

THE CHALLENGE OF MANAGING STREET VENDORS IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CASE OF THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY.

By

MULONDO THIVHULAWI ALBERT

STUDENT NO.: 8703090

A MINI DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

MASTER OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

at the University of Venda

O.R TAMBO INSTITUTE OF GOVERNANCE AND POLICY STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Supervisor: Prof. M.P Khwashaba

2012

UNIVEN LIBRARY
Library Item : 20130669



ABSTRACT

Street vending is a common practice these days. In almost every town or city the streets are overcrowded by these people. Do they have a right to sell their goods in our towns? Is there any need for their practices to be regulated? Who is responsible for the management of street vending? These are some of the crucial questions that this study tried to answer.

The focus of the research was to assess the challenges facing municipalities on the management of street vendors. The study focused on Thulamela Municipality. The study tried to identify the challenges and the interventions that were employed by Thulamela municipality. Some of the challenges identified in this study were licensing, regulation, street vending rentals, infrastructure, relocation, just to mention but a few.

The municipality is the government closest to the people. The will of the people must be paramount in all local developments. The question should be: what do local people need? What is good and effective for one municipality may not be so for the other.

The study used quantitative method. The researcher used purposive sampling method to select the respondents for the study. A case study was conducted at Thulamela Municipality. Questionnaires were used to collect data.

The researcher found that there are challenges in the management of street vending in the Thulamela Municipality. The following are some of the identified challenges:

- Control of licenses is a challenge to the municipality.
- It is not easy to get a license
- Some street vendors do not get enough income to afford rentals.
- Rentals fees are believed to be high by some vendors.
- Street vendors are not all well-informed about the municipality bylaws.
- Street vendors are to be reasonably consulted.

The researcher recommends that a mutual understanding is needed between the municipality and the street vendors. The municipality has to enforce all necessary regulation for an improved service delivery. Proper consultation must be made on regular base. Sound communication has to be made when bylaws are drawn.

Street vendors need to be organized. Committees must stay functional and effective. All street vendors are to be registered with both the street vending committee and the municipality.