2015 UNPAN CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Presentation on the All Africa Public Sector Innovation Awards (AAPSIA)

Emperors Palace
11 June 2015
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3. Background to AAPSIA
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1. Centre for Public Service Innovation

MPSA Portfolio (DPSA, NSG, PSC, CPSI, GEMS – each run by HOD/Accounting Officer)

Entrench the culture & practice of innovation in the public service: Unearthing, encouraging, rewarding, showcasing testing & piloting new solutions, facilitating mainstreaming & replication of innovations in the public sector

ICT & NON-ICT solutions
CPSI’s operational model

- Work in partnership with sectors to identify challenges relating to government priorities

- Set up integrated stakeholder teams (e.g. VI Teachers: Education, SITA, SA-Council for the Blind, Teachers) to interrogate the challenge, explore innovative solutions to improve service delivery and funding model (Government institutions, academia, NGOs, private Sector)

- Oversee testing and piloting – ensure in line with government priorities, legislation and procedures

- Ensure ownership is appropriately allocated for mainstreaming and sustainability

Entrenchment of culture & practice of innovation (innovation knowledge sharing platforms & products – conference, awards, workshops, journal, UNPAN Portal, MMIC)
2. Why AAPSIA Presentation

We are AU member states & we are member states of the United Nations

Both have programmes whose objectives are objectives have similar outcomes

Aimed at addressing the same challenges
Why this presentation

Synergies & linkages between programmes are important to avoid conflicting messages, conflicting mandates

To avoid fragmented approaches to finding solutions to our challenges

To ensure a consolidated understanding of programme objectives and a consolidated focus on implementation
3. UN’s UNPAN programme

- It promotes **knowledge sharing** throughout the world for sound public policies, effective public administration and efficient public services (**modernization of public services**)

- Supports capacity-development and cooperation among the UN member states

- UNPAN Awards Programme which **globally recognises** innovative solutions for sharing and learning from best practices & encourages member states to have innovation programmes
4. AU’s African Charter

- **Article 8:** Modernization of the Public Service and Administration (facilitating the introduction of modern and innovative procedures and systems for the delivery of its services).

- **Article 9:** refers to the demonstration of excellence and innovation in the performance of duties.

- **ARTICLE 21:** PUTTING IN PLACE, MECHANISMS & PROCESSES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE, KNOWLEDGE & BEST PRACTICES

- **Article 25:** Recognising creativity & innovation AND promotion of innovative experiences and a system of awards for Innovation
5. Background to AAPSIA

- The All Africa Public Sector Innovation Awards (AAPSIA) is **one of the thematic areas** within the Minister’s Programme (CAMPS).

- As a project was conceptualised during the 4th Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public/Civil Service that took place in Stellenbosch, South Africa in **2003**, under the auspices of the African Union.

- The project was officially launched in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia during the 5th Pan African Conference of Ministers of Public/Civil Service in December **2005** (Champion = SA; co-Champions = Egypt, Ghana)

- First ceremony was successfully held in **2008** during the 6th Pan African Conference of Ministers.

- Second, also successful, was concluded in **2011** and ceremony hosted in Kenya on 13 May 2011.

- 3rd ceremony held in **2013** in Congo-Brazzaville
What is AAPSIA?

- The first Africa-wide awards programme that celebrates innovation in the public sector.

- The programme recognises and rewards the achievements of public servants and their partners from the private and not-for-profit sectors who have successfully developed innovative solutions to service delivery and governance challenges.

- The aim is to cultivate an enabling environment within the public sectors for the development, and nurturing of innovative ideas and implementation of innovative initiatives.

- ‘Beyond ideas to successful implementation with evidence’
6. Project managing AAPSIA
Champions & Steering Committee

- Led by the Champion assisted by Co-Champions
- Supported by the Chairperson’s Office and the African Union (AU)
- Steering Committee: To oversee planning, mobilise resources, implementation

Role of Champion & co-champions
- Soliciting funding
- Marketing throughout Africa
- Receiving & packaging entries;
- Arranging adjudication;
- Coordinating awards ceremony within the gala dinner of the Conference of Ministers for Public/Civil Service
Theme & Categories

Theme:

Categories:
- Innovative Service Delivery Improvements.
- Innovative Partnerships between Government, Private Sector and Civil Society Organisations.
- Innovations in the Systems and Processes of Governance.

Criteria for entry – give direction in terms of the requirements - importantly service delivery, impact and sustainability
Eligibility

- Project must originate from Africa
- Direct benefit to citizens of that country or region
- Individuals/units in government departments, parastatals
- Partnerships - public/private/civil society
- Operate within public sector
- Existence for more than one year: Reflect innovative idea or concept successfully implemented

(Entry form and brochure provide details)
Adjudicators appointed from each region (excluding CAMPS secretariat, Champion and co-Champions)

Adjudicators adhere to Code of Conduct

Training of adjudicators

Adjudicators convene to evaluate entries, select finalists and determine category winners and overall winner.

Validation visits
- ensure validity and sustainability of projects
- support needed from member states:
  - arranging site visits
  - preparing video footage & photographs of finalist projects
7. Public sector innovation
The case for PS Innovation

Despite all the progressive policies, legislations, implementation plans, capacity building & intervention programmes - major service delivery challenges persist

Rapid change e.g climate & environmental change

Sophisticated citizens demand and expect, prompt, improved and personalised public services (aware of technological changes)

Highly diverse society where the “one-size-fits-all” approach that informed the establishment of the public services is outdated

Limited funding and capacity

‘Innovation has been identified as a critical vehicle for transforming the public service – thus a strong need for innovative strategies and approaches to policy development and implementation’
Defining PS Innovation

Importantly graduation from idea to proven, implemented product/solution – many ideas not implementable

Creation and implementation of new service delivery solutions (systems, processes, methodologies, models, products, services and methods) resulting in significant improvements in outcomes, efficiency, effectiveness & quality

Including finding extraordinary/radical ways of enhancing access to public services in all sectors (education, health, and so on)
Defining PS Innovation cont’d

- **Thinking & operating out of the box** (also check what’s in the box)
- Going an **extra-mile, pushing barriers & crossing the boundaries** to achieve outcomes (citizens)

**Examples:**

**Mind-sets**

- physiotherapist (coke bottle as a pacer)

- police commissioner (centre for women, social worker involvement, with capacity building programme)

- SA Principal of rural school – community economic development (cross-cutting Mandate)
Pilots

- Inland Water Project – several stakeholders
- Track and Trace system

•NOTE: What is an innovation to one may not be an innovation to another - adapting/replicating an existing innovation may be a new innovation to one
8. Benefits for Africa
Many individuals and institutions in African governments have developed creative solutions that have changed the lives of their citizens - not known or shared

- **Innovation Awards programme** facilitates the **identification and recognition of those extraordinary achievements** for learning and replication
  - **Unearths** innovations for replication
  - prevents us from **re-inventing the wheel, duplicating initiatives & wasting** resources

- **Putting Africa on the international map** through showcasing of new tools for public administration that are constantly emerging
  - through AAPSIA the continent is **acknowledged as the generator of home-grown processes and practices**

  (avoid off-the-shelf, untested for contexts solutions)
Benefits for Africa

● Cease to be viewed as “consumers of best practices” to be amongst “creators” and thus contributors to the growing body of knowledge on public administration & governance
  - repository of good practices and good governance – available to the world for research, learning & development of new initiatives (greed for our solutions!)
  - over-reliance on other continents will diminish

● Promotes regional integration - builds relationships and new partnerships that will result in new initiatives and collaborations amongst countries and across regions (as we pursue our MDGs)

● At Country level - profiling your country before you are profiled at a cost (packaging is done on your behalf)

● Our principals get to know about your achievements for the first time (away from offices) – first time acknowledgement
9. National programmes
Charter directs each member state to establish its own programme

- From our experience:
  - Has to be coordinated from a central point (catalyst) - Important to have a specific structure/office
  - Location – not within a department
  - Highest political sponsorship
  - Budgeting model is key
  - Partnerships & stakeholder engagement are critical
Benefits from national programme

- Acknowledging, praising & awarding people is the **best encouragement** to push more and sacrifice
  - finalists & winners keep returning every year with new innovations (becomes a culture of creativity, entrepreneurship, innovation becomes a core-activity)

- You build a repository of best/innovative solutions for replication
  - Replication VS re-inventing the wheel
  - Case studies for teaching public administration

- Integration - innovation forces you to cross into other sectors for integrated outcomes (water project)

- Ready to submit for **continental & international awards** programmes (AAPSIA, AAPAM, CAPAM, UN, Private sector programmes)
8. CONCLUDING SUGGESTIONS
Suggestions

- Trust in your own solutions – they address your challenges
- Move beyond competition – learn from one another (replication)
- Get passionate, **exciting people** to drive innovation programmes/units
- Solicit **political and top leadership sponsorship** (their absence can shut down your programme)
“A public innovator has a dilemma: How can government organisations find radical new ways of delivering better services and outcomes at significantly lower cost?”

Christian Basson
(Director, Mindlab, Denmark)
THANK YOU