as challenges (Jaiyesimi, 2016: 13). In the effort of implementing the goals, many countries have come up with different programs and projects aimed at addressing challenges the world is encompassed with. However, despite such effort demonstrated at various levels to improve commitment and coordination, the challenges facing the implementation of SDGs remain (Dayal, 2018: 13). Therefore, the purpose of this section is to critically discuss some of the major challenges facing the localisation of SDGs.

3.8.1 Local Capacity

For a successful implementation of SDGs capacity is critical and requires more attention by governments, particularly at the local levels. According to the United Nations (2018: 40) in its World Public Sector Report, the capacity challenge to the implementation of SDGs relates to issues such as the shortage of public budget, lack of access to financing, shortage of technical staff with technical expertise and lack of data available for the reporting of SDGs. This was also supported by Patole (2018:17), who also concurred that many sub-national governments have limited capacity in terms of finances and human resources to implement the SDGs. While capacity remains a threat in the achievement of SDGs, is important to be strengthened to ensure a successful implementation of the SDGs (Jaiyesimi, 2016: 16). United Cities and Local Governments (2018: 10) notes that in local government the most critical aspect regarding capacity are public servants that lack the skills to contribute to minimising the challenges of local capacity.

3.8.2 Effective Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

The United Nations (2018: 24) states that the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of SDGs provide benefits for the possible success of all SDGs. The utilisation of these systems is encompassed by a variety of challenges. In the implementation of SDGs monitoring and evaluation systems are used for assessing progress made, checking performance and discovering problems so that measures of correction can be put in place (United Nations, 2018: 24). Despite the above, municipalities at different local governments it is unfortunate that they do not have all these M&E systems in place, particularly the rural ones. Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis (2018: 16) explained that the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs require certain key aspects, such as clear indicators, data collection and capacity analysis, the use of new technologies, and data sources. Further, local governments need to pay serious attention to making sure that the M&E measures are put in place (Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis, 2018: 16).

3.8.3 Local Support

Ngubane (2017: 16) indicates that different potential stakeholders need to be partnered for the localisation of SDGs at local levels. This view was supported by Prorok *et al.* (2019: 20), who also concurred that different partners need to be incorporated to have the successful achievement of the goals. Despite this call by both scholars, it is unfortunate that most of the local governments still do not have sustainable partnerships. This is supported by Bowen *et al*. (2017: 91), that in the implementation of SDGs, the collective participation of multiple stakeholders is still a challenge and for that reason, it poses various threats and problems about sustainable development. Therefore, working towards avoiding such problems, local governments need to realise the importance of these partnerships soon. The partnerships must be understood as means of collectively contributing to a sustainable development that would be guided by employing various multi-stakeholder partners to create initiatives such as voluntarism, international organisations, groups that exist in the society, and other stakeholder partnerships (Stibbe, 2018: 08).

3.8.4 Communication and Outreaching

Risse (2017: 17) identifies communication and outreach for SDGs in local governments as one of the major challenges facing almost many countries implementing the SDGs. According to

(Risse, 2017) states that communicating and reaching out to communities about SDGs remains problematic because few people are familiar with the UN system, which then makes them not understand the SDGs and the opportunities to learn anything about them (Risse, 2017).

3.9 Summary

This chapter has provided the background context of SDGs by looking broadly at what they mean, and what constitutes their existence as global goals. By doing so, the chapter began its literature discussion by providing an analysis of the transition from MDGs to the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It then moved to analyse and discuss Agenda 2030, and the localisation of SDGs through a multi-stakeholder approach. The chapter gave an analysis of legal and policy frameworks underpinning the implementation of SDGs and analysed two other countries implementing the SDGs. It then closed by providing an analysis of the challenges facing the localisation of SDGs within the local sphere. The next chapter will present the research methodology and research design of the study.

CHAPTER 4
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

4.1 Introduction

The previous chapter presented the relevant literature on localising the SDGs. In this chapter, the focus is on the methodological approach that the researcher used for the study. In research, research methodology is understood by means of considering systematic ways in which the research problems are solved, and it is different to research methods (Kothari, 2004: 08; Ugwuowo, 2016: 04). The purpose of research methodology is not to give solutions to research problems, but instead to offer theoretical understanding underpinning the selection of suitable methods for a study (Ugwuowo, 2016: 04). On the other hand, Creswell (2009: 15) explains that research methods comprise forms of data collection, analysis, and interpretation that the researchers propose for their studies. The purpose of this chapter is to show what approach, paradigm, techniques, and methods were used in the study.

4.2 Research Paradigm

In this study, the research was informed by the interpretivism paradigm. According to Bhattacherjee (2012: 103), an interpretivism paradigm is the assumption generated for social reality that is not singular or objective, but rather focuses on human experiences and social contexts. Interpretivism development reacts to positivism paradigm with beliefs that humans are different, and as a result impossible to be studied in the same way under the natural sciences (Plooy-Cilliers, 2014: 27). According to Shah and Al-Bargi (2013: 256), interpretivism is referred to as constructivist, naturalist, humanistic as well as anti-positivist; it emerged against positivism to help understand the interpretation of human and social reality. Plooy-Cilliers (2014: 27) further mentions that this paradigm is influenced by changes brought about by human objects and environment. The interpretivism paradigm was chosen to underpin the study for philosophical reasons, to understand the way small municipalities participate for localising the SDGs working with numerous stakeholders.

In its fundamental sense, "the main aim of a researcher in the interpretivist paradigm is to gain a deeper and more empathic understanding of aspects of social life and human behaviour" (Davis & Bezuidenhout, 2014: 65). In this study the purpose of using interpretivism as a

paradigm was because the study did not want to limit the participants on their experiences about localising the SDGs. The study wanted the participants to share all the relevant information that they may deemed necessary for the study.

Creswell (2009: 8) illustrates that for interpretivism, the researcher seeks to understand the manner in which people live and work. Therefore, through the paradigm the researcher was able to gain insight into the thoughts and experiences of people on how small municipalities localise the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnership approach. Also, through the paradigm, the research relies on the participants' views rather than narrow meanings of ideas (Creswell, 2009: 8). As a result, the study was able to discover challenges from participants that faced small municipalities when localising the goals. For the interpretivism point of view, Creswell (2009: 8) further mentioned that the main purpose of the researcher is to make sense of experiences that the participants hold about the world. Therefore, in this study, the use of such a paradigm was to find participants' views and experiences about localising SDGs through a multi-stakeholder partnership approach, and to discover challenges that small municipalities are faced with. Lastly, it is to hear the suggestions, proposals, and recommended ways in which the efforts towards localising the SDGs in small municipalities can be strengthened towards achieving Agenda 2030.

4.3 Research Methodology

In this study, to answer research questions, attention was paid to a research methodological approach that was appropriate for the study. In the schools of social sciences, traditionally, qualitative, and quantitative research methodologies have been used for the determination of the research approach. Therefore, different scholars define qualitative and quantitative research differently. According to Fox and Bayat (2013: 7) qualitative research as scientifically designed to explain events, people and matters concerned with them. Fox and Bayat (2013: 7) further make a clear distinction that qualitative research does not depend on numeric data. Kothari (2004: 5), concurs that qualitative research is only concerned with the assessment of subjective, attitudes, opinions, and behaviour to obtain the information.

Contrasting with the above views about qualitative studies, Johnson and Christensen (2014) state that quantitative research relies on the collection of quantitative data that is numerical in

nature. The theoretical root of quantitative research is also underpinned by testing hypothesis and theory rather than exploring scientific knowledge (Johnson & Christensen, 2014). Qualitative research is more concerned with the utilisation of case studies which form the basis of deep exploration for programs, events, and activities (Myeni, 2014: 5). Fox and Bayat (2013: 7) endorsed the statement about qualitative studies, that the most common aspects of quantitative discipline are statistics to explain and process data. In qualitative research, the main objective is to understand, explore or describe the person's behaviour, themes in behaviours, attitudes or trends or relations between the actions of people towards issues (Davis, 2014: 14). Jupp (2006:248) at the same time pointed out that qualitative research investigates more aspects that are associated or concerned with social life against quantitative measurements.

Qualitative research normally uses various methods of research, but only those that focus on the interpretation of social issues and processes (Jupp, 2006: 149). Moreover, in research, qualitative researchers thus have much interest in understanding of meanings of to how people feel about their lives, and experiences of the world (Atieno, 2009). Unlike in qualitative studies, for quantitative research "the researcher tests or verifies a theory by examining hypotheses or questions derived from it" (Creswell, 2009: 55). Therefore, one can see that qualitative and quantitative studies are different in nature. Their existence is to serve different research purposes which have an equal significance role to each of them.

Table 2: The differences between qualitative and quantitative approaches

Criteria	Qualitative Research	Quantitative Research
Cognitive Interest	Empirical and Hermeneutic	Empirical-Analytical
Research Type	Applied	Pure/Basic
Debate	Subjectivity	Objectivity
Research Aim	Exploratory	Descriptive and Explanatory
Paradigm	Interpretivism and Transformative	Positivism and Post positivism
Design	Qualitative	Quantitative
Strategy	Field Research	Experimental and Non-Experimental
Data Collection and Tools	In-depth interviews	Experiments and Surveys
Sampling	Non-Probability Sampling	Probability Sampling
Data Quality Control	Trustworthiness	Reliability and Validity

Data Analysis and Presentation	Thematic/Content Analysis	Content/Descriptive Analysis

Source: Mthuli (2019)

In this study, the qualitative research approach was used to successfully carry out the study. Donzin (1989) in Rahman (2017: 103) states that the advantage of using a qualitative approach and methods is that it enables the researcher to produce a thick description of the feelings, opinions, experiences, interpretations, and meanings that the participants have regarding particular problems. The decision to choose a qualitative approach for the study was underpinned by the fact that the study intended to only understand the extent to which small municipalities localise the SDGs using multi-stakeholder partnership approach. Rahman (2017: 103) adds that this approach helps to understand human experiences. The study, using the approach, thus benefited by getting experiences, but noted some challenges faced by small municipalities in localising the goals.

4.4 Case Study Approach

According to Strydom and Rose-Marie Bezuidenhout (2014: 176), there are several approaches to field research which includes ethnography, grounded theory, and case studies. In this study, the case study approach was employed for the benefit of the study. Many researchers have written in the literature about the meaning, significance, and the relevance of a case study. Crowe *et al.* (2011) explain that case studies are widely used in the social science disciplines. Porta and Keating (2008: 227) define a case study as the "systematic description of the phenomena with no explicit theoretical intention". According to Babbie and Mouton (2001: 288) case studies are "intensive investigations of a single unit with its context being a significant part of the investigation".

Another definition is given by Creswell (2009: 13), where he describes a case study as a strategy of inquiry that is normally used to explore an in-depth of programs, events, activities, and processes. In case studies, Creswell (2014: 290) further states that researchers spend more time and activities, collecting the required information thoroughly using different data collection techniques for over a particular period. Kumar (2011) mentions that when case studies are selected, normal techniques of data collection, such as purposive and judgements are used. In research, case studies have a big important role that they play more in particular to

policy research, in the sense that they provide ways of good practice in delivering a specific policy or programme (Keddie, 2006: 20).

One can understand that the case study is one of the strategic research approaches that plays a very significant role to successfully explore research problems. Case studies thus allow researchers to deeply find in-depth understanding of social problems before they can even come to conclusions about their causes or reasons for existence.

In the history of research, case studies have been used in the schools of social sciences with specific disciplines such as education, management, public administration and social work, although today they are widely used in numerous disciplines such as health, psychology and history (Starman, 2013: 28; Harrison, Birks, Franklin, & Mills, 2017). Zainal (2007: 03) argued that a case study is composed of several different categories. Karlsson (2016: 05) offered support to the statement by sharing same sentiment, that many researchers have identified that case studies are different in terms of their typologies (Levy, 2008; Stake, 1995; & Yin, 2003). Zainal (2007: 03) further mentions that other case study categories appear from the work of scholars such as McDonough (1999). Baxter and Jack (2008: 547) shared all the categories as they include exploratory, descriptive, single, multi-case, intrinsic, instrumental and collective case studies.

Bhattacherjee (2012: 93) argues that the above case study categories contain numerous weaknesses caused by factors such as absence of experimental control, internal validity, and those based on access and convenience techniques of research. In the use of case studies, the researchers also do not validate data collected, which may lead to improper interpretation of findings obtained from various participants. Crowe *et al*. (2011: 09) add that case studies can be approached in different ways from a philosophical point of view, although that depends on the discretion of the researcher, whether to use interpretivism, positivism or critical realism. However, as eluded from above that research case study is composed of several categories. In this research, an exploratory case study approach was used for the study. This was underpinned by the fact that the study used Nkandla Local Municipality as its case study with an aim to explore the extent to which the SDGs are localised using multi-stakeholder partnerships in such municipalities.

4.4.1 Negotiating the entry of the Case Study

In planning the case study of this research, the researcher made contact with Nkandla Local Municipality through the office of the municipal manager. The researcher then communicated the request for intent to use the municipality as a case study and liaised with the official responsible for research gatekeepers on behalf of the municipality. The researcher then visited the municipality to present the background and purpose of the study. As a result, the approval for the use of the municipality as a case study in the study was obtained. For the approval on the use of the municipality as a case study, the researcher stood a chance for its request to be accepted. This was since the researcher is originally a citizen of Nkandla and is doing postgraduate studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a senior student. Moreover, for the study gatekeeper letters request was sent to various NPOs, business and research institutions which all also approved for their participation.

4.5 Sampling Design

In the history of research, sampling design has been one of the key aspects for many decades. To understand this, one firstly needs to know that any research to be successfully conducted requires sampling. According to Fox and Bayat (2013: 55), sampling is the process which constitutes the elements drawn from the population. Sampling can further be defined as the process which constitutes the selection of the few to represent the entire population (Kumar, 2011: 177). In research there are two different types of sampling, probability and non-probability sampling. According to Pascoe (2014: 131), probability sampling "refers to whether or not each unit in the population has an equal opportunity to be part of the sample". Probability sampling is not exclusive, but instead makes sure that each element of the population has an equal chance for the selection to represent the entire population (Fox & Bayat 2013:54). Burger and Silima (2006: 662) explained that non-probability sampling is not based on determining probability elements to be included on the sample. Instead, the researchers aim to find in-depth understanding of problems investigated (Burger & Silima, 2006: 662).

For the purpose of this research, non-probability sampling was used to achieve the objectives of the study. Burger and Silima (2006: 662) further commended non-probability sampling for being one of more appropriate, economical, and less complicated techniques in research. Therefore, in this study, the selection of non-probability sampling was underpinned by the fact that the researcher had no intention to generalise and represent the findings, but was interested

to get an in-depth insight into understanding how the SDGs are localised in small municipalities by means of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Singh (2015: 16) mentions that in non-probability sample design, sample items are normally selected by the researcher rather than using random sampling. The sample design comprises numerous sampling techniques such as quota sampling, purposive sampling, convenience sampling, accidental sampling, systematic sampling, and snowball sampling (Sharma, 2017; Singh, 2015: 16; Burger and Silima, 2006: 662). In such sampling design, Kothari (2004: 59) further argues that those elements that are more personal to the researcher have a great chance to enter the selected sample for the study.

4.5.1 Purposive Sampling Technique

For the data collection of the study, due to the nature of study, the researcher used the purposive sampling technique. According to Pascoe (2014: 142), purposive sampling chooses only elements that the researcher has an interest in to use to get the required information across the entire population. In using this technique, the advantage is that the participants are assured that their input assists the research conducted (Pascoe, 2014: 143). Therefore, for this research, the purposive sampling was used throughout the study. The advantage of using purposive sampling is that the researcher can identify specific participants that can likely provide relevant and required data (Oliver, 2006: 245). For the study, a preliminary investigation into a number of participants who are actively involved in the implementation of localising the SDGs activities was conducted using purposive sampling technique. As a result, the following selected participants formed the total number of potential participants who were selected to participate in the study: Nkandla Local Municipality comprising one hundred and twenty-seven officials and twenty-seven councillors. Only eight municipal officials and three councillors were purposefully selected to form part of the participants of the study. The participants were selected as key informants for the study. This was due to their credible perceived source of knowledge of the subject matter. Since their work daily is more related to the implementation of localising the SDGs, to achieve the Agenda 2030.

Further, the study purposefully selected only two civil society organisations and one business organisation. For the civil society organisations only two key informants were participants and one from the side of the business sector in the study. The reason for the selection of these two civil society organisations and one business organisation was underpinned by the fact that many civil society organisations and business organisations exist within the area. These have much

special contribution towards achieving the Agenda 2030 goals. However, due to the nature of the study, which is informed by the hybrid policy implementation approach, various stakeholders' perceptions were important. Furthermore, data also was collected from two academic or research institutions from two key informants whose work is intimately related to the effort towards contributing to the achievement of the Agenda 2030. The two participants comprised one academic from UKZN and one participant from United Cities and Local Governments. These two participants from the science side were purposefully selected as key informants for the study.

In the study, the selection of UCLG was informed of its work that is based on local governments through organising international peer-to-peer training on local policies, practices, and advocacy for the interest of local and regional governments. The UCLG's role includes increasing the role and influence of local governments and their representatives to influence organisations towards global governance. UCLG is a global network organisation of cities, local, regional, and metropolitan governments, including their associations. It is committed to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments towards leaving no one and no place behind (UCLG, 2017: 02).

UCLG is all over the world and in Africa its headquarters offices are based in Morocco. It is then within that context that the study selected the participant from the global network to form part of the study as key informant, to explore further its role into South African local government municipalities, by sharing its experiences on working with municipalities, in particular the rural ones, towards achieving the Agenda 2030.

Table 3: Selected Study Participants

Institution	Number of potential participants	
Nkandla Local Municipality	Public Officials	8
	Councillors	3
Nkungumathe NPO	Key Informants	1
Thembelihle CBO	Key Informants	1
Nkandla Ntingwe Tea	Key Informants	1
University of KwaZulu-Natal	Academic Staff Researching localising SDGs	1
UCLG	Key Informants	1
Total		**16**

Source: Researcher's sample

4.6 Data Collection Methods

Data collection in research involves several techniques and methods that are used for the success of research. These techniques and methods have been historically well known as those that comprises experimental research, observation, and survey through the implementation of questionnaires, telephone surveys and personal interviews (Fox & Bayat, 2013: 143). Qualitative data collection methods are imperative for the successes of gaining the required information for the research. In qualitative research there are methods that are specifically used for data collection, and these consist of primary and secondary data. The primary data are the kind of data that is collected at the first time, while the secondary data refers to the kind of data that has already been collected and analysed by someone else (Dawson, 2002: 19).

Hox and Boeije (2005: 596) explain that primary data comprise various primary sources of data and these sources include methods of data collection such as open interviews, focus groups and unstructured diaries. In the context of this research study, both sources of data collection were used. The use of both sources was because a comprehensive information was required for the successes of the study. In the study, at the first stage, different government reports, legislative frameworks and policies including those of Nkandla Local Municipality, were thoroughly consulted. This also included different books, journal articles, dissertations, newspaper articles and speeches made by different public figures about the implementation of localising the SDGs.

The study employed primary sources of data collection using semi-structured interviews conducted within the area of Nkandla according to an interview schedule which was used for the sequence of questions asked to participants. For the study, the researcher was able to successfully collect data from thirteen participants out of sixteen identified. It is also worth mentioning that the data of the study was conducted under a very difficult condition because of the CoVID-19 however, this did not in any way result into any negative impact to the research findings of the study. The researcher employed new methods of data collection as instructed by the university, such as meeting participants telephonically, using emails, and some direct meetings with all lockdown rules observed.

4.6.1 The Rationale of Interview Questions

Interviewing is a conversation, a practice between the interviewer and interviewees or a group of interviewees, where knowledge is produced through the interaction (Given, 2008: 470). Fox and Bayat (2007: 72), Creswell (2014), Creswell (2009: 181), and Taylor and Bogdan (1998: 77) in Kumar (2011) state that interviews are normally conducted on a one-on-one basis and in focus groups. The way in which the inquiry is undertaken normally determines the form of interviews that need to be conducted.

For studies that pertain to human experiences, semi-structured interviews become the primary source of data collection (Fox & Bayat, 2007: 72). Strydom and Bezuidenhout (2014: 188) state that semi-structured interviews allow for the researcher to impose questions to participants that seek to explore views, opinions, and beliefs about a problem. In this research study, underpinned by its qualitative nature, the semi-structured interviews were used for the data collection of the study. The study was only interested in exploring the extent to which the SDGs are localised. Exploring such data through semi-structured interview methods was central and the only method of data collection that was suitable for the benefit of the study. The semi-structured interviews have their theoretical roots in the interpretive tradition (Kumar, 2011). With semi-structured interviews specifically, a standardised semi-structured interview was used for the study. This kind of interview usually focuses on asking questions by following the same set of semi-structured questions to all participants. Through such an interview, it becomes easy for the information obtained to be analysed in a more comparative organised manner (Strydom and Bezuidenhout, 2014: 188).

4.6.2 The Preparation of the Interviews

For the preparation of conducting interviews, researchers plan and develop an interview protocol that they will use for asking questions and for the recording of answers during data collection (Creswell, 2014). This is done by information being recorded from interviews and handwritten notes, audiotaping and videotaping (Creswell, 2014). The researcher firstly waited for the ethical clearance approval from the university. When the approval was obtained, the researcher alerted all the participants of the study about the interviews and the proposed schedule of dates. The researcher also organised all the documentation that was going to be required during the interview process. The documentation included consent forms, gatekeeper

letters and interview questions. The next step of the preparation was to make appointments to participants for the interview time and place, using various methods of communication. With most of the participants, the communication was officially done using emails, while with others, telephonic calls formed the basis of making appointments. The researcher started to collect data under the Nkandla Local Municipality where most of the participants were based, followed by other places where other participants were based. After all the interviews were successfully conducted, the researcher then started the process of transcribing the findings for their reporting preparation.

4.6.3 The Interview Process Followed

In research, qualitative interviews have emerged as one of the most knowledge producing practices across the disciplines of social science (Given, 2008: 470). The opening point for the research, interviews must be based on breaking the ice and setting the expectations. The researcher also needs to confirm the length of the interview (Tracy, 2013: 146). Therefore, for the processes of conducting the interviews of this research study, the following steps were taken by the researcher. The researcher firstly:

- Provided the introduction of the study and that of him to participants.
- Presented the ethical clearance letter from the university approving for the study to be conducted.
- Outlined the purpose of the research study and its significance.
- Explained how the interview was going to be conducted and the rights of the participants during the interview.
- Administered the informed consent at the beginning of the first interview.
- Explained to the participants that the information provided will be confidential and only be used for pure academic purpose and nothing else.
- Mentioned that the interviews would be audiotaped for the purposes of transcribing and record keeping; notes would be taken during the interview as part of supporting the recording, and the names of the participants would not be used for the presentation of findings.

4.6.4 Study Participants Interviewed

Bolderston (2012: 68) states that in qualitative research, the participant's thoughts, ideas, and perceptions are the characteristics of primary data collection and these are gathered in different ways. The methods to gather such data may not be limited, but include participant observations, documents, and participant's reflections on the experiences about a problem (Bolderston, 2012: 68). In this study, the ethical clearance approval was obtained during the fourth month, and thereafter the researcher began to prepare for the collection of data. The data of the study then started to be collected from the fifth month. For the data collection of this study, out of 16 participants that were purposefully selected as key informants of the study, the researcher managed to successfully collect data from thirteenth participants. This was done through a variety of organized appointments to meet participants telephonically, by use of emails, and directly.

The participants were interviewed on their suggested platforms, date, and time in line with the national lockdown regulations, and the university updated ethical regulations. With some of the participants, their appointments had to be shifted to other days due to urgent commitments. During the data collection of the study, participants interviewed did not wish to be recorded. This was the result of their consent preferences, and national lockdown regulations, where some used emails to respond to the questions sent. Therefore, the researcher used manual transcripts to record the data received during the interviews. Overall, the study comprised 81% of the participants successfully participated in the study.

4.6.5 The Dates of the Interviews

The table below presents the interview dates and statuses of the participants interviews were conducted for the study.

Table 4: The Study Interviewed Participants

Participants	Date of the Interviews	Status of the Interview
Nkandla Municipality	**Public Officials**	Out of eight selected participants to be engaged in the study, only five were successfully engaged. The three other participants withdrew their participation from the study.
Participant One	29/07/2020	
Participant Two	06/08/2020	
Participant Three	08/08/2020	
Participant Four	10/08/2020	
Participant Five	06/10/2020	
Participant Six	Withdrawn	
Participant Seven	Withdrawn	

Participant Eight	Withdrawn	
	Municipal Councillors	All three selected councillors were successfully engaged in the study.
Participant Nine	06/06/2020	
Participant Ten	29/06/2020	
Participant Eleven	04/09/2020	
Civil Society Organisations		
Participant Twelve	01/06/2020	The selected participants were successfully engaged in the study.
Participant Thirteen	06/06/2020	
Business Organisation		
Participant Fourteen	11/08/2020	The participant successfully participated in the study.
Research Organisations		
Participant Fifteen	20/10/2020	The two participants were successfully engaged in the study.
Participant Sixteen	15/05/2020	

4.7 Data Quality Control Methods

For the quality of this research study different methods of trustworthiness were used. According to Koonin (2014: 258), trustworthiness is one of the terms that are used in qualitative studies to ensure validity and reliability. Gunawan (2015: 04) also argues that trustworthy studies can only be treated as such by the reader of a research, through generating beliefs and trust that the study is trustworthy. Trustworthiness also involves the way in which the methods of procedure, the transferability, credibility, dependability, and confirmability are used as empirical evidence in the research (Given & Saumure, 2008: 895). In qualitative research, trustworthiness is divided into various methods that are used for its assurance. The methods include credibility, dependability, confirmability, transferability, and authenticity (Connelly, 2016: 436). Therefore, in this research, these methods are thoroughly described then the research explains the extent to which they were used in the study.

4.7.1 Credibility

In qualitative research, credibility is understood as it is equivalent to internal validity with quantitative studies (Korstjens & Moser, 2018: 121). Cope (2014: 89) articulates that in research credibility, its enhancement depends on the researcher's experience to verify the findings to the participants. Jensen (2008: 138) argues that when the readers try to understand the use of methods and the way the participants were purposefully selected, that should give credibility. Therefore, in terms of credibility of this study, the presentation of the study findings is informed by the data that was collected and manuscript recorded. In this research, the researcher ensured that he did not interfere with what the participants responded to and enough

time was prolonged to allow them to express themselves as much as they can to provide the required information. Further, this study for its credibility the data are the reflection of what the participants shared, and no leading questions were used for the study.

4.7.2 Dependability

Connelly (2016: 435) outlines that dependability has similarities to reliability in quantitative studies, but that the conditions for the dependence of the study are crucial. Myende (2011: 35) also explains that dependability in trustworthiness includes the involvement of checking for participant's validation, appropriateness of methods used, negative cases as well as independent audits. In qualitative research, dependability further includes the use of evaluations for the findings, interpretation and recommendations having been made by the research for the study which have to be supported by the data obtained (Korstjens & Moser, 2018: 121). For the dependability of this study, the researcher after data was collected had engagements with other participants to check whether what was obtained as data during data collection still reflects the same data or not.

4.7.3 Confirmability

The confirmability of this study, as one of the methods of procedure in trustworthiness, also formed part of the methods that were used to ensure trustworthiness for the study. In the literature, confirmability is described by various research scholars. According to Koonin (2014: 239), confirmability as a well collected data that support the reported findings and interpretation of the researcher. Confirmability further can also be understood better as that is based on the findings that are dependent on the data having been collected by the researcher which consistently allows the reader to confirm the empirical of the findings presented (Morrow, 2005: 252). In terms of confirmability in this study, the researcher ensured that remains neutral and did not interfere with what was provided as data. The data that were provided only reflect what the participants have shared as free and fair responses without having been pressured otherwise.

4.7.4 Transferability

Lastly, in the literature, transferability is outlined by Korstjens and Moser, (2018: 121) as that what means the tick description of people experiences in the society where the research was carried but contextualized to make meaningful to other researchers so that when employ the same methods, the same findings can be obtained. Anney (2015: 278) describes transferability as a detailed description of an inquiry where the participants were purposefully selected to participate; that can allow one to understand the transferability in terms of how it was facilitated with a study. For the transferability of this study, the researcher made a careful selection of the participants and key informants to the context of the study by ensuring that the selected participants were people involved in localizing the SDGs, and they have perceived understanding, experience regarding the topic of the study. For the study this was also supported by the sampling methods employed to the study. In this study, therefore the trustworthiness was ensured using all the above explained methods.

4.8 Data Analysis Methods

In qualitative research, once data has been successfully collected, there is a need or requirement for its analysis (Fox & Bayat, 2013: 104). Kothari (2004: 122) defines the term analysis as "the computation of certain measures along with searching for patterns of relationship that exist among data-groups". The process of analysis normally takes place to determine the validity of data for its relationships and differences in the study that is being conducted for proper conclusion (Kothari, 2004: 122). In this research, thematic analysis was used as one of the appropriate methods of data analysis throughout the study.

According to Braun and Clarke (2006: 79), thematic analysis can be understood as the method used to identify, analyse and report patterns for collected data. In qualitative research, thematic analysis is one of the most methods of data analysis that is used to analyse data that is text based (Fang-Hsieh & Shannon, 2005: 1278). For the study, the significance for the use of such a data analysis method was informed by the nature of the study which was interpretivist. As a result, the researcher had to analyse the received data using appropriate methods of data analysis.

Through the thematic analysis, the researcher began by familiarising himself with the collected data, followed by generating codes, searching, reviewing, and defining themes, and lastly, presenting the findings of the study. This helped the researcher to categorise the ideas and other

information collected during the interviews into themes before reporting. The interview responses were manually recorded by the researcher through transcripts generated in the diary, while some participants used emails to respond.

4.9 Research Ethical Considerations

Research projects are obliged to comply with research ethical considerations. It is important, especially to people that will be involved in the study conducted (Fox & Bayat, 2013: 149). According to Fox and Bayat (2013: 149), research ethics also need to consider aspects such as the assurance of safety to the participants. These aspects involve the informed consent, questions, and the right to voluntary participation, privacy, and avoiding participant harm. When the research is conducted, it is very important that ethical consideration requirements are met before the research is carried out (Klopper, 2008: 71). Therefore, for this research, the ethical issues were a priority. The participants' information throughout the study was kept confidential. The researcher firstly issued an informed consent letter as the request for permission to conduct research. During the research, the researcher then ensured that all the rights of the participants were protected and not violated, and that the participants could feel free to continue to participate or withdraw their participation if they felt like doing so.

In this study, for ethical requirements, the researcher assured all participants that their identities would be concealed. The study also ensured that issues of bias for the participants were not entertained.

4.10 Limitations of the Research

In research, the limitations of the study are referred to as those prohibitions and inconvenient circumstances which may lead to the success or failure of the research. The constraints may include time, financial resources, and access to information (Enslin, 2014: 275). In this study, the limitations were firstly, the selected participants rights to participation, and whether to hide information or to withdraw, was ensured. Secondly, the study only used Nkandla Local Municipality as its case study. Given this methodological nature of approach, the study had to rely only on the data obtained from Nkandla Municipality to inform the overall findings for the entire local government sphere in localising the SDGs. According to Price and Murnan (2013:

66), the limitations of research include the systematic bias which could not be controlled and might result in inappropriate findings.

Thirdly, some of the participants had limited familiarity on the subject matter under investigation.

Fourthly, there was the negative effect of the CoVID-19 pandemic. Given this unexpected virus outbreak, the researcher was then directed by the university to align the data collection methods with new ethical guidelines issued by the university. As a result, the data collection was mainly done through using telephone interviews, emails, and later direct interviews, while issued ethical guidelines were observed. However, although this was the first experience with this inconvenience, the study was conducted with success. Despite the above-mentioned challenges, the researcher was able to overcome all the challenges by using various ways for the success of the study.

4.11 Summary

This section of the chapter concludes the overall methodological explanations of the study. The research was determined to explore the extent in which small municipalities through multi-stakeholder partnership approach localises the SDGs, and the challenges that these municipalities are faced with in the implementation of the goals. The research study used the case study of one of the rural municipalities within the province of KwaZulu-Natal. For the study, the methodological issues covered include research paradigm, research approach, data collection methods, sampling methods, data analysis methods, and research ethical considerations. The next chapter will focus on presenting the findings and analysis of the study.

CHAPTER 5

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND RESULTS ANALYSIS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research findings of the study which have been analysed based on the data collected. The aim of the study was to examine the role of local government in localising the SDGs, through a multi-stakeholder partnership approach, and discover challenges faced by small municipalities towards achieving the Agenda 2030. In this study, qualitative methods of data collection were employed. In collecting the data of the study, the researcher used an interview method underpinned by a semi-structured interview schedule. During the data collection of the study, manual scripts were used for data recording for easy analysis. The chapter starts by giving the background of the case study, Nkandla Local Municipality, and its rationale for being applied in the study. It then moves entirely to thematically present the key findings obtained based on the study identified themes in attempt to respond to the following research objectives and questions:

- To ascertain the role of rural municipalities in localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- To explore key challenges are faced by rural municipalities in localising the SDGs.
- To examine the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs.
- To discover ways can be used to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs.

The study investigation was guided by the following research questions.

- What is the role of sub national government in South Africa?
- To what extent are multi-stakeholder partnerships important for the functionality of Municipalities in South Africa?
- What are the current arrangements for localising SDGs in rural municipalities in South Africa and in Nkandla in particular?
- To what extent are multi-stakeholder partnerships key towards achieving the development priorities of the SDGs?

5.2 Background and Context of the Case Study: Nkandla Local Municipality

The study was underpinned by Nkandla Local Municipality as its case study approach. Nkandla Local Municipality forms part of the local municipalities situated within the King Cetshwayo District Municipality in the KwaZulu-Natal province (Nkandla IDP, 2019/ 20: 9). The municipality is approximately 55 kilometres away from the uMthonjaneni Local Municipality, 60 kilometres from uMlalazi Local Municipality and approximately 50 kilometres from the historical battle mountain called Isandlwana (Stats SA, 2011). Nkandla Local Municipality consists of 18 traditional authority areas and 14 wards with established ward committees across its villages, the last one being ward 14 where the former President of South Africa Mr Jacob Zuma comes from (Nkandla IDP, 2017-2020: 28). Nkandla Local Municipality is well known for its attractive areas, which include the existence of Nkandla natural indigenous Forests, Ntingwe Tea, Amatshezimpisi Game Reserve, and the King Cetshwayo grave inside the forest (Nknandla IDP, 2019/ 2020).

The municipality currently comprises 11.7% of the population in South Africa (Stats SA, 2011). In this population, the ratio in terms of gender representation is 44% people who are males and 56% females. This together constitutes the total number of population percent stipulated from the above. With regard to the population under traditional areas, Nkandla Local Municipality comprises 93% of the population of people living under traditional tribal areas, and only 7% of the population lives under urban settlement environment (Stats SA, 2011).

The reason for choosing Nkandla Local Municipality as the basis of this research as the case study, was the fact that the municipality is one of the small municipalities amongst many expected to participate in the implementation of localising the SDGs, if the Agenda 2030 is to be achieved. Further, the municipality is one of the rural municipalities that exist in South Africa. As a result, it the study to be carried out here.

Nkandla Local Municipality comprises two structural levels of its operations, governance, and administration. According to Nkandla Local Municipality (2018: 08), the municipality consists of fourteen wards. Its political structure level has a municipal council with two political parties represented, and these parties consist of the ANC and IFP (Nkandla Local Municipality, 2018: 08). At the council of the municipality, Inkatha Freedom Party is in the majority governs the

municipality with thirteen councillors, while the ANC takes the second seat with only six councillors (Nkandla IDP, 2017/20: 56).

Figure 2: Nkandla Wards and Traditional Authorities Map
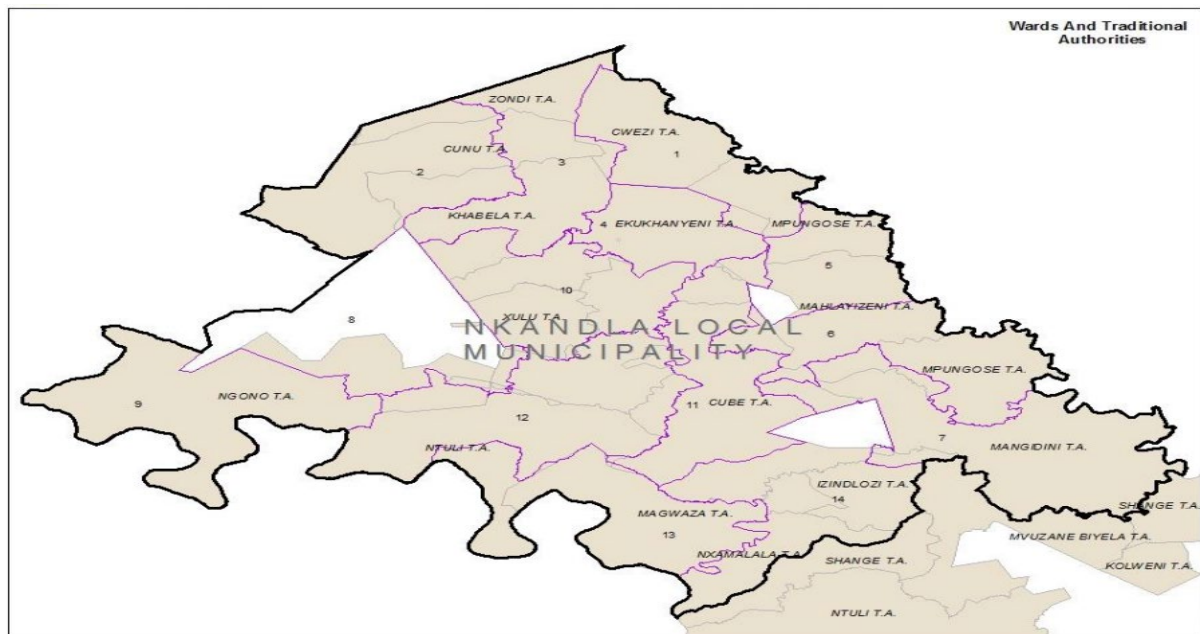
Source: Nkandla IDP (2018: 10)

The map shows several wards and traditional tribal areas that Nkandla municipality comprises. In South Africa, since the advent of democracy, the ward system was first promulgated from the White Paper on Local Government in 1998 and later clearly outlined from the Municipal Structures Act, No. 117 of 1998 (Piper and Deacon, 2009). The Municipal Structures Act, No. 117 of 1998 in its Section 74(a) stipulates that the role of ward committees may make any recommendation that is in connection with any matters affecting the wards. According to Nkandla IDP (2018: 179), the areas of the municipality ward committees are very functional given the fact that there is also a support that comes from CoGTA provincial department for the overall operations of the wards. Within the wards, various meetings that are held for development engagement purposes, and proof of these meetings are reports normally sent to the relevant officials of the municipality (Nkandla IDP, 2018: 179).

However, even though that is the case, the municipality has also several traditional authorities in their demarcated areas that all fall under municipal demarcation. In this regard, Nkandla IDP

(2017/20: 11) illustrated that the municipality consists of eighteen traditional authorities. The traditional authorities are Chwezi, Kwa-Zondi, Khabela, Chunu, Mpungose, Ekukhanyeni, Mahlayizeni, Mangidini, Qhudeni, Ngono, Kwa-Xulu, Amaphuthu, Chube, Ezindlozi, Godide, Izigqoza, Magwaza and Nxamalala TC (Nkandla IDP, 2017/20: 11). The traditional authorities with the municipality have good relationships which are based on a common cause for contributing towards a development agenda within the area (Nkandla IDP, 2017/ 20: 11).

5.2.1 Municipal Administration

Nkandla Municipality's its administration hierarchy is comprehensive and consist of different levels of governance. Firstly, the municipality is headed by its Municipal Manager, who is the Chief Executive Officer of the municipality. According to the Municipal Structures Act No. 117 of 1998, Sections 82(1) (a) and (b) provide that the municipal council must appoint the municipal manager as the head of the municipality, and the accounting officer of the municipality, and when necessary an acting municipal manager. In sub-section 2, the Act prescribes that the person to be appointed as municipal manager of a municipality must have relevant skills and expertise to perform the duties associated with this portfolio.

Moreover, the municipal manager of the municipality is initially prescribed as the accounting officer by the Public Finance Management Act No. 09 of 1999. According to the Act Sections 36(1) and (2)(a) and (b) stipulate that "every department and every constitutional institution must have an accounting officer. Subject to sub-section (3), the head of a department must be the accounting officer for the department; and the chief executive officer of a constitutional institution must be the accounting officer for that institution." In the case of a municipality like Nkandla, this is conspicuous, given the fact that the municipal manager responsibilities mainly attached to ensuring that there is balance between political and administrative structures. Nkandla Municipality as per the organogram below also comprises four directorates that all report to the municipal manager. The directorates are the office of the municipal manager, chief financial officer, director community services, director technical services and director for corporate services (Nkandla IDP, 2018: 64). However, within the municipality there are other units or departments that exist to play a role in municipal development. These units or departments include the internal audit and risk management, performance management and executive management, where issues of municipal development planning and public participation are directed and managed.

Figure 3: The Municipal Administrative Organogram
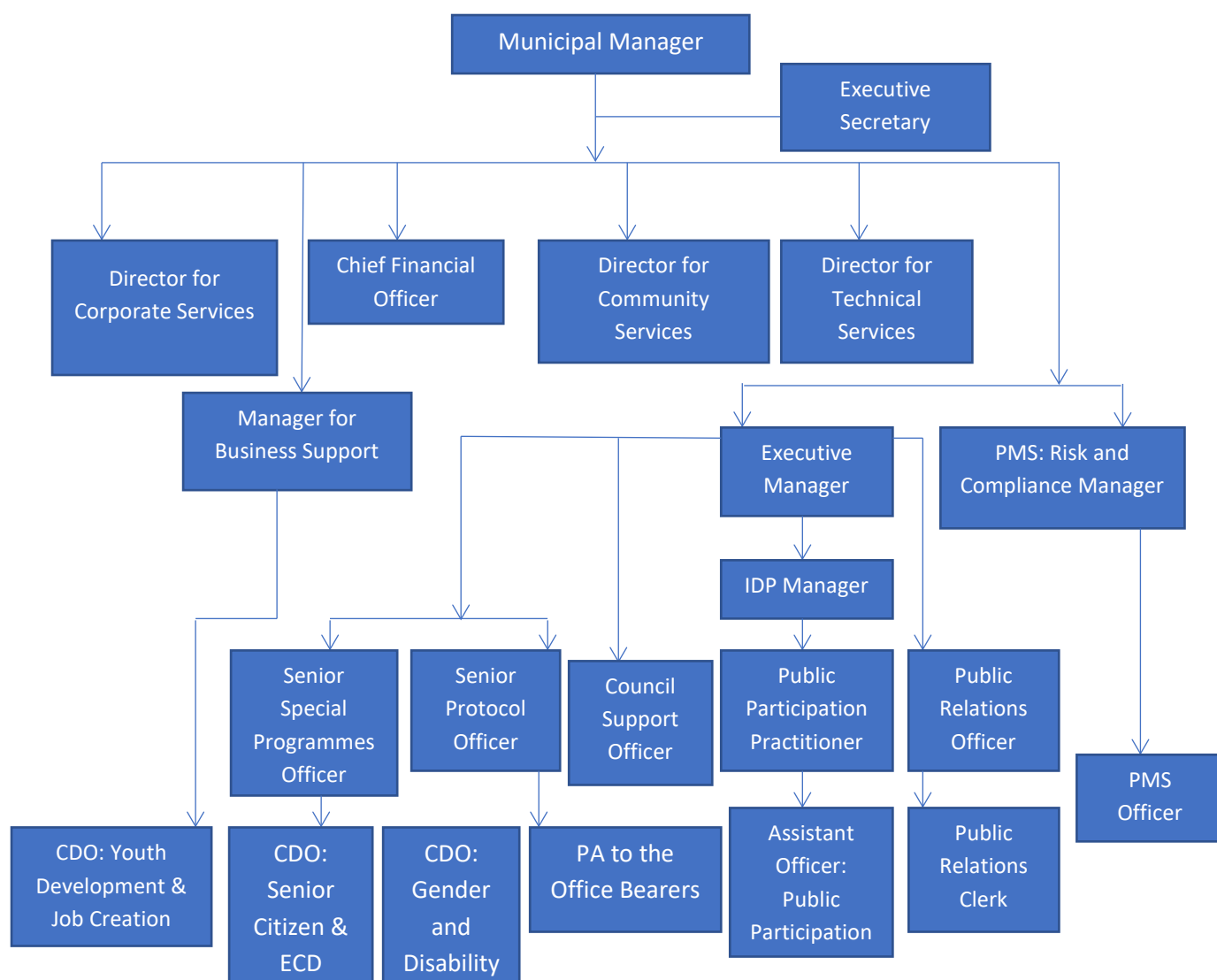
Adopted from: Nkandla IDP (2017/20: 65)

5.2.2 The Strategic Planning of the Municipality

Nkandla Municipality, like any other municipality has its own strategic plan, namely, Integrated Development Plan (IDP). According to Ntuli (2011: 24), the IDP is a development plan of any existing municipality developed for a municipal area, containing numerous strategic aspirations in short-, medium- and long-term. Therefore, Nkandla municipality in its IDP outlines its strategic position to all people of Nkandla. In the document, there are several aspirations developed by the municipality starting from its vision, mission and values including

functions and programs. According to Nkandla IDP (2017/20: 20), the municipal vision is "to be a high performing rural municipality driven by continuous improvement of quality of life for Nkandla citizens". The mission of the municipality is outlined as "Nkandla Municipality renders effective service delivery encompassing nature and heritage to ensure poverty alleviation, sustainable economic growth and development through self-help and self-reliance".

In addition to the above, the municipality has also numerous goals and objectives that are outlined as follows:

    i.   "Good Governance
    ii. Institutional Development
    iii. Social and Economic Development
    iv. Sustainable Infrastructure and Development
    v.   Sound Financial Management
    vi. Environmental Development and Management" (Nkandla IDP, 2017/20: 20).

The strategic plan of the municipality is also aligned with all other strategic plans of the country including those that are of global context. Nkandla IDP is in line with the District Growth and Development Plan, Provincial Growth and Development Plan, National Development Plan and the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, which is the UN global vision that the study is all about implemented through the SDGs.

5.2.3 Sustainable Development Goals within Nkandla Municipal Strategic Planning

In its IDP, Nkandla Municipality acknowledges the existence of SDGs. According to Nkandla IDP (2017/20: 32), the municipality articulates that "the new SDGs, and the broader sustainability agenda, go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people." The municipality then summarised the goals by highlighting that the SDGs "will therefore complete the aims of the Millennium Development Goals and ensure that no one is left behind".

5.2.4 Powers and Functions of the Municipality

Nkandla Municipality is one of the municipalities existing through various legislative frameworks that provide for its mandate. The municipality has huge responsibility, powers and functions vested in it through the IDP. According to Nkandla IDP (2018: 23), several municipal powers and functions exist, including the integrated development plan, section 71 reports and AFS, regulation of passenger transport services, bulk electricity, solid waste disposal, municipal roads, firefighting, cemeteries, and tourism. Further, the functions include receiving grants and MIG, collecting taxes and levies, disaster management and accountability, community participation, equitable access to municipal services, local economic development, gender equality, performance management systems and sound financial management. Though these municipal powers and functions may be seen quite numerous, some, due to capacity limits of the municipality, are not rendered by it and fall under the responsibility of the district municipality. The said services are health services, roads, sanitation, and water service authority (Nkandla IDP, 2018: 23).

5.3 Findings from the Empirical Study

The purpose of this section of the chapter is to report on the findings of the study. The data collection of the study was started the following month during CoVID-19 pandemic. For the study, out of sixteen purposefully intended potential participants, thirteen participants participated in the study. The other three participants withdrew their participation from the study. Some of these participants have cited CoVID-19-related inconvenience, while other participants did not disclose the reason for withdrawal. The overall active participants were engaged using emails, telephone, and some via direct interviews. For the study, all the participants engagements were aligned to the university ethical guidelines issued during the spread of the virus. The university first guideline was that all research conducted during CoVID-19 period must adhere to the national and UKZN lockdown guidelines. Therefore, it is with this context that the researcher had to ensure that all the data obtained during national lockdown was collected in accordance with all the university-issued research protocols.

In the study, most of the participants were successfully engaged were participants from the area of Nkandla. The participants were all sequentially coded by the researcher. The coding arrangement began with Nkandla municipal officials from respondent abbreviated R-1 up to R-8 and three councillors R-9, R-10 and R-11. The other respondents were from two civil

society organisations R-12 and R-13, one business organisation R-14, and two research organisations R-15 and R-16. The data received from all the mentioned above participants was arranged according to key different study themes identified. The rationale for this was to ensure that there is proper scientific reporting about the study. Therefore, the identified key themes from the study findings were as follows, localising Sustainable Development Goals, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs, the current arrangements for multi-stakeholder partnerships in Nkandla Municipality, and challenges of small municipalities in localising the SDGs.

5.3.1 Localising the Sustainable Development Goals

As the rural municipality, NPO, business and or research organisation, what is your understanding of the SDGs?

For this question, the researcher intended to explore how the SDGs are understood in rural municipalities by different local stakeholders. It expected all participants to share insight into the subject matter under investigation in relation to the theme.

One participant, when asked about the SDGs, responded that *The SDGs are regarded as development goals which are aimed to contribute for developmental agenda, and within Nkandla are highlighted to municipal development plan (*R-1).

The second participant responded that *My understanding about SDGs is that they assist to reduce poverty, keep environment safety and calls for all local governments to work for better world (*R-2).

The participant responded to the question by explaining: *I understand them as goals although I have not got any much insight about them (*R-3).

The fourth participant responded that *The UN goals are more broadly and their main goal is to achieve sustainable development with all its aspirations being more achieved such as education (*R-4).

The participant when responding to the question, explained: *I do understand the SDGs as goals, but I have not heard about them before. I understand them based on the briefly introductory outline provided* (R-5).

One of the municipal councillors outlined the SDGs according to its understanding as follows: *I am aware about the SDGs as global goals of the United Nations (*R-9).
The second councillor said, *Yes as the municipality councillor I do understand the SDGs as global goals aimed to bring development closest to its people (*R-10).

When asked about SDG understanding, a councillor provided this response: *I understand the SDGs by means of ensuring that rural needs are achieved through promoting employment opportunities and alleviating poverty (*R-11).

One civil society respondent explained that the SDGs...*refer to the plan on which countries within United Nations should follow in order to ensure that they improve people's lives and end poverty by the year 2030. This can only be achieved through implementing programmes and initiatives which are based on addressing aspects of development within 17 Sustainable Development Goals, e.g. Government and other stakeholders may implement job creation initiatives such as Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in attempt to address issues of poverty thus achieving SDG 1: Ending poverty in all forms* (R-12).

The second civil society respondent outlined that *The SDGs are aimed to contribute for various development issues, like in ours we implement them by supporting young people through providing food and uniforms to achieve Agenda 2030 (*R-13).

When asked about the question on understanding SDGs, this business participant outlined: *I generally understand them as UN goals and refer them by looking at development opportunities for people. For instance, there are concerns even about poverty alleviation and improving quality of life to people at the most vulnerable places like rural areas (*R-14).

The first research organisation respondent when asked about SDGs, explained: *Basically, firstly local government has the task of localising the SDGs in South Africa by providing necessary services to communities. In South Africa, we use municipalities to play important role for the lives of communities. Therefore, the SDGs constitute part of international*

development. Historically, we had MDGs introduced in 2002 to 2015. The MDGs ended because the SDGs were more accepted during their consultative process. The SDGs are 17 goals and when compared to each other they mean what governments should be doing in terms of delivering the services. The problem with the goals is that the people on the ground are not conscientious about them (R-15).

The second research organisation respondent explained: *The SDGs are a part of the daily responsibilities and activities of local and regional governments all over the world. Even if they have been established periodically as specific goals to be achieved within a period of time, most of them have always been included as thematic lines in the government's plans. Nevertheless, it is important to underline the fact that they are not equally prioritised in all the cities as every geographical context has its own particular features and needs. The SDGs are also seen as an important part of the current international Agenda (Agenda 2030) defined by the United Nations, seeking to realise the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (*R-16).

Interpretation of Findings

Based upon the responses, the study revealed that the participants do have basic knowledge and understanding of SDGs as UN goals, and that their implementation calls for all member states to participate through local governments. When asked about the question, all participants were able to respond to the question. In the literature, there has been vast development of theoretical concepts provided for understanding the meanings of Sustainable Development Goals, and their localisation. According to Ngubane (2017: 04), as mentioned in Chapter 3, the SDGs build on the successes of the MDGs, emphasising economic prosperity while protecting the planet, addressing root causes of poverty and universal need for development. Khoehler (2016: 151) explained SDGs as new goals which are now more focused on transforming human rights, and making sure that the implementation of development needs takes place with efficiency amongst all UN member states.

Based on the above findings about understanding the SDGs, the study further discovered that in rural areas the knowledge of the goals is limited. Therefore, one can conclude that in local governments more especially to small municipalities the awareness of the goals has not yet been well undertaken.

What do you understand about the Localisation of SDGs?

Responding to the question asked about understanding localising of the SDGs, one participant explained: *I understand the localisation of global goals as means of putting all efforts for development Agenda* (R-1).

The participant when asked about localisation of SDGs explained: *Localisation, according my understanding, calls for local governments to plan according the goals. Also, need to plan to ensure that these goals are achieved. Further, localisation means putting all efforts together to ensure that the goals are successfully. For instance, how our programs intervene to achieve development and how Nkandla takes goals to communities* (R-2).

Another participant responded to the question: *I understand localisation by means of making sure that we involve all community stakeholders with ward committees where we discuss development issues* (R-3).

When asked about understanding localisation of the goals, one participant provided this feedback: *I understand the localisation of the goals by ensuring that we implement programmes that complement them* (R-4).

Responding to the question asked, a participant explained: *I understand the localisation as means of providing necessary support to activities that complements the goals such as providing quality education. As Nkandla, we provide students with support such as laptops including uniforms where necessary* (R-5).

Localising the SDGs means municipalities providing service delivery to localities across. For instance, the municipality of Nkandla contributes to education by providing support for registration, food parcels and other necessary support (R-9).

One of the councillors responded: *I do understand localisation as what needs to be all the efforts that must be put to ensure that the goals achieve what they intend to achieve. We localise SDGs by using public participation to connect to our people about all their development needs (*R-10).

The third councillor responding to the question about localisation of SDGs, said: *For the localising of SDGs, as local government I understand it by means of participating to ensuring that all government goals are successfully implemented* (R-11).

When asked about the localisation of the goals, a participant responded: *Basically, we look at what has been detailed internationally to be detailed locally. This should be done by means of adopting our own way in implementing them. It also means consulting local politics and developing policies that inform participatory democracy* (R-15).

According to the second research organisation respondent, *From the perspective of LRGs, localising means adopting a local-based approach to mobilise endogenous capacities and enhance the potentialities of territories and local stakeholders in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda* (R-16).

Interpretation of Findings

Based upon the above responses to the question asked, it was found that the participants do understand the means of localising SDGs. From their answers, it appeared that they were able to respond to the question by reflecting on what they do daily to ensure that the goals are achieved. From the gathered literature in this study, several scholars and organisations provided different meanings of understanding localising the SDGs. In Chapter 3, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP and UN Habitat (2016: 06) defined localisation of SDGs as the "process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the agenda 2030" that sets goals and targets for determining the way in which the implementation should take place. Also, they refer to the utilisation of indicators in measuring and mainstreaming the progress made by the SDGs.

In this study, even though the participants understood the question about the localisation of the goals, their responses were quite different. For this question, the participants were able to link their day-to-day work activities to the aspirations of the goals. As a result, that formed part of their responses to the question. Therefore, based on the findings, one can conclude that in Nkandla, the participants are much more involved in local development matters. It is the only way in which they are able to understand the localisation of the goals.

At what level does the municipality capacitate its officials to understand the localisation of SDGs?

On the question about capacitating interventions are made by the municipality of Nkandla to its employees to understand the localisation of SDGs, a participant indicated that *Nkandla municipality, like other municipalities, has a e skills levy that helps to train all municipal employees on their respective roles* (R-1).

The second participant in answering this question has provided that the *Municipality does conduct training for municipal officials, but there is no training specifically has been held for SDGs. Even myself I understood them when I did my studies but not within the municipality* (R-2).

According to one participant*, The municipality does train its officials where the officials fill skills audit forms for where they wish to be trained at. Then, the supervisors do recommend the officials to be trained according their submitted required training skills. However, for SDG training I cannot confirm as I have not been there for many years, I am not sure (*R-3).

For SDGs training conducted under the municipality, a participant explained that *There has not been any SDG specific training that I have ever been aware about to have been conducted. However, there are training normal conducted by the municipality to its public officials in relation to their day-to-day work* (R-4).

On capacity building activities arranged by the municipality for officials to understand the SDGs, a participant responded: *We do attend training which complement the localisation of SDGs. This training helps to enhance the activities of the goals towards Agenda 2030. However, specific training on SDGs, I have not attended any training that I recall* (R-5).

According to this municipal councillor, *The municipality ensures that all its officials are capacitated through training workshops. For instance, the municipality takes out its staff in groups for monthly workshops or a year and finally in return they all receive certificate of training completion. Also, there are internal meetings which cultivate the purposes of the goals* (R-9).

Sharing the same sentiment, the second councillor stated that *The municipality does organize workshops and training where municipal officials get the opportunity to be trained to understand their job and what that is expected of them to do to improve municipal performance* (R-10).

For the municipality in capacitating its officials to understand the SDGs localisation, the councillor mentioned that *There is training related to achieving the goals like finance and technology. Also, the municipality provide furthering study opportunities to its officials those wish to further their studies (*R-11).

Interpretation of Findings

Based upon the above data received from the participants, this study found that Nkandla Local Municipality does invest on training for its officials to continue to better understand their daily roles of work. The study discovered that the municipality uses its skills levy to train all its employees to their work-related capacities. According to Mkhize (2018: 24) and mentioned in Chapter 3, South Africa is faced by a challenge of capacity that involves shortages of critical skills, and this is more concerning at municipal levels, hence the municipalities within the state are responsible for local economic development, delivery of services as well as advancement of local development plans. In this regard, Nkandla municipality does invest in training its officials to understand better their work and appropriately to perform their responsibilities. However, it appeared that yet the municipality has not trained its officials specifically on SDGs and their localisation. According to Patole (2018:17), and mentioned in Chapter 3, many sub-national governments have limited capacity in terms of finances and human resources to implement the SDGs. While capacity remains a threat in the achievement of SDGs, Jaiyesimi (2016: 16) argued that its building is important, and its goal of providing long terms should be taken into consideration, if the success of implementing the SDGs is to be ensured.

However, despite this finding that there is no training specifically organised for SDGs by the municipality, many participants have valued the training that they receive from the municipality as helpful for understanding development related roles. Through the training, it was discovered that the officials are able to gain more relevant knowledge of development issues complementing the SDGs. In closing, it is evident that the municipality does provide

training to its officials for understanding their daily working roles. However, at the same time one can conclude that no training has ever happened on the goals. Despite that fact, the training normally organized by the municipality helps for the enhancement of SDGs aspirations.

5.3.2   The Importance of Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Localising the SDGs

How do you value the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs?

According to one participant when asked about the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, *Stakeholders are very important for linkage purposes like Department of Social Development (DSD) when we call; it comes and provide necessary support (*R-1).

While on the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships when localising SDGs, a participant responded as follows: *Multi-stakeholder partnerships are very important because the existence of the municipality is solely guided by existence of all those stakeholders. They all have a role to play and without them we don't exist (*R-2).

Another participant responded as follows: *It is very important to work with stakeholders - like as municipality - there are other issues that you understand better when you work with people who specifically deal with the issues. It is very key to work with stakeholders (*R-3).

On the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, a participant explained: *Stakeholder partnerships are very important so to have access to communities that you need to visit which without consulting them you can have problem for access. They also help for carrying some other projects for instance, NGOs implement some projects and programs that could be difficult to implement alone (*R-4).

When asked about the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, a participant responded: *It is very important to work with stakeholders because our municipality is too small. Therefore, as a result multi-stakeholder partnership helps to intervene by offering some services for example issuing of blankets when we have disaster emergencies (*R-5).

Working together with all mentioned stakeholders it makes easier to development for the SDGs (R-9).

Responding to the above question, a participant indicated: *We value these partnerships very important and help to achieve some targets that the municipality alone would be difficult to achieve (R-10).*

Responding to the question, a councillor stated that *Multi-stakeholder partnerships are very important to critique the entire local development challenges and come up with strategies to overcome those challenges. Also helps to set out goals and when to be achieved, and how to be achieved (R-11).*

Interpretation of Findings

Based on responses received from participants, the study has found that within Nkandla, multi-stakeholder partnerships are viewed as very important and that with them there is more hope for better achievement of the development agenda. From the study literature, multi-stakeholder partnerships were discussed in advance by many scholars, who expressed views about their importance in policy implementation. According to Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2002: 38) in Chapter 2, in the world, there is recognition that the socioeconomic problems cannot only be solved by government alone, but instead different critical partners are important and required. In this study, it was discovered that existing partnerships help the municipality to improve on goals that would be difficult to achieve alone had there been no partnerships in place, such as getting support from government institutions like DSD towards poverty contribution, which was seen as critical for development partnerships to achieve the aspirations of UN goals.

According to Brinkerhoff and Crosby (2002: 38) in Chapter 2, policy implementation requires an active intervention from policy managers and their organisations. These include other partners such as public agencies, NGOs, community groups, business associates and policy managers with required capabilities (Brinkerhoff & Crosby, 2002: 38). In summary, it can be concluded that for the success of any policy implementation a multi-stakeholder partnership approach is key and critical. With regard to the SDGs, the multi-stakeholder partnership approach thus holds much significance for achieving the Agenda 2030.

5.3.3   The current arrangements for multi-stakeholder partnerships in Nkandla

To what extent do you have multi-stakeholder partnerships for localising the SDGs?

One participant explained*: As Nkandla Municipality we do implement programmes by partnering with NGOs, business such as Nkandla chamber of commerce, gender forums, disability forums, government departments like DSD, education where we deliberate on issues of concern that requires multi-intervention (*R-1).

For current arrangements of multi-stakeholder partnerships complementing the localisation of SDGs, a participant responded as follows: *Firstly, we do conduct public participation to communities with stakeholders where we check what they need. The stakeholders comprise with Amakhosi, business, civil society organisations, and others(*R-2).

Another participant indicated as follows: *We do work with stakeholders like NGOs helping in other issues like drug abuse, where we meet DSD, Nkandla Hospitals, and Department of Agriculture and together we come up with ways to support community by providing necessary opportunities (*R-3).

Responding to the question a participant responded: *We do work with different stakeholders within the area of Nkandla for development agenda (*R-4).

Responding to the question, a participant explained: *We do work with all stakeholders that exist within Nkandla, and these include Business through Nkandla Business Chamber. The business chamber helps to support with donations when there are disaster emergencies. Other stakeholders include government departments such as Department of Education, Social Development, Health and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (*R-5).

A participant, when asked about current arrangements of partnerships within Nkandla, said: *As the municipality we have numerous partnerships for localising the SDGs and the different partners meet over in war rooms, LTT (Local Task Team) and DTT (District Task Team) where contributions are made to solve municipal development problems (*R-9).

A councillor indicated: *Yes, we work in partnerships closely with different stakeholders such as business, and other stakeholders who include government departments and some civil society organisations (*R-10).

The third councilor participant on the question responded that *We do work with civil societies, traditional leaders, departments, and private sector like RBM to assist communities (*R-11).

For existing municipal partnerships with numerous local stakeholders, one civil society respondent stated that *The organisation has no partnership with Local Municipality in terms of support and initiatives towards addressing SDGs (*R-12).

The second civil society respondent shared the following: *We work very closely with the municipality especially through Community Development Officers responsible for youth issues in organising food parcels for the vulnerable people and also assist by visiting numerous families to check whether social grants are used for its purpose (*R-13).

The business participant when asked about the current existing partnership with the rural municipality of Nkandla, indicated that *The partnership is not organised, although there are interventions are made to make it sustainable. For instance, the estate falls under the department of Agriculture and municipality that's where only has the partnership. The municipality only has liaison partnership for development related inquiries from within the industry(*R-14).

Responding to the multi-stakeholder partnerships question, a research organisation participant outlined: *It is very difficult for us to initiate partnerships because we are very busy occupied by academic work. But beside that we promote research through supervising dissertations, producing research articles, using municipalities as case studies, and through those case studies the municipal policy decisions are influenced by research findings and recommendations (*R-15).

One research organisation respondent has acknowledged that there has not much yet been done to ensure such partnerships with rural municipalities: *Many LRGs and Local and Regional Government Associations (LGAs) are still not acquainted with the SDGs or*

*consider them to be yet another external internationally imposed 'burden'. UCLG have established important alliances with some of them to contribute in the showcasing of their experiences and pushing them to have more elaborated localising processes, including, off course, rural areas and municipalities (*R-16*).*

Interpretation of Findings

Based upon the responses, a differing view was found by the study. In this theme, the researcher examined the existing arrangements of sustainable partnerships between Nkandla Municipality and numerous stakeholders, towards achieving the SDGs. The study discovered that Nkandla Municipality does have partnerships for the development agenda with most relevant stakeholders. According to the United Nations (2019: 03) mentioned in Chapter 3, "over the recent years, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnership has been increasingly recognised by UN member states as well as by different stakeholders including leading institutions in international development".

Despite the fact that the municipality has existing multi-stakeholder partnerships, the study discovered that not all stakeholders that exist within Nkandla have partnerships with the municipality. This was discovered from one participant who indicated that do not have a partnership with the municipality for any related development agenda. Some highlighted that even existing partnerships at some point are not active due to different reasons, such as those mentioned from the section on challenges faced. According to (Chakrabarti *et al*., 2018: 13) in Chapter 3, multi-stakeholder partnerships are meant to help for the enhancement of global partnerships that assist in mobilising and sharing of knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals across the world, but in particular in the developing countries.

Therefore, one can conclude that in Nkandla there are existing multi-stakeholder partnerships for the development agenda. However, not all stakeholders existing within the area are partnered with the municipality, and some of the existing partnerships were thus regarded poorly for their status.

5.3.4 The challenges of small municipalities in localising the SDGs

To what extent do you face challenges in localising the SDGs and what are those challenges?

The first respondent on the question about the challenges of localising the SDGs said: *In our municipality, the main challenge is budget and its equitable share given that we only depend from government for financial support (*R-1).

When asked about challenges facing the municipality in localising the SDGs, a participant responded as follows: *Generally, the main challenge is budget, as small municipalities our places do need assistance while funding is not appropriate. When you in communities people think municipality has everything while other services are delivered by other municipalities. Other challenges include politics and too many inequalities due to environmental nature (*R-2).

Responding to the challenges of localising the SDGs, a participant provided this answer: "*Yes, there are challenges, for instance when you plan outreaches in forums some stakeholders not always present in planning forums. Yes, there are there for instance when doing IDP consultations sometime people fight for services where should start first. Budget issue as well become a problem (*R-3).

Responding to challenges facing the rural municipality, a participant mentioned the following: *Our challenges as municipality are shortage of resources like budget, it is very critical for development delivery planning (*R-4).

When responding to challenges facing the municipality for the localisation of SDGs, a participant responded: *We do have challenges, but for disaster climate change related issues, we have not specific big issue that has been declared according to disaster regulations. The challenges include damaged roads due to weather changes, as a result then becomes difficult to use it to reach out communities where necessary (*R-5).

According to the answer provided by one of the municipal councillors, acknowledged that the rural municipality does have some development challenges. The response on this was recorded as follows: *We do face challenges such as not all stakeholders monthly always avail*

*themselves in meeting forums. Therefore, as the result, it creates difficulties to solve community problems as required (*R-9).

For the challenges facing municipality of Nkandla in localising the SDGs, one of the second local councillor respondents also agreed: *Yes, there are challenges we are faced with as the municipality of Nkandla such as having some government departments who seem to be politicised e.g. Department of Agriculture where supposed to be doing something but delay processes with no valid reason (*R-10).

For challenges facing small municipalities like Nkandla, a councillor explained: *We do face challenges such as financial constraints. Generally, resources such as transport to travel all places for local needs visits, and budget availability are our major challenges (*R-11).

Also, one civil society respondent shared some challenges for the SDGs: *"Political challenges, in a context of that local municipalities are politicising development by prioritising and providing services to the municipality wards, the governing political party won during the local government elections. Municipalities' failure to work with other stakeholders such as NGOs, NPOs and other legal formations is a major challenge towards localising SDGs* (R-12).

For municipal partnerships, there have been continuous challenges noted especially from the external side. According to one of the second civil society respondents, *There are numerous challenges facing our municipality like transparent process for employment recruitment to avoid unnecessary normal disputes. Also, our road infrastructure is bad, shortage of housing support especially to more elderly people and still many people without electricity (*R-13).

For challenges facing small municipalities such as Nkandla, a business participant mentioned that *Small municipalities are faced by challenges such as financial and general support, stakeholders' lack of commitment and moral support that is needed (*R-14).

Responding to the challenges facing rural municipalities in localising the SDGs, a research participant explained: *Rural municipalities in South Africa when you look at the history were not properly established but they exist - like Nkandla. Those municipalities are not capacitated, unemployment rate is high, they also rely from provincial and national*

governments for funding support. The communities they have not heard about the SDGs even the executives I cannot be sure that all deeply are aware and understand the SDGs. Also, rural municipalities are not coming to the party for localising the SDGs. The people appointed in these municipalities are not capable for the jobs to deliver services properly. Further, some of these officials are not committed to the core to deliver services (R-15).

According to the second research organisation respondent, these challenges face small municipalities to localise the goals:

- *The need for financial support and fiscal decentralisation to achieve SDG localisation.*
- *Co-ordination between administrations, territories and spheres of government remains a critical challenge.*
- *Lack of empowerment of the LRGs to foster integrated urban, rural and regional plans that are well-coordinated with national strategies.*
- *Absence of regulatory frameworks and institutional incentives to act autonomously to ensure their tasks and responsibilities (R-16).*

Interpretation of Findings

Based upon the responses about the challenges facing rural municipalities, small municipalities like Nkandla within the local sphere are found to be faced by different development challenges. The challenges are viewed posing threats to development achievement, and as a result may lead to policies, plans and other relevant strategic frameworks within municipalities and the SDGs not being achieved. The challenges mentioned above about small municipalities are not necessarily new, especially within the sphere. Some have been repeatedly reported from several previous studies and government reports. In Chapter 3 of this dissertation, Jaiyesimi (2016: 13) argued that the implementation of SDGs by member states of the United Nations has provided opportunities as well as challenges. To make an effort to implement the goals, many countries have come up with different programs, projects and activities aimed at addressing challenges the world is encompassed with. However, even though such efforts have been demonstrated in many ways within local levels to improve commitment and coordination, according to Dayal (2018: 13), the challenges facing the implementation of SDGs still remain.

From this study, the findings revealed that the municipality of Nkandla is faced with challenges that relate to poor existing multi-stakeholder partnerships, lack of financial support, politicisation of partnerships with some partners as a result of political differences. Also, it was found that the rural municipality has some further challenges such as transparent processes of recruitment, struggle for effective service delivery, poor coordination between spheres of government to support the local sphere, and absence of regular frameworks and institutional incentives.

With regard to this finding, one can conclude that many municipalities exist in South Africa, Nkandla Municipality is faced by similar development challenges. Also, it made sense to further conclude that the reported challenges are not necessarily only affecting Nkandla Municipality. However, the entire local government sphere is faced with the same challenges. This shows that urgent intervention is needed if the SDGs are to be achieved at local levels.

What do you think can be done to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships in rural municipalities for a successful localisation of SDGs?

To improve performance of rural municipalities around localising the SDGs, one of the civil society respondents indicated that *Municipalities should work with legal formation within communities to strengthen the delivery of service and change the lives of all people residing within the municipalities (*R-12*)*.

According to the second civil society respondent, *The municipality should involve more community people when there are challenges and opportunities. There is great need to strengthen partnerships by means of ensuring all relevant stakeholders like NPOs in particular are updated about different new projects and community activities (*R-13*)*.

For the interventions that are needed to improve rural municipalities systems in localising SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships, the business respondent provided that *There is need to strengthen communication and to share innovations. Stakeholders need to meet and discuss innovations and source external expertise to achieve SDGs. Also, the municipality needs to lead mostly these partnerships to achieve sustainable development within Nkandla. The municipality needs to mobilise investing stakeholders to invest in Nkandla. Further, also*

*promote Nkandla by its positive heritage sites like the tea so to have more stakeholders (*R-14).

The first research organisation participant when asked about possible interventions needed to improve rural municipalities performance for the SDGs suggested that *To strengthen the localisation process of SDGs within local level there is a need to appoint people with quality skills. Political parties should care for their constituencies. We also need to conscientious about SDGs. Promote local economic development. Make sure that you support the SMMEs (*R-15).

The second research institution respondent suggested some of the ways to strengthen the localisation of SDGs:

- *Strengthen the role of LRGs as key drivers of urban and regional planning.*
- *Improve multi-level and multi-stakeholder collaboration should be facilitated to scale up sub-national innovative solutions integrated into national strategies.*
- *Rethink the sub-national financial architecture, and municipal finance in particular, will be critical to achieving the SDGs.*
- *National governments should provide to LRGs the necessary capacities, enabling regulatory frameworks and institutional incentives to act autonomously to ensure their tasks and responsibilities.*
- *Linking the implementation of the SDGs with a rights-based approach.*
- *Greater linkages between SDG implementation and right to the city -based approach should be enhanced by LRGs.*
- *Monitoring of SDG localisation must use disaggregated and place-based data and collect information on the ground to reflect local realities (*R-16).

Interpretation of Findings

Based upon the responses obtained from respondents, a number of recommendations were made which can be used to strengthen the systems of small municipalities in localising the SDGs. According to the responses, there is a highly common recommendation that rural municipalities need to improve their multi-stakeholder partnership model through involving all existing stakeholders to contribute for sustainable development. According to Reddy (2016:

04) in Chapter 3, concurring with this finding, acknowledged that there has been a growing awareness, recognition and acknowledgement of the sphere of local government that it is best to facilitate and organise local development stakeholders towards promoting an inclusive and sustainable development within local areas. From this finding of the study, rural municipalities were recommended to link SDG localisation implementation and monitoring. UCLG (2019: 20) further argued that it is the local level that has a duty to come up with numerous policies to address various challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Despite the fact that the local government is at the centre for implementing the SDGs, it was also discovered that national governments are critical and important stakeholders to collaborate with the local sphere for necessary support if the UN goals are to be achieved.

Based on the analysis about the findings of the study, one can conclude that against local government reported challenges multi-stakeholder partnerships are key for achieving the SDGs. Multi-stakeholder partnerships thus give opportunity for different capacities to come together for a particular policy goal if it is to be achieved.

5.4 Summary

This chapter presented the research findings and interpretation of the results of the study. The purpose of the chapter was to specifically report on the findings that the researcher obtained, which required analysis to inform the empirical evidence of the study. The chapter started by giving the context of the case study which was used for the study. The chapter then moved to analyse and report all the findings of the study. Lastly, the chapter then concluded its findings. The next chapter focuses on the conclusion, recommendations and further research of the study.

CHAPTER 6
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the overall conclusion of the research study. The study explored the localisation of SDGs in local government through multi-stakeholder partnerships. The purpose of the study was to explore the role of local government in specific the rural municipalities, to the extent in which they contribute to the Agenda 2030 by means of localising the SDGs. For the study, the first chapter presented the introduction to the research by giving relevant background, brief historical overview of the SDGs, research problem and issues associated. The chapter then moved to include the rationale of the study, research questions, methodology, location of the study and the structure of the dissertation.

The second chapter presented the literature review of public policy and the theories of policy implementation that underpinned the study. The chapter started by laying out the foundation for public policy, gave its fundamental conceptual meanings and processes, and thoroughly outlined the theoretical understanding of policy implementation. The chapter then went further to discuss theories of policy implementation and thereafter chose between the theories that are suitable for the study, and provided a rationale for the chosen one. For the study, the theories of policy implementation that were discussed consisted with the top-down, bottom-up and hybrid theory. For the study, the hybrid theory was chosen to underpin the study. This theory gave the important note on the significance of various stakeholders in participating for a successful policy implementation. The chapter then closed its discussion by giving analysis of the role of multi-stakeholder participation in policy implementation.

The third chapter of the study focused on giving analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) unpacking both pre- and post-2015 implementation periods. It started by giving the transition from MDGs towards the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and moved on to analyse and discusses the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, and the rationale for the localisation of SDGs through a multi-stakeholder approach. It also provided the analysis of legal and policy frameworks underpinning the implementation of SDGs, and analysed two other countries implementing the localisation of SDGs. It then closed by providing analysis of the challenges facing the localisation of SDGs within the local sphere.

The fourth chapter of the study focused on the research methodology and design. The purpose of the chapter was to show how the study was conducted, reporting on its methods, approaches and techniques that were used for the purposes of its research ethics. The chapter started by giving the sense of the research paradigm used for the study, research approach, case study approach and then the negotiations of the entry for the study. It also included methods of data collection, sampling, data quality control, data analysis methods, ethical considerations, and limitations of the study.

In the study, further, Chapter Five reported on the findings, analysis, interpretation, and presentation for the study. The chapter started by giving the background of Nkandla Local Municipality in its strategic context. It then began to report on its findings, analysis, interpretation, and presentation. In the presentation of the findings, the study presented its findings in accordance with the data collected and relevant to the study. To mention, the study did not just only present its findings, but before these findings were thoroughly analysed, interpreted, and then presented in accordance with the data received from the field. The purpose of the chapter was to ensure that the audience of the study receives empirically-based evidence through research findings on the subject matter.

Finally, in this chapter, the study concludes its dissertation by summarising all the chapters presented above. This is done for the purposes of concluding and closing the arguments of the study, so the audience can have a summarised version of the study. However, on the below section the study presents the findings conclusion on the main research questions of the study. It then provides the recommendations made by the researcher, and areas that contain further research on the study. Lastly, the following will be the list of references used in the study.

6.2 Research Conclusion to key Study Questions

The study has investigated the research problems pertaining to the localising of SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships in local government. The aim was to examine the role of local government in localising the SDGs, through a multi-stakeholder partnership approach, and discover challenges faced by small municipalities in that regard. To achieve this aim of the study, the researcher began by giving the theoretical perspective on the policy implementation, and the role of multi-stakeholder participation. It then moved on to provide the relevant

literature for localising the SDGs. From the literature, the study argued that multi-stakeholder participation is key for the SDGs if are to be achieved towards Agenda 2030. For the study this was important to explore, given the role multi-stakeholder partnerships are viewed to be holding towards achieving Agenda 2030. The concluding remarks made to each main research question of the study follow.

- *Research Question 1*: What is the role of sub-national government in South Africa?

In the success of implementing SDGs using a multi-stakeholder partnership approach in local government, it was argued from the study that the sphere of local government has a bigger role to play if the Agenda 2030 is to be achieved. Having made a comparative analysis between literature and the findings of the study, the conclusion was that local governments are at best able to successfully localise the SDGs towards Agenda 2030. From the study, the evidence suggests that the success of the localisation of SDGs will mainly depend on the continued role that is played by local governments towards Agenda 2030. The study confirmed the previous existing findings about the role that local government has on the localisation of SDGs. It then contributed additional evidence that suggests that the sphere has a much important role to further play if the SDGs are to be achieved towards Agenda 2030. Despite the study being conducted with a small scale of participants, having used one municipality as a case study, the findings of the study were able to give the overall conclusion of the entire local sphere with special reference to small municipalities on the efforts towards the localisation of SDGs.

- *Research question 2*: To what extent are multi-stakeholder partnerships important for the functionality of Municipalities in South Africa?

From the study, the importance of multi-stakeholder participation did not go without notice, as part of the study objective was to examine the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs. Based on the evidence of the findings of this study, it was found that within municipalities, multi-stakeholder partnerships are very important, and through them there is much hope that the achievement of the development agenda is possible and can strengthened. Therefore, the following conclusion can be drawn from the present study: for the success of any policy implementation, multi-stakeholder partnership approach is key and critical. Lastly, multi-stakeholder partnerships must be strengthened especially in local governments if the SDGs are to be achieved.

- **Research question 3**: What are the current arrangements for localising SDGs in rural municipalities in South Africa and in Nkandla in particular?

In this research question, the researcher was required to examine the existing arrangements for sustainable partnerships between Nkandla Municipality and numerous stakeholders, towards achieving the SDGs. It was argued that the sphere of local government is best to facilitate and organize local development stakeholders towards promoting an inclusive and sustainable development within local areas. The evidence of this study found that small municipalities do have existing multi-stakeholder partnerships in local levels. Despite this evidence, the findings of this study then revealed an implication that not all existing local stakeholders are involved in partnerships for related development agenda items. Based on this, one can conclude that in small municipalities, as much as partnerships do exist, some local partners do not feel involved in development matters. The significance of this finding would be that if municipalities are serious about achieving the SDGs, they need to ensure that stakeholders are equally engaged towards Agenda 2030.

- **Research question 4**: To what extent are multi-stakeholder partnerships key towards achieving the development priorities of the SDGs?

From this study, part of the researcher's role in relation to the main research questions was to answer this question. Based on the literature reviewed against the findings of the study, the evidence suggests that multi-stakeholder partnerships are key towards achieving the development priorities for the SDGs. These current findings add to a growing body of literature on SDGs for multi-stakeholder partnerships being key towards achieving Agenda 2030. The exploration undertaken here for multi-stakeholder partnerships has extended the existing knowledge on the necessity for the use of multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs if they are to be achieved. However, the findings of the study were limited since it used only one municipality as a case study to inform the findings of the overall entire local government small municipalities.

6.2. Policy Recommendations of the Study

The aims of this study were to examine the role of local government in localising the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships, and discover challenges faced by small municipalities to achieving Agenda 2030. The study discovered several findings which have been reported from the previous chapter. From the findings, there was acknowledgment of the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in local government, in particular from rural municipalities, to achieve sustainable development. Numerous partnerships with small municipalities were found to be of significance in achieving sustainable development. Further, the study has revealed numerous challenges small municipalities are faced with when localising the SDGs working with multi-partners. To improve the systems of small municipalities in localising the goals through multi-stakeholder partnerships against reported challenges, the study recommends various areas that need the attention of small municipalities if the SDGs are to be achieved.

- **Recommendation 1**

This study recommends that in rural municipalities like Nkandla, there is great need to create SDG communication and awareness campaigns to give more local people an understanding of the goals, and their significant roles in participating for sustainable development. This can be done by conducting SDG workshops for all existing and potential stakeholders within rural areas. Through these, small municipalities can increase understanding of the SDGs, and the significance of various people in their contribution to the goals so to achieve Agenda 2030 working together. Also, rural municipalities like Nkandla should conduct internal SDG training to officials so as to ensure that most of the officials have more understanding of their role for sustainable development towards Agenda 2030.

- **Recommendation 2**

The study recommends that rural municipalities like Nkandla should set up institutional arrangements and frameworks for localising the SDGs within their local levels. This can help these municipalities to have something to rely on, in terms of how they approach their localisation plan for the SDGs towards Agenda 2030.

- **Recommendation 3**

This study recommends that small municipalities like Nkandla should strengthen their promotion for multi-stakeholder partnerships by ensuring that all existing potential stakeholders are engaged. Also, for the inactive existing partnerships, the municipality should come up with multi-stakeholder partnerships reviving plans. The plan can help to re-activate all the inactive partnerships for the benefit of the municipalities to achieve not only the SDGs, and Agenda 2030, as well as all development aspirations.

- **Recommendation 4**

The study recommends that small municipalities should strengthen their multi-stakeholder partnerships mobilisation, in particular to those that have investment potential. Also, rural municipalities like Nkandla should continue working closely with key existing business stakeholders, such as the Chamber of Commerce. Through such partnerships, they should be able to come up with strategies that can help to enhance the mobilisation of more investors to support the activities of sustainable development within rural areas. Lastly, civil society organisations need to be more engaged, so they feel the importance of their continued contribution towards achieving UN goals.

6.3. Limitations and Future Research

This study focused only on exploring the localisation of SDGs in rural municipalities through multi-stakeholder partnerships, using one rural municipality as a case study. The study, given its nature, was limited to have a much broader conclusion on the subject matter under investigation. As a result, it used the findings of one rural municipality to inform other rural municipalities participating in localising the SDGs. Therefore, a broader study focusing on exploring the localisation of SDGs in rural municipalities through multi-stakeholder partnerships, using a case study of different municipalities within a particular district or a province, is suggested. This can help to close the research gap of the current study and discover a much broader context of the extent to which the UN goals are localised in rural municipalities towards Agenda 2030.

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APPENDICES

Appendix i: Ethical Clearance Approval Letter from University of KwaZulu Natal

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

20 April 2020

Mr Mphathesithe Mzwandile Mkhize (217063107)
School Of Social Sciences
Pietermaritzburg Campus

Dear Mr Mkhize,

Protocol reference number: HSSREC/00001289/2020
Project title: Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: A Case Study of Nkandla Local Municipality
Degree: Masters

Approval Notification – Expedited Application

This letter serves to notify you that your application received on 17 April 2020 in connection with the above, was reviewed by the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC) and the protocol has been granted FULL APPROVAL

Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number. PLEASE NOTE: Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

This approval is valid until 20 April 2021.
To ensure uninterrupted approval of this study beyond the approval expiry date, a progress report must be submitted to the Research Office on the appropriate form 2 - 3 months before the expiry date. A close-out report to be submitted when study is finished.

All research conducted during the COVID-19 period must adhere to the national and UKZN guidelines.

HSSREC is registered with the South African National Research Ethics Council (REC-040414-040).

Yours sincerely,

_____
Professor Dipane Hlalele (Chair)

/dd

Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee
UKZN Research Ethics Office Westville Campus, Govan Mbeki Building
Postal Address: Private Bag X54001, Durban 4000
Tel: +27 31 260 8350 / 4557 / 3587
Website: http://research.ukzn.ac.za/Research-Ethics/

Founding Campuses: ■ Edgewood ■ Howard College ■ Medical School ■ Pietermaritzburg ■ Westville

INSPIRING GREATNESS

Appendix ii: Participants Informed Consent Letter

Discipline of Public Policy
Howard College Campus
University of KwaZulu Natal

Date: 19 August 2019

Dear Participant

LETTER OF REQUEST TO CONDUCT A RESEARCH

My name is Mphathesithe Mkhize (217063107). I am a Masters candidate studying at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus. The title of my research is: *Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships*: *A Case Study of Nkandla Local Municipality*. The aim of the study is to (explore the extent to which how the SDG's are localised in Rural Municipalities through multi-stakeholder partnerships and find ways can be used in strengthening their localisation through multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve the agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development). I am interested in interviewing you so as to share your experiences and observations on the subject matter.

Please note that:
- The information that you provide will be used for scholarly research only.
- Your participation is entirely voluntary. You have a choice to participate, not to participate or stop participating in the research. You will not be penalized for taking such an action.
- Your views in this interview will be presented anonymously. Neither your name nor identity will be disclosed in any form in the study.
- The interview will take about (*60 minutes*).
- The record as well as other items associated with the interview will be held in a password-protected file accessible only to myself and my supervisors. After a period of 5 years, in line with the rules of the university, it will be disposed by shredding and burning.
- If you agree to participate please sign the declaration attached to this statement (a separate sheet will be provided for signatures)

I can be contacted at: School of Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban. Email: 217063107@stu.ukzn.ac.za;
Cell: 0764921351
My supervisor is Dr Cheryl Mohamed Sayeed who is located at the School of Social Sciences, Howard College Campus, Durban of the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Contact details: email mohamed-sayeedc@ukzn.ac.za Phone number: 031 2601583
The Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee contact details are as follows: Ms Phumelele Ximba, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Research Office, Email: ximbap@ukzn.ac.za, Phone number +27312603587.

Consent Form

DECLARATION

I………………………………………………………………… *(full names of participant*) hereby confirm that I understand the contents of this document and the nature of the research project, and I consent to participating in the research project.

I understand that I am at liberty to withdraw from the project at any time, should I so desire. I understand the intention of the research. I hereby agree to participate.

I consent / do not consent to have this interview recorded (if applicable)

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT   DATE

………………………………………………………………………………

Appendix iii: Interview Schedule

In-depth Research Questions to Nkandla Local Municipality

Interviewee: **Date:** **Start Time and End Time:** **Place/ setting:**

1. As the rural municipality, what is your understanding of the SDGs?
2. What do you understand about the localisation of SDGs?
3. To what extent do you implement the localisation of SDGs?
4. To what extent do you have multi-stakeholder partnerships for localising the SDGs?
5. What are these multi-stakeholder partnerships that you have as the rural municipality in localising the SDGs?
6. How do you value the importance of these multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs?
7. How often do you meet with these multi-stakeholders for localising the SDGs?
8. What do you understand about the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in localising the SDGs?
9. To what extent do you face challenges in localising the SDGs and what are those challenges?
10. What can you describe as the role of local political authorities in localising the SDGs?
11. How can you explain your role in localising the SDGs?
12. At what level does the municipality capacitate municipal officials for understanding the localisation of SDGs?
13. What activities have you undertaken as the rural municipality in localising the SDG's?
14. What are the specific goals that you feel are relevant to you and why?
15. Amongst these goals, what targets have you identified and at what time you aim to achieve them?
16. Have you ever developed any policies, strategic development frameworks and other plans in support of localising the SDGs?
17. To what extent do you monitor and evaluate the implementation of localising the SDGs?
18. For the localisation of SDGs, what are your monitoring and evaluation mechanisms?
19. What is your vision as the municipality towards the agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development?
20. What other comments do you have on the localising the implementation of SDGs?

In-depth Research Questions to NPOs

1. As the NPO, what is your understanding about the SDGs?
2. To what extent do you have a partnership with the rural municipality of Nkandla in localising the SDGs?
3. What that do you understand as your role in contributing towards the localisation of SDG's within local government?
4. What challenges do you think or know that are facing the rural municipalities for localising the SDGs?
5. With your contribution for development within the society, what do you do that you think is contributing to successful achievement of the SDGs?
6. How do you feel to be part of the stakeholders participating for the localising of SDG's?
7. What do you think can be done to strengthen the multi-stakeholder partnerships within rural municipalities for successful localisation of SDGs?

In-depth Research Questions to Business Sector

1. As the business sector within local government level, what do you understand about the SDGs?
2. To what extent do you have partnership with the rural municipality of Nkandla in localising the SDGs?
3. What do you understand as your role in contributing towards the localisation of SDG's within a local government level?
4. What challenges do you think or know are facing the rural municipalities for localising the SDGs?
5. With your contribution for development within the society, what do you do that you think is impactful for successful achievement of the SDGs?
6. How do you feel for being part of the stakeholders participating for the localisation of SDG's?
7. What do you think can be done to strengthen the multi-stakeholder partnerships within rural municipalities for successful localisation of SDGs?

In-depth Research Questions to Academic Sector

> **Interviewee:**
> **Date:**
> **Start Time and End Time:**
> **Place/ setting:**

1. What is your understanding of the SDGs?
2. To what extend do you understand the localisation of SDGs?
3. To what extend you have partnership to rural municipalities in localising the SDGs?
4. How often do you meet with rural municipal authorities for encouraging multi-stakeholder partnership with them?
5. What are the challenges you think the rural municipalities are faced with for successful localising the SDG's?
6. In your opinion, what do you think are the causes of the challenges mentioned above in localising the SDG's working with multi-stakeholder partnerships?
7. What you think can be done to strengthen the localisation of SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships towards achieving the agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development?

Appendix iv: Gatekeepers Letter from Nkandla Local Municipality

NKANDLA MUNICIPALITY

Postal Address:	Physical Address:		
Private Bag x 161	Morèe Road	☎	035-833 0067/8330921/23
NKANDLA	Lot 292	Fax	035-833 0920
3855	NKANDLA		

29 October 2019

Mphathesithe Mkhize
School of Social Sciences
College of Humanities
Howard College
UKZN
Email: 217063107@stu.ukzn.ac.za

Dear Mr. Mphathesithe Mkhize

RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

Topic: *"Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: A Case Study of Nkandla Local Municipality".*

Kindly be informed that your request to conduct research under Nkandla Local Municipality was referred to my office (Technical Services Department), by the Office of the Municipal Manager to attend to it and further assist wherever possible.

You are, therefore, advised that your above request has been granted. Please ensure that the following requirements are met before you start doing your research.

1) That the findings of your research will be shared with the municipality once is done.
2) That you will be able to avail yourself to do a presentation of your findings when requested, and
3) That you will submit ethical clearance approval letter from your university.

For any inquires please feel free to liaise us on the following details.

Yours sincerely

N.M. Mnyandu (Mr.)
Director: Technical Services
Nkandla Local Municipality
Tell: 035 833 2057
Email: nmnyandu@nkandla.org.za

Appendix v: Gatekeepers Letter from Thembalethu Community Based Organisation

THEMBELIHLE COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

PRIVATE BAG X 118   MFONGOSI AREA
NKANDLA   NKANDLA
3855   3855

NPO. NO.030-991
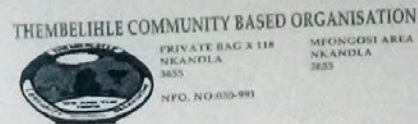
To: Mr Mphathesithe Mkhize
        University of KwaZulu Natal
        Howard College Campus
        Durban

29 August 2019

From : Coordinator
Ntando .Z. Mathaba
Tell   : 0799226116
Email: mntando1@gmail.com

Dear Mr Mphathesithe Mkhize

RE: Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: A Case Study of Nkandla Local Municipality.

Please be informed that the Thembelihle Community Based Organisation has approved your request to conduct research under it. But before, the Thembelihle Community Based Organisation wants you to comply with the following requirements.

1. That you will share your research findings , and
2. That you will accept to come and do presentation on your findings once the research has been done when you are requested.

This letter is provisional for your ethical clearance application and once the university has approved your research study, you are required to submit the approval letter from your university confirming that you conducting this research before you can collect data into our organization.

For any further queries you can contact our office on the below details.

Yours Sincerely

Social worker
 Ntando Z. Mathaba
Coordinator: Thembelihle Community Based Organisation
Mfongosi, Nkandla Area
Tell   : 0799226116
Email : mntando1@gmail.com

Appendix vi: Gatekeepers Letter from Nkungumathe Youth Centre

NKUNGUMATHE
Working towards Prosperity

25 August 2019

Mr. Mphathesithe Mkhize
University of KwaZulu Natal
Howard College Campus
Mphathemkhize@hotmail.com or 217063107@stu.ukzn.ac.za

Dear Mphathesithe

Research Topic: Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

This letter serves to confirm that your request to conduct research at Nkungumathe Youth Centre has been granted based on the following conditions you need to follow:

1. That you will agree to share the results of the study with the organisation once the research has been done.
2. That you will share to Nkungumathe Youth Centre the copy or PDF version of your dissertation.
3. That you will agree to come and do presentation of the dissertation results to the NPO when you are requested.

Please note that this letter of approval is subject to the ethical clearance letter submission from your university confirming that your research study has been approved before you can collect data.

Yours Sincerely
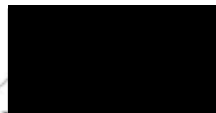
Mr Mthokozi McDonald Mchunu
Chairperson: Nkungumathe (041-539-NPO)
Telephone: (035) 833 7024
Fax: (035) 833 8030
Cell: 072 3168 800 / 0729050441
Email: mchunum@live.co.za

Appendix vii: Gatekeepers Letter from Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

ADA — Promoting Agribusiness through Partnerships & Knowledge

Enquiries Imibuzo	:	Mr S Mazibuko	Telephone Ucingo	:	033 – 347 8600	Private Bag Isikhwama Seposi	:	X 01 Cascades, Pietermaritzburg
Navrae	:		Telephone	:		Privaat Sak	:	3202
Reference Inkomba Verwysing	: : :	Ntingwe Masters Research approval				Facsimile Isikhahlamezi Faks	: : :	033 347 0923

04 October 2019

Mr M Mkhize
Discipline of Public Policy
Howard Campus
University Of KwaZulu Natal
3200

Dear Mr M Mkhize

AUTHORIZATION LETTER

This communication serves as an authorization letter for Mr M Mkhize to conduct research within the Ntingwe Tea Estate.

The authorization is for the following topic "LOCALISING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN RURAL MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH MULTI-LOCALISING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN RURAL MUNICIPALITIES THROUGH MULTI- STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS: A CASE STUDY OF NKANDLA LOCALMUNICIPALITY".

Please ensure that information that will be provided will be treated with confidentiality and will not be used for any other purposes except for this study.

The contact person at Ntingwe Tea Estate is Mr B Msane. His contact details are nmsane43@gmail.com, 082 800 2519.

I wish you all the best for your research.

Yours sincerely,

Mr
Chief Executive Officer: Agribusiness Development Agency

2019/10/07
DATE

Appendix viii: Gatekeepers Letter from University of KwaZulu-Natal

UNIVERSITY OF ™
KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

1 October 2019

Mphathesithe Mkhize (SN 217063107)
School of Social Sciences
College of Humanities
Howard College Campus
UKZN
Email: 217063107@stu.ukzn.ac.za

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH

Gatekeeper's permission is hereby granted for you to conduct research at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) towards your postgraduate studies, provided Ethical clearance has been obtained. We note the title of your research project is:

"Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships."

It is noted that you will be constituting your sample by conducting interviews with academic staff members at UKZN.

Please ensure that the following appears on your notice/questionnaire:
* Ethical clearance number;
* Research title and details of the research, the researcher and the supervisor;
* Consent form is attached to the notice/questionnaire and to be signed by user before he/she fills in questionnaire;
* gatekeepers approval by the Registrar.

You are not authorized to contact staff and students using 'Microsoft Outlook' address book. Identity numbers and email addresses of individuals are not a matter of public record and are protected according to Section 14 of the South African Constitution, as well as the Protection of Public Information Act. For the release of such information over to yourself for research purposes, the University of KwaZulu-Natal will need express consent from the relevant data subjects. Data collected must be treated with due confidentiality and anonymity.

Yours sincerely

DR KE CLELAND
REGISTRAR (ACTING)

Office of the Registrar
Postal Address: Private Bag X54001, Durban, South Africa
Telephone: +27 (0) 31 260 8005/2206 Facsimile: +27 (0) 31 260 7824/2204 Email: registrar@ukzn.ac.za
Website: www.ukzn.ac.za

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Appendix ix: Gatekeepers Letter from United Cities and Local Governments

United Cities and Local Governments
08002 Barcelona – Spain
Tell: +34 933 428 750
Email: infor@uclg.org

07 April 2020

Dear Mr Mphathesithe Mkhize

RE: *Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: A Case Study of Nkandla Local Municipality.*

Your request to collect data under United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) as part of your research here is granted. Please ensure the following requirements are met once you have finished your research.

1) That you share your research findings with full report to UCLG.
2) That you do presentation of your research findings when requested.
3) That all the information shared by UCLG is used only for pure academic purpose.

For inquires you can contact our offices as per below details.

Yours sincerely

Jolie Guzmán
Tell: +34 93 342 8764
Email: j.guzman@uclg.org

Appendix x: Editors Certificate

<p style="text-align:center">**THE WRITING STUDIO**
Writing and Editing Practice</p>

Certificate 2020/12/13

30 December 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This dissertation, entitled **Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Municipalities through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: A Case Study of Nkandla Local Municipality** by Mphathesithe Mzwandile Mkhize, has been edited and reviewed to ensure technically accurate and contextually appropriate use of language for research at this level of study.

Yours sincerely

CM ISRAEL, BA Hons (UDW) MA (UND) MA (US) PhD (UNH)
LANGUAGE EDITOR AND WRITING CONSULTANT
Connieisrael90@gmail.com Mobile 082 4988166

Appendix xi: Turnitin Report