

**Mayor Dirk Kotzé's speech in Ethiopia focused on Mossel Bay's commitment to implementing the United Nations Agenda 2030.**

[00:00.0 - 00:01.9] The next one will be the mayor.  
[00:01.9 - 00:05.9] Mayor of Mosey Bay Municipality, South Africa,  
[00:05.9 - 00:08.2] Mr. Dirk Kotsi.  
[00:10.1 - 00:11.6] The question is as follows.  
[00:11.6 - 00:15.6] How have you meaningfully engaged youth,  
[00:15.6 - 00:19.3] civic society, and marginalized groups  
[00:19.3 - 00:20.9] in the review process?  
[00:20.9 - 00:25.5] Not just as participants, but as co-creators.  
[00:25.5 - 00:28.5] How can trust and accountability be strengthened  
[00:28.5 - 00:31.6] through more inclusive review processes?  
[00:31.6 - 00:33.6] Over to you, Mr. Mayor.  
[00:33.6 - 00:37.0] Thank you very much, Mrs. Moderator.  
[00:37.0 - 00:38.3] From our side, thank you very much.  
[00:38.3 - 00:42.0] It's an honor to be here speaking on behalf of South  
Africa  
[00:42.0 - 00:44.0] and our local government.  
[00:44.0 - 00:47.3] In Mosey Bay, we're currently the fastest growing  
[00:47.3 - 00:50.1] municipality in South Africa.  
[00:50.1 - 00:52.8] And strategically, we believe in partnership.  
[00:52.8 - 00:55.0] So I'm gonna speak a bit about that  
[00:55.0 - 00:58.5] because our whole process was built  
[00:58.5 - 01:00.1] on trust and partnerships.  
[01:01.2 - 01:02.6] So we've got a growth strategy.  
[01:02.6 - 01:04.8] So the strategy is to grow Mosey Bay  
[01:04.8 - 01:07.9] in collaboration with various partners.  
[01:07.9 - 01:11.2] And unfortunately, we see worldwide  
[01:11.2 - 01:16.2] that in many cases, politicians are not trusted.  
[01:17.0 - 01:20.2] And for that reason, we've really delved in  
[01:20.2 - 01:24.0] and focused on how we can first build trust  
[01:24.0 - 01:26.8] with various sectors in our community,  
[01:26.8 - 01:30.0] and then obviously collaborate from there.  
[01:30.0 - 01:34.2] So with our trust relationships continuously being  
built  
[01:34.2 - 01:37.8] and strengthened, we have set out to meaningfully  
engage  
[01:37.8 - 01:39.9] internally and also externally.  
[01:39.9 - 01:42.3] But since this question is more about  
[01:42.3 - 01:46.4] our external engagement, I'll only elaborate on that.  
[01:46.4 - 01:50.3] So what we did is the benefit of our trust  
relationship  
[01:50.3 - 01:53.4] that we've been working on for various years,  
[01:53.4 - 01:55.2] we've tried to leverage that.  
[01:56.3 - 01:58.1] And then in the municipality,  
[01:58.1 - 02:01.2] we've got a social development department  
[02:01.2 - 02:04.1] through which we continuously liaise with youth,  
[02:04.1 - 02:08.0] with marginalized and civil society.  
[02:08.0 - 02:10.1] Just to come back to the partnerships,  
[02:10.1 - 02:15.1] what we've done is we've created various partnership  
forums  
[02:15.8 - 02:19.2] and some of them we've created nonprofit companies  
[02:19.2 - 02:22.4] where we've got the knowledgeable  
[02:22.4 - 02:26.6] and the private sector partners involved.  
[02:26.6 - 02:29.0] And then also council members serving  
[02:29.0 - 02:30.9] on that nonprofit company.

[02:30.9 - 02:34.8] So for example, we've established Environmental Forum,  
[02:34.8 - 02:36.1] which is a nonprofit company  
[02:36.1 - 02:38.5] with all the different environmental sectors  
[02:38.5 - 02:40.2] in town collaborating.  
[02:40.2 - 02:44.1] So also with safety, we've got a local drug action group  
[02:44.1 - 02:48.6] where everybody's involved fighting drugs,  
[02:48.6 - 02:49.8] collaborating with us.  
[02:49.8 - 02:53.0] We've established a faith-based leaders forum,  
[02:53.0 - 02:56.0] early childhood development forum.  
[02:56.0 - 02:58.5] Then we've also established within the organization,  
[02:58.5 - 03:01.2] a youth office and through them,  
[03:01.2 - 03:04.5] we also run various youth cafes.  
[03:04.5 - 03:07.3] Then we've also established a junior town council,  
[03:07.3 - 03:09.6] women action forum group.  
[03:09.6 - 03:11.7] And then also we've got a campaign  
[03:11.7 - 03:14.1] where we collaborate continuously  
[03:14.1 - 03:16.4] with people with disabilities themselves.  
[03:16.6 - 03:18.6] It's people with disabilities themselves  
[03:18.6 - 03:20.2] serving on that panels.  
[03:20.2 - 03:23.0] And we call that Disability Accessibility Masaba.  
[03:23.0 - 03:24.8] And we've got various projects  
[03:24.8 - 03:28.0] that provincial government also collaborate with us on that.  
[03:29.2 - 03:30.7] So through these partnerships,  
[03:30.7 - 03:32.9] we've had various workshops  
[03:32.9 - 03:36.1] and then obviously built on that trust relationships  
[03:36.1 - 03:38.1] we've also already got.  
[03:38.1 - 03:40.4] It's quite easy to get these people  
[03:40.4 - 03:42.0] who's passionate and knowledgeable  
[03:42.0 - 03:44.2] about what they're doing in your community  
[03:44.2 - 03:45.5] to collaborate with us.  
[03:45.5 - 03:48.0] And obviously through them  
[03:48.0 - 03:51.2] and through our own communications department,  
[03:51.2 - 03:55.2] we then also create awareness about the SDGs.  
[03:56.1 - 03:57.2] So the second question is,  
[03:57.2 - 04:00.6] how can we trust and continued accountability  
[04:00.6 - 04:04.0] be strengthened through more inclusive review processes?  
[04:04.0 - 04:07.0] So just to carry on,  
[04:07.0 - 04:11.6] the trust is earned and it can be measured.  
[04:11.6 - 04:15.0] It's measured through elections.  
[04:15.0 - 04:17.3] If affordable, sustainable basic services  
[04:17.3 - 04:20.9] are delivered on a continuous basis to all communities,  
[04:20.9 - 04:22.5] trust is earned.  
[04:22.5 - 04:25.0] If the mayor and politicians and administration  
[04:25.0 - 04:28.4] are regularly available, trust is earned.  
[04:28.4 - 04:30.5] If accountability can be proven,  
[04:30.5 - 04:31.6] and in Masaba's case,  
[04:31.6 - 04:35.7] we've had 12 clean audits in 14 years, trust is earned.  
[04:35.7 - 04:38.3] If your organization or municipality  
[04:38.3 - 04:42.3] is getting good reviews and ratings, trust is earned.  
[04:42.8 - 04:46.4] And then obviously there's positive things  
[04:46.4 - 04:50.0] within all the challenges in Africa and in South Africa,

[04:50.0 - 04:52.0] within our municipalities,  
[04:52.0 - 04:55.4] it's important for us to continuously communicate  
[04:55.4 - 04:57.9] these successes and the partnerships.  
[04:57.9 - 05:00.1] And obviously the benefit of partnerships  
[05:00.1 - 05:02.6] is that your partners also assist you  
[05:02.6 - 05:06.2] with driving the message and the reasons  
[05:06.2 - 05:09.9] why we are involved with SDGs and why we're  
measuring.  
[05:10.0 - 05:12.2] So people love to be part of success  
[05:12.2 - 05:14.2] and will buy in if they believe in that.  
[05:14.2 - 05:18.3] And lastly, our administration must also be inspired.  
[05:18.3 - 05:21.1] Many times this project,  
[05:21.1 - 05:25.2] or as we speak about SDGs, your project will fail  
[05:25.2 - 05:27.4] if your administration do not buy in,  
[05:27.4 - 05:29.1] if they're not inspired by leadership  
[05:29.1 - 05:32.0] and that they cannot experience that belief,  
[05:32.0 - 05:34.1] that there's belief in what's being doing.  
[05:34.1 - 05:37.3] So with a relationship of trust and a track record  
[05:37.6 - 05:41.2] of accountability, plus SDG awareness programs,  
[05:41.2 - 05:43.4] people will not be unfamiliar  
[05:43.4 - 05:45.0] with what the leaders are busy with,  
[05:45.0 - 05:48.8] what they stand for, and what they are trying to  
achieve  
[05:48.8 - 05:50.8] for our own communities through that.  
[05:50.8 - 05:51.8] Thank you very much.  
[05:55.4 - 05:58.0] Madam Moderator, just if you allow,  
[05:58.0 - 06:00.1] thank you for our last panelist.  
[06:00.1 - 06:02.6] I am being informed that some delegates  
[06:02.6 - 06:05.0] at the back of our conference room  
[06:05.0 - 06:06.9] cannot always hear properly.  
[06:06.9 - 06:11.0] So I would very politely and kindly ask our panelists  
[06:11.0 - 06:15.2] to speak close to the mic or to speak louder.  
[06:15.2 - 06:19.7] So we are all looking forward to listening to you,  
[06:19.7 - 06:22.4] talking loud and clear of your action  
[06:22.4 - 06:23.5] and vision for Africa.  
[06:23.5 - 06:24.3] Thank you.  
[06:26.4 - 06:29.2] Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
[06:29.2 - 06:32.2] And thank you, Mr. Dertouze.  
[06:32.2 - 06:35.8] And thank you, Mr. Dertouze,  
[06:35.8 - 06:39.9] for sharing the experience from Moselle Bay.  
[06:39.9 - 06:43.0] Very insightful experience  
[06:43.0 - 06:45.6] where you really try to bridge the gap,  
[06:45.6 - 06:50.6] the gap in trust in your community  
[06:50.6 - 06:55.6] with dedicated strategy, with partnership,  
[06:55.6 - 07:00.6] with thematic discussions and collaboration.  
[07:00.6 - 07:04.4] To say that in this process, communication is key.  
[07:04.4 - 07:06.7] Awareness raising is key.  
[07:06.7 - 07:08.8] Inclusion is key.  
[07:08.8 - 07:10.9] But above everything,  
[07:10.9 - 07:13.8] there is need for an inspiring leadership,  
[07:13.8 - 07:15.6] a leadership that can be trusted  
[07:15.6 - 07:18.3] and also a good governance mechanism.  
[07:18.3 - 07:20.1] The constituencies, the communities know  
[07:20.1 - 07:22.5] that they can sanction the leaders  
[07:22.5 - 07:24.6] through election, through different reviews.  
[07:24.6 - 07:26.4] Thank you very much for sharing this.  
[07:27.3 - 07:32.3] Okay, our next speaker is Sarah.  
[07:37.4 - 07:42.4] Sarah from APRN, a familiar face and partner.

[07:45.7 - 07:49.7] So Sarah, APRN has been a strong and consistent partner  
[07:49.7 - 07:54.0] in assisting countries to evaluate and enhance their progress  
[07:54.2 - 07:58.3] towards both the SDGs and Agenda 2063.  
[07:58.3 - 08:01.9] What, in your view, are some key observations  
[08:01.9 - 08:05.0] from peer review and exchange in Africa  
[08:05.0 - 08:08.4] and lessons that African countries can share  
[08:08.4 - 08:13.4] with one another in pushing forward with both agendas?  
[08:13.6 - 08:14.6] Over to you, Sarah.  
[08:20.9 - 08:22.0] That should be red, right?  
[08:22.0 - 08:22.8] Yeah.