

JOIN THE E-LEARNING WEB BASED COURSE IN PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING – www.asaaf.org.zw/pb-course1.

As continuation of capacity building in participatory budgeting for rural and urban local authorities, the Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA) has developed a self-learning web based course. The course has the support of the World Bank and UN-HABITAT and can be accessed via www.asaaf.org.zw/pb-course1. Upon successful completion of the course, a certificate is awarded.

The overall learning objective of the course is to enable participants to understand what participatory budgeting is and how it can be used as a tool for realizing good governance.

It is envisaged that, after successfully completing the course, participants should be in a position to introduce or improve the practice of participatory budgeting in their respective local authorities.

Based on lessons learnt, participatory budgeting can help local authorities realize the millennium development goals (MDGs). Some of the tangible results that can emanate from participatory budgeting include the following:

- Reduction in objections to proposed tariffs
- Reduction in vandalism of council property
- Elimination of white elephants (unwanted projects)
- Reduction of conflict in allocation of resources
- Enhanced revenue generation and collection
- Improved monitoring of expenditure management
- Enhanced investment opportunities and promotion
- Establishment of public-private partnerships in services delivery and infrastructure development
- Informed residents on their rights, responsibilities and obligations
- Promotion of community development and solidarity
- Cultivation of trust between council and residents
- Promotion of social accountability and prevention of corruption

The course is meant for central government officials, local authority officials who include but are not limited to: treasurers, town clerks, chamber secretaries, directors of works and engineering services, directors of housing and community services, directors of health services, planners and economic development/investment officers, councilors including chairpersons of finance committee and works. Other groups of participants expected to attend include civic society organizations, academics and researchers, headmasters, consultants, development specialists, and interested individuals.

The course is divided into eight interrelated parts.

- What participatory budgeting is, and why it is important.
- Who initiates participatory budgeting, who participates, and where it is practiced in Africa.
- Dimensions of participatory budgeting – forms of participation, finance, territorial and legal.
- Pre-conditions for participatory budgeting.
- Process and stages for participatory budgeting.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Country experiences in practicing participatory budgeting.
- Impact of participatory budgeting in service delivery and poverty reduction.
- Challenges and constraints of putting participatory budgeting into practice

At the end of each part of the course, there are a set of self test questions and their corresponding answers. The overall self assessment test together with its answers is also found at the end of part nine of the course. Participants are expected to have a minimum level competencies in computer use and ICT.

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Yours sincerely

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