

A Presentation at the 2026 International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) National Commemoration

**Panel 2 Discussion: Understanding Risk
and Building Community Ownership,
Focussing on From Risk Knowledge to
Community Action: A Municipal
Approach to Building Resilient
Communities**

13 – 14 October 2026



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Local Municipality

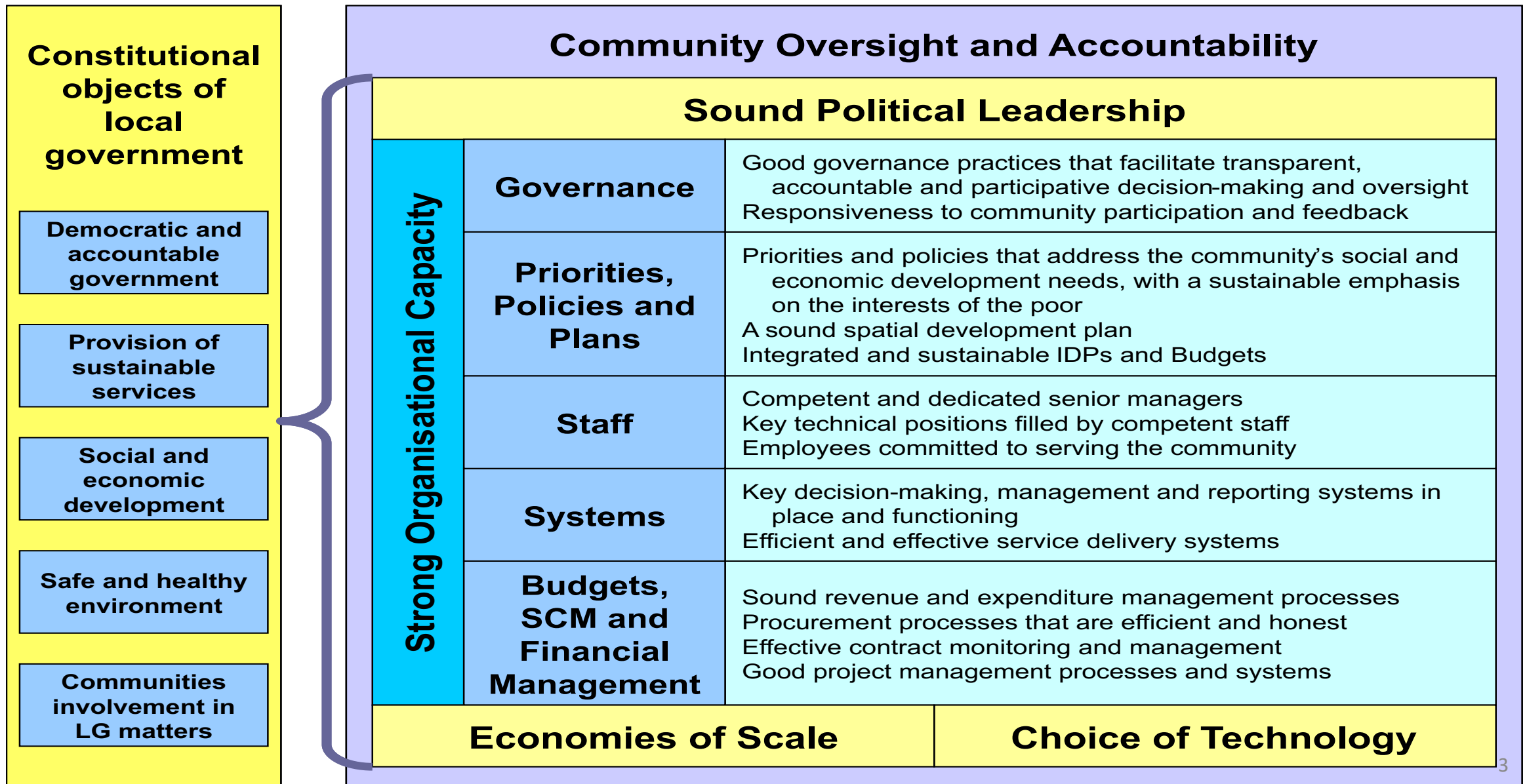


Thembisile Hani

Presentation Outline

- 1) An Ideal, Functional and Well Performing Municipality in the Context of Good Governance and Clean Administration
- 2) Barriers to Good Governance, which Impacts on our Ability to Ensure a Safe and Healthy Environment
- 3) Moving from Risk Knowledge to Community Action – Key Focus Areas for Participatory Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategies that Empower Local Communities
- 4) A Focus on Building Community Ownership through Community-Based Risk Reduction (CBRR)
- 5) The Accountability Ecosystem – We All Have a Critical Role to Play
- 6) Conclusion

1) An Ideal, Functional and Well Performing Municipality in the Context of Good Governance and Clean Administration



2) Barriers to Good Governance, which Impacts on our Ability to Ensure a Safe and Healthy Environment

Poor Ethics

Lack of Leadership

No Measurable Strategic Objectives

Lack of Independent Thoughts

Lack of Courage

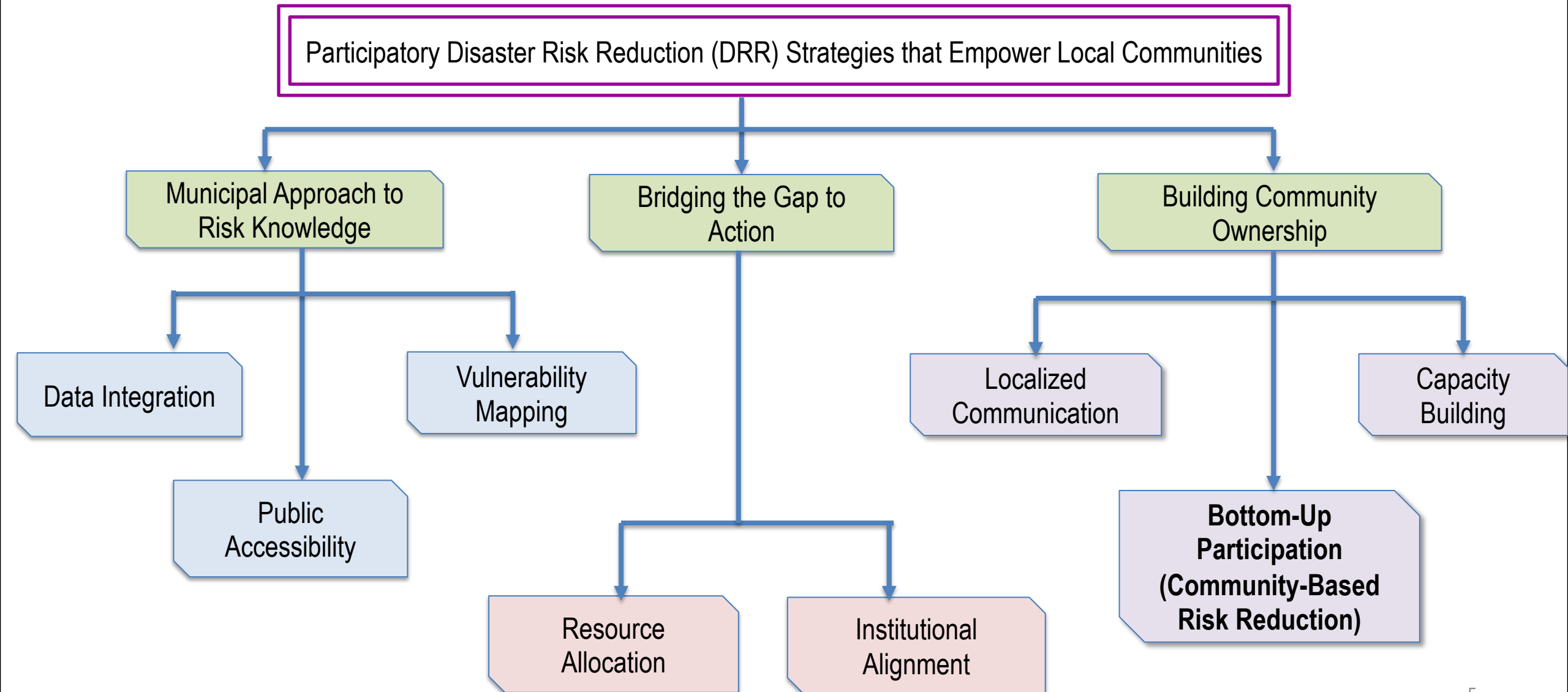
Lack of Timeous Information

Greed and Conflicts of Interest

No Role Clarity

No Accountability

3) Moving from Risk Knowledge to Community Action – Key Focus Areas for Participatory Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategies that Empower Local Communities



3) Moving from Risk Knowledge to Community Action – Key Focus Areas for Participatory DRR Strategies that Empower Local Communities (Continued)

The Municipal Approach to Risk Knowledge:

- Data Integration: Municipalities must align local risk assessments with the National Disaster Management Framework and embed them directly into municipal IDPs.
- Vulnerability Mapping: Combining technical tools, **such as drone imagery** or GIS mapping, with local and indigenous knowledge helps accurately pinpoint structural inequalities and hazard exposure in rural and informal urban settlements.
- Public Accessibility: Up-to-date hazard data must be shared openly with communities so that residents understand specific local threats like flooding, fires, or climate stress (**linked with accurate data from the SA Weather Services**).

Building Community Ownership:

- Bottom-Up Participation: Shifting away from rigid, top-down mandates enables local structures to co-design practical risk mitigation strategies.
- Localized Communication: Translating safety policies and early warning alerts into local languages ensures maximum comprehension and engagement across diverse populations.
- Capacity Building: Fostering self-reliance relies on trainings, public preparedness drills, and leveraging community networks as a primary line of defense.

Bridging the Gap to Action:

- Resource Allocation: Prioritising vulnerable areas in municipal budgets to upgrade fragile infrastructure.
- Institutional Alignment: Bridging coordination gaps between municipal, district, and provincial departments ensures that community-identified priorities translate into funded, actionable public programs.

4) A Focus on Building Community Ownership through Community-Based Risk Reduction (CBRR)

In our rapidly changing world, communities face various risks in terms of natural disasters. But what if the key to resilience lies within the community itself? Community-Based Risk Reduction (CBRR) is a powerful strategy that empowers local communities to proactively mitigate and manage risks. Through education, volunteer programmes, and local government initiatives, communities can strengthen their resilience against disasters.

CBRR is a bottom-up approach that helps local communities identify, assess, and manage risks. CBRR leverages the unique insights and strengths of community members, ensuring that risk reduction measures are tailored to local needs and conditions, which fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to more sustainable and effective risk management practices.

CBRR is essential for building community resilience. When communities understand their vulnerabilities and actively participate in risk reduction, they are better equipped to cope with and recover from disasters, and this proactive approach reduces the impact of adverse events and also enhances social cohesion and community spirit.

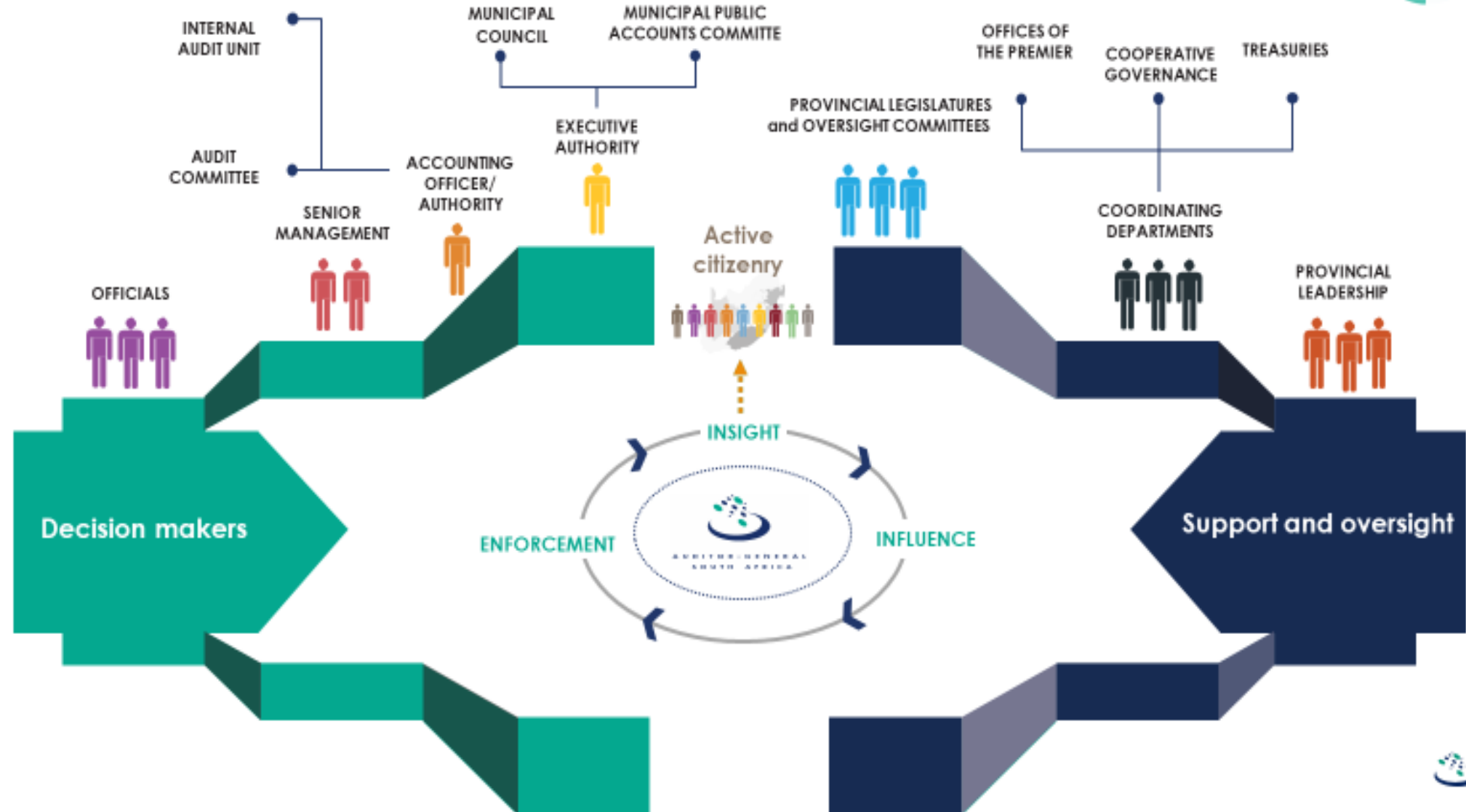
Education is a critical component of CBRR. Through education and awareness programmes, community members can gain the knowledge and skills needed to understand and mitigate risks. These programmes can take various forms such as community workshops and public awareness campaigns.

4) A Focus on Building Community Ownership through Community-Based Risk Reduction (CBRR) (Continued)

Informal learning opportunities play a vital role in CBRR. Community events, storytelling, and peer-to-peer learning can help spread important information and build a culture of preparedness. By making education accessible and engaging, communities can foster a proactive mindset and encourage individuals to take action.

Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Capricorn District Municipality, and eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality have advanced their disaster risk reduction and resilience building efforts through a series of technical workshops delivered by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Africa under the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), and these should be holistically extended across our 44 Districts in our view.

5) The Accountability Eco-System – We All Have a Critical Role to Play (Source = Auditor General of South Africa)



6) Conclusion

We must all belong to a school of governance thought that subscribes to the notion of sharing best practices, simply because government is one at the end of the day. We do not exist to work in isolation or in competition with one another, as the objective of the state remains that of creating an enabling environment for our people to be better off, and this is enshrined in Section 152 of the Constitution.



End of Presentation/ Report.

Our jobs as humans is to hold on to the thoughts of what we want, make it absolutely clear in our minds what we want, and from that we start to invoke one of the greatest laws in the Universe, and that's the law of attraction. You become what you think about most, but you also attract what you think about most. – John Assaraf

Our possibility of success must outweigh our fear of failure. Therefore, let us be known for excellence, ethics, humility, hard work and competence.

Xie Xie (Thank You)!

