

Piloting Participatory Budgeting in Makhado Municipality

Concept, Progress and Lessons Learnt

Planact Participatory Budgeting Learning Event

29 March 2012



Presentation structure

- 1. Piloting Participatory Budgeting in Makhado Municipality**
- 2. Challenges and lessons Learnt**

1. Piloting PB in Makhado Municipality

1.1 The Makhado context

Vhembe District



Limpopo Province

Makhado Local Municipality



Quick facts:

- Population = 472 000, 114 000 households
- 5 towns, 279 villages
- Annual budget: ~ R700m
- 4 regions, 38 wards

1.2 Citizens' perceptions of Makhado Municipality

- less than 1% think public funds are spent in the right way
- almost 30% do not know how funds are being spent
- IDP projects not budgeted for and no satisfactory explanation why

Source: Idasa Citizen Report Card Study (2010)

The challenge...
to make the planning &
budgeting process more
**participatory, transparent &
accountable**



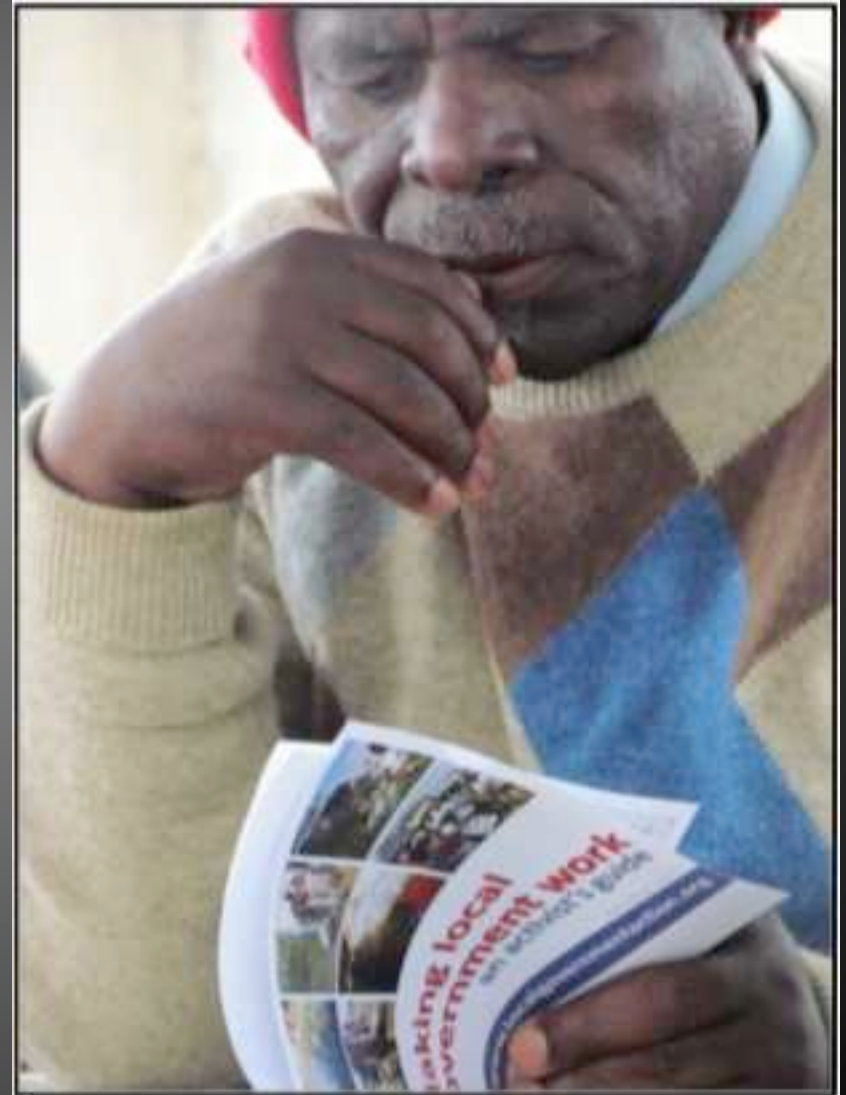
1.3 Objectives of the pilot project

1. Deepen citizens' **understanding** of and **meaningful participation** in the municipal budget process (and local governance more generally)
2. Increase **transparency** & **accountability** in the use of public funds
3. Increase residents' **trust** and **confidence** in the municipality
4. Strengthen **linkages** between the **IDP** and **budget**

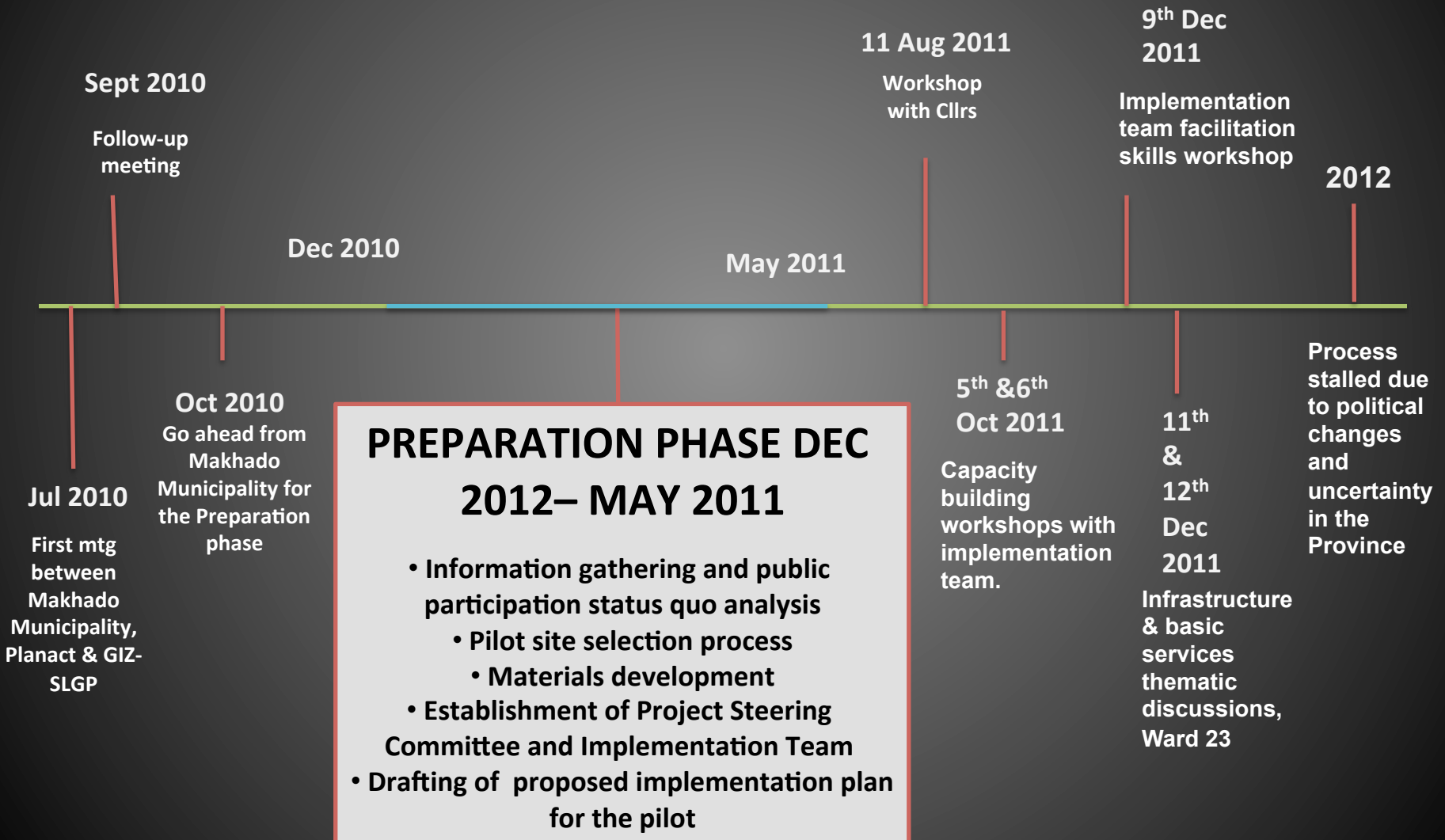


1.4 Objectives of the pilot project (cont.)

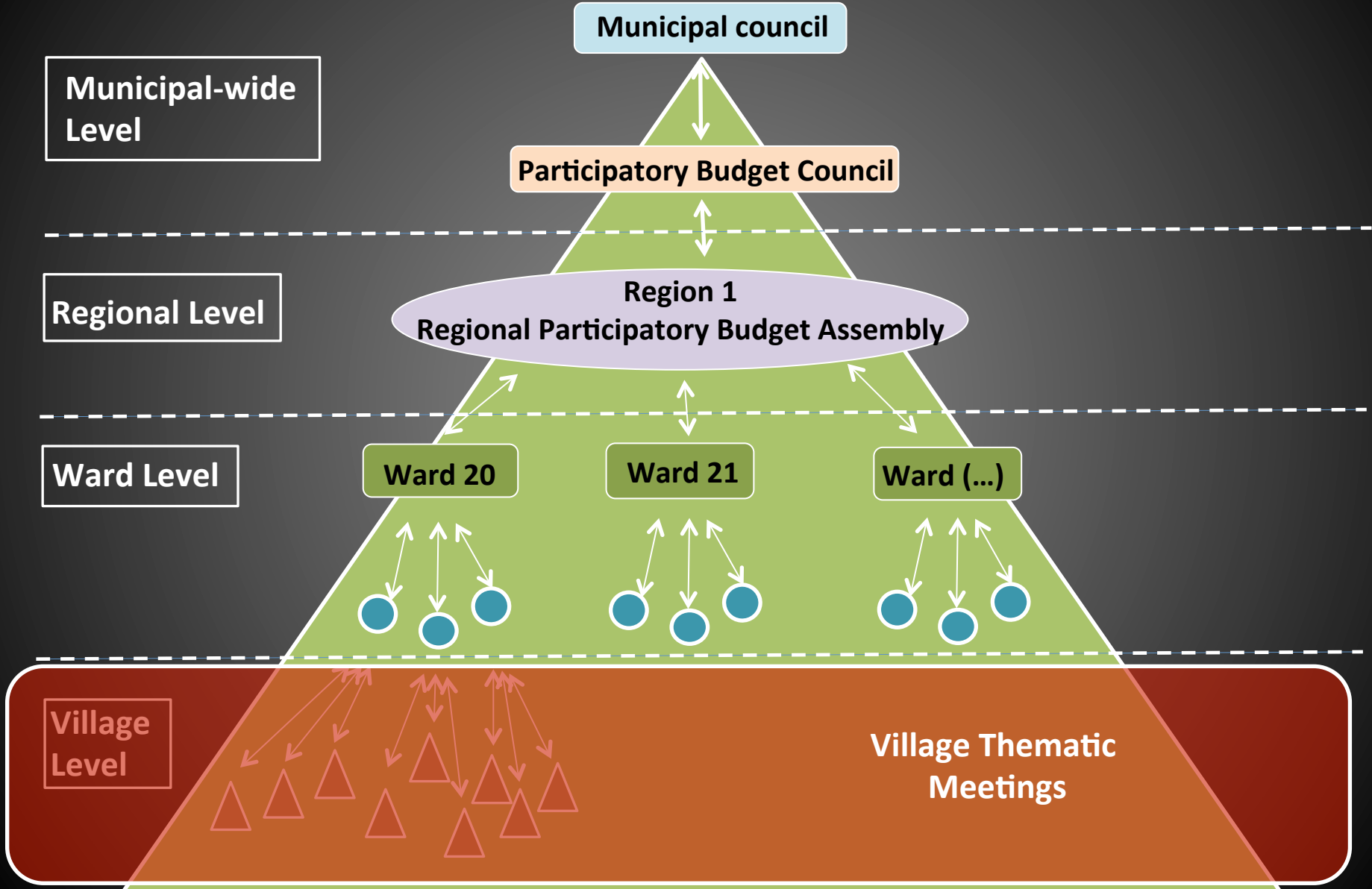
5. Demonstrate a model in which **ward committees** can play a meaningful role in municipal planning, budgeting and performance monitoring processes
6. **Enhance municipal performance** through more effective and better targeted resource allocation
7. Strengthening citizens' responsibility for their own development – **active citizenship**
8. Provide a documented **case study** and **lessons learnt** that can be shared with other municipalities and policy-makers



1.5 Timeline



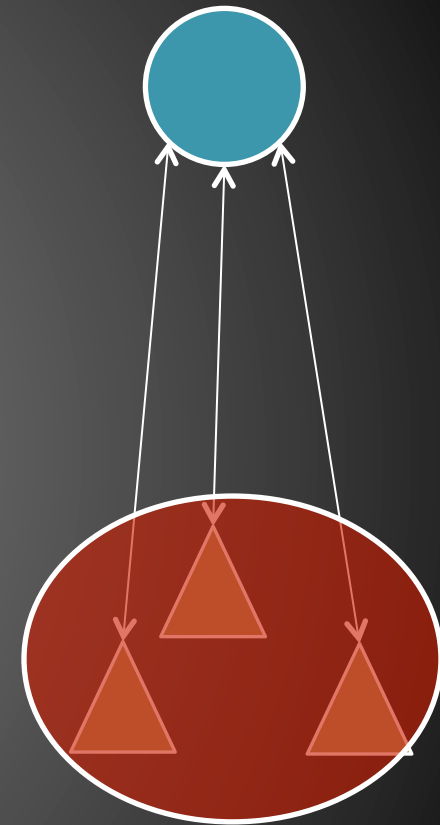
1.6 Proposed structure of the PB process



1.6.1 Village level

VILLAGE THEMATIC MEETINGS

- Meetings open to all citizens
- **Three pre-selected themes** discussed in each village in the ward
- Decide on **three priorities** for each theme per village
- Nomination of **five representatives** (incl. WC member) to go to **Ward Thematic Forum**



To date: Piloted meetings on the theme “Infrastructure & Basic Services” in 3 villages in Ward 23 (Dec 2011)

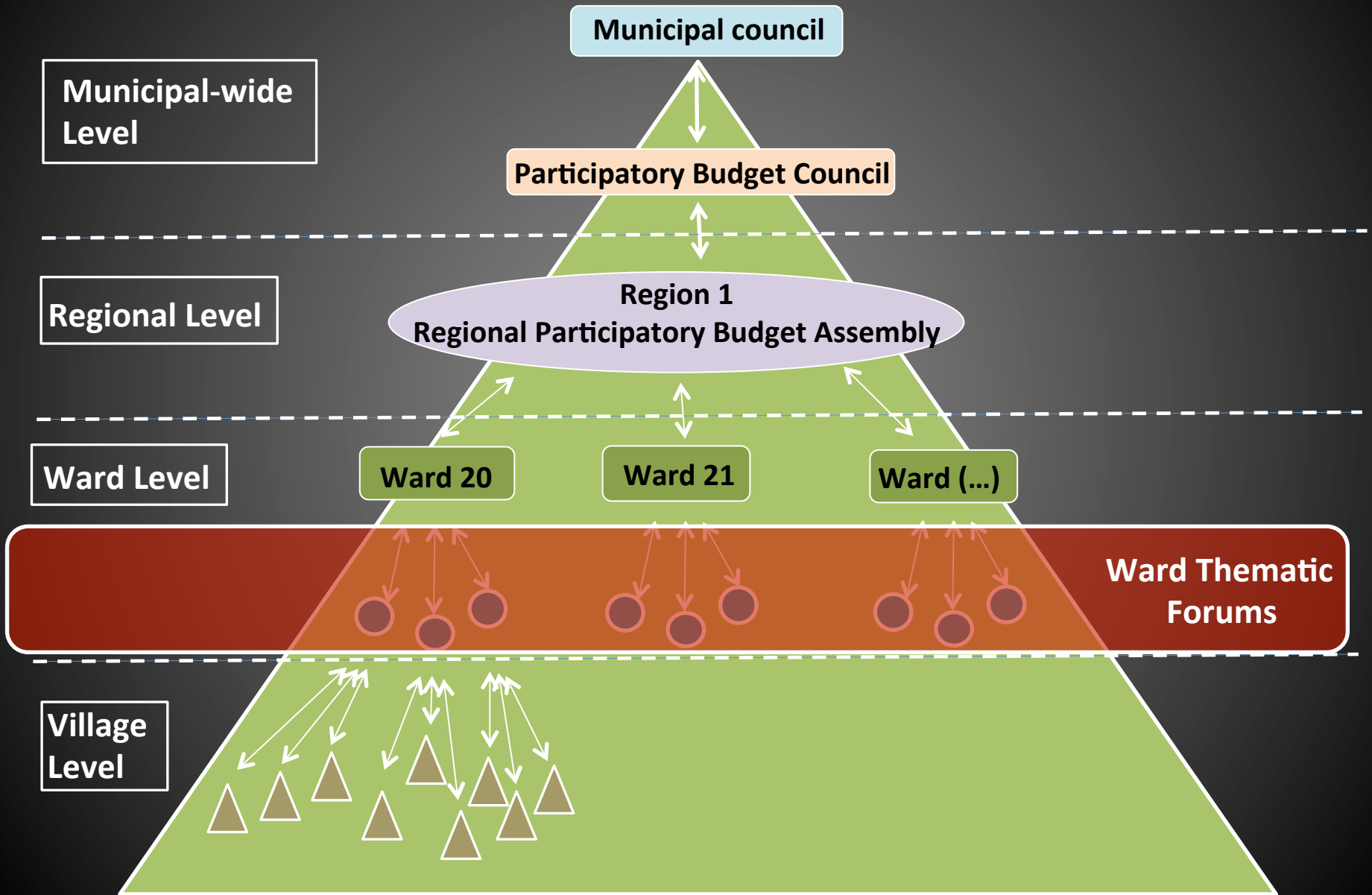






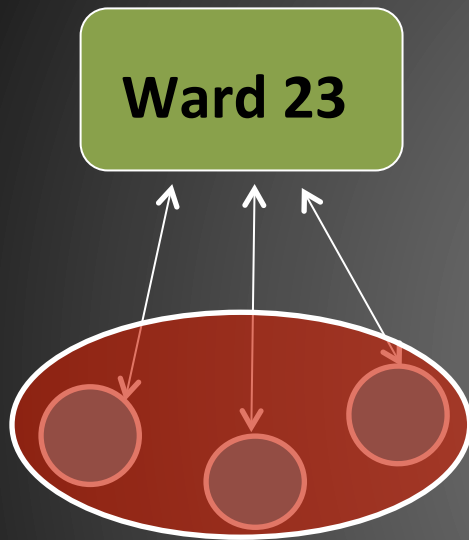


1.6.2 Ward level (1)



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WARD THEMATIC FORUMS



- Consists of **five representatives** from each Village Thematic Meeting
- Each Ward Thematic Forum decides on **2-3 key priorities** for the theme
- Each thematic forum elects **2 delegates** to Ward PB Assembly

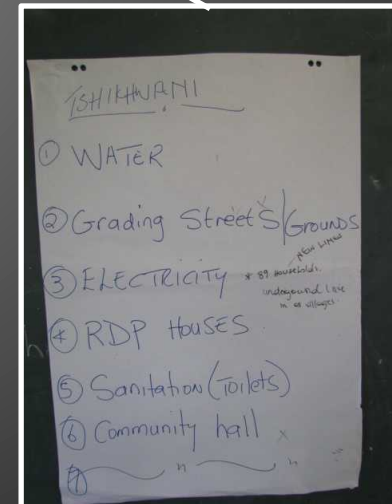
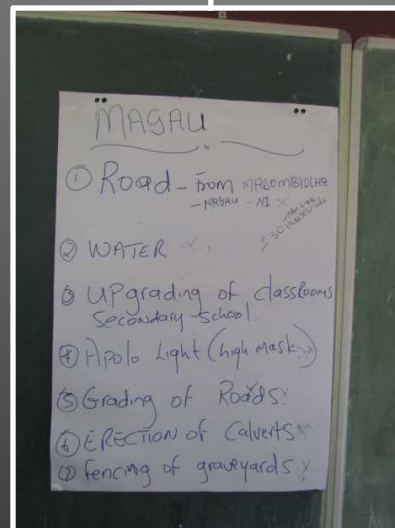
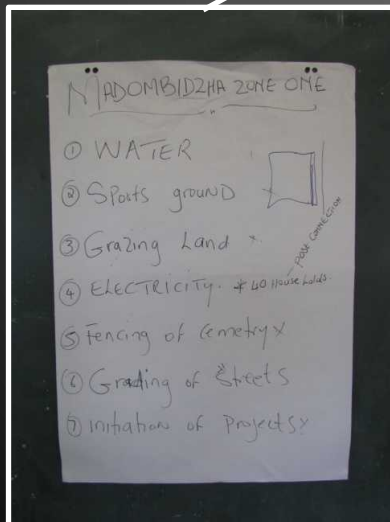
To date: piloted Ward Thematic Forum (“Infrastructure & Basic Services”) in Ward 23





1.6.2 Ward level (1)

Ward 23 Village
Thematic Meetings
and Ward Thematic
Forum
(Infrastructure &
Basic Services), Dec
2011

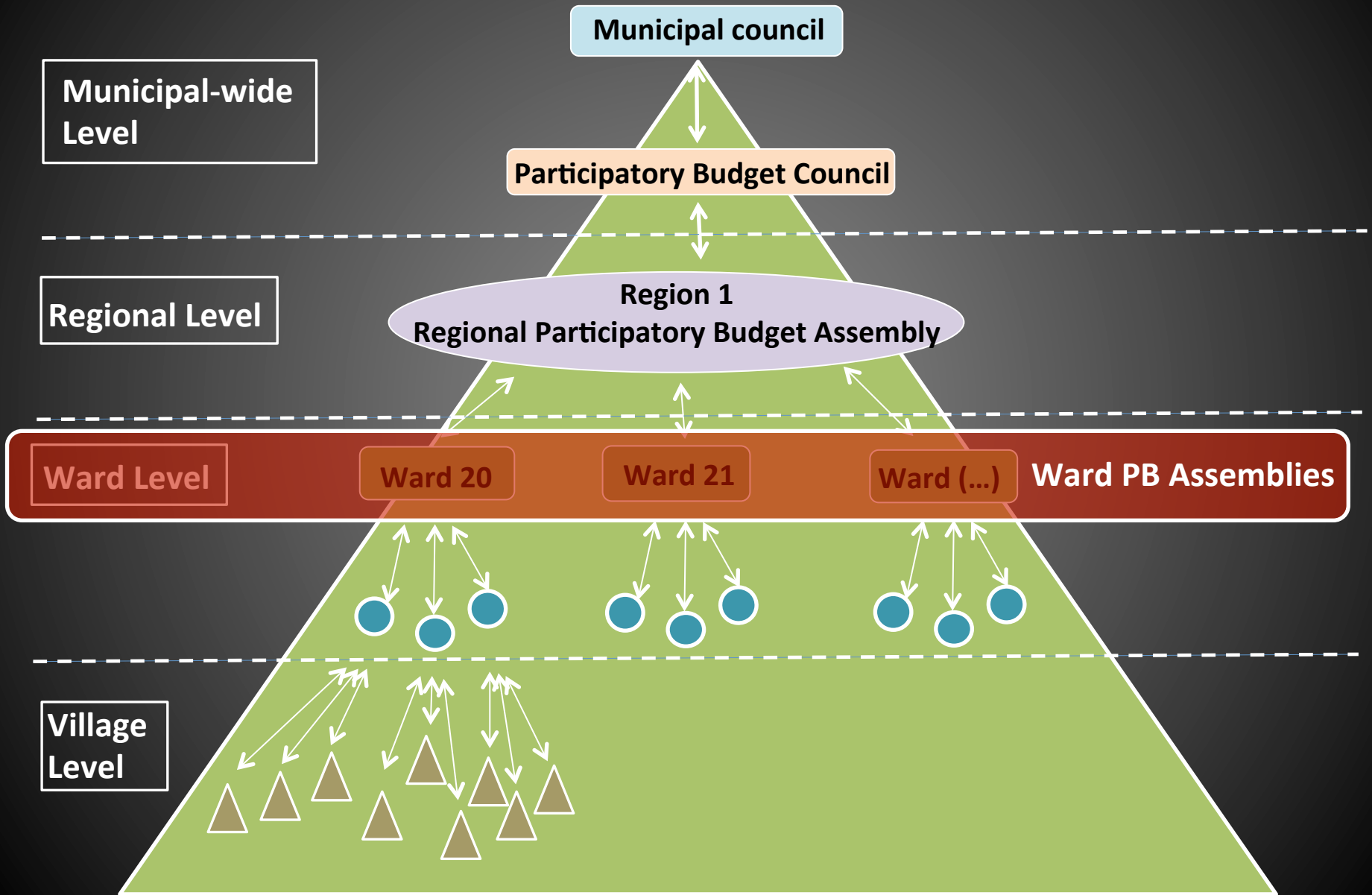




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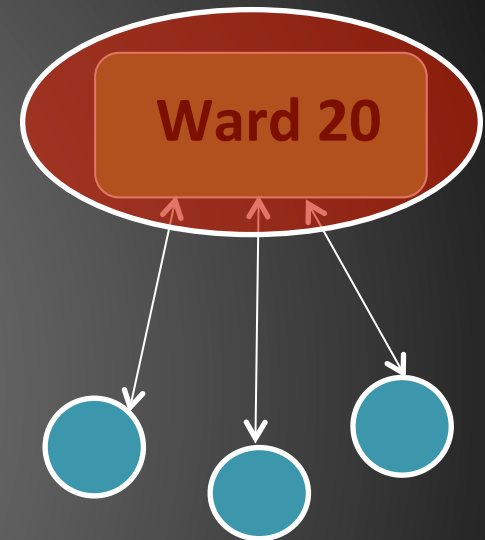
1.6.2 Ward level (2)



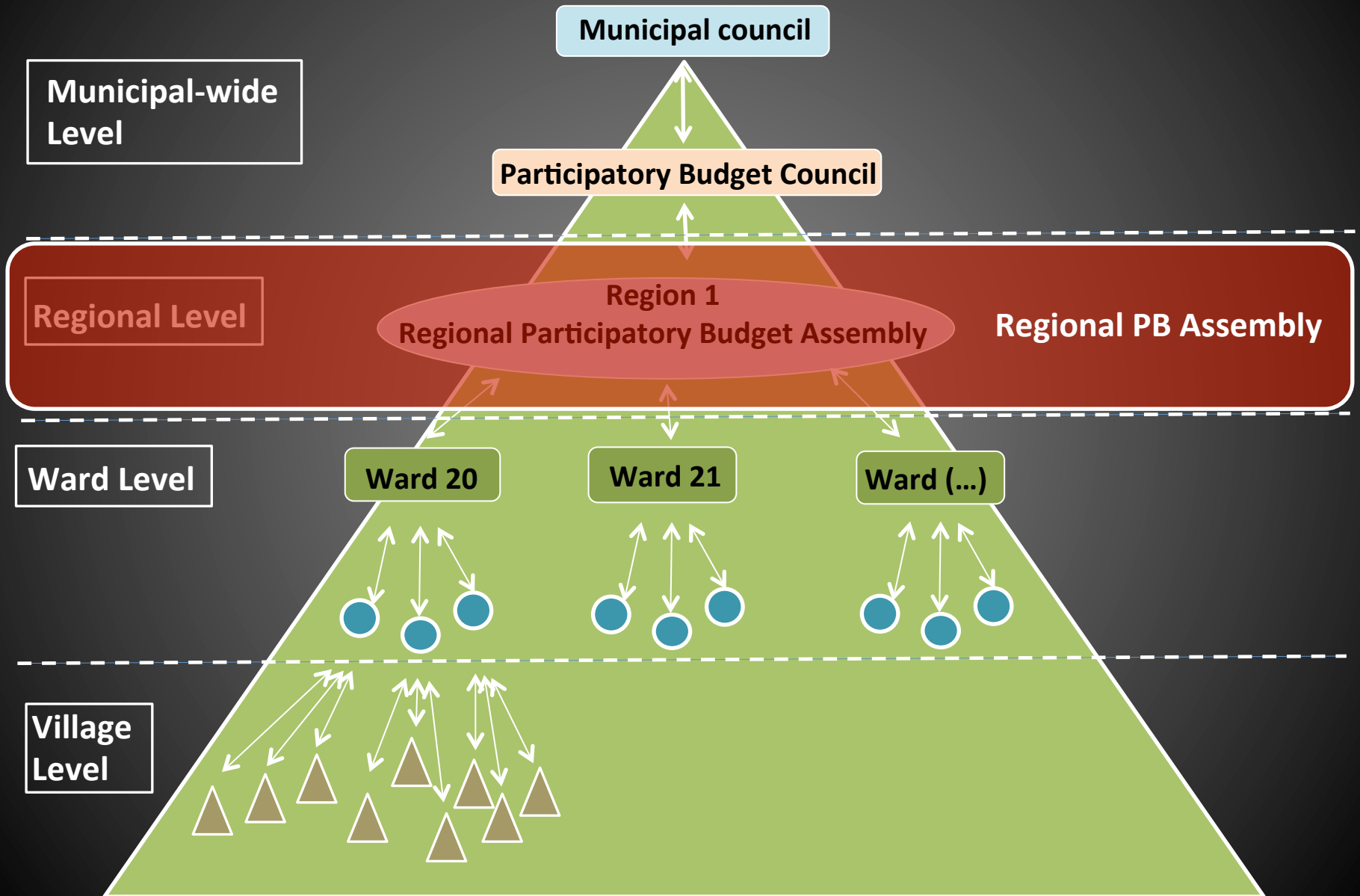
1.6.2 Ward level (2)

WARD PB ASSEMBLY

- **One meeting** for each ward
- Consists of **ward councillor** (convenor) + **5 delegates** from each of three **Ward Thematic Forums** (15 total)
- Deliberate and agree on **five priorities** for the **ward across all three themes**
- Nominate **five delegates** to represent ward's priorities at the **Regional PB Assembly**
- Active role in **monitoring implementation** of projects in the ward



1.6.3 Regional level



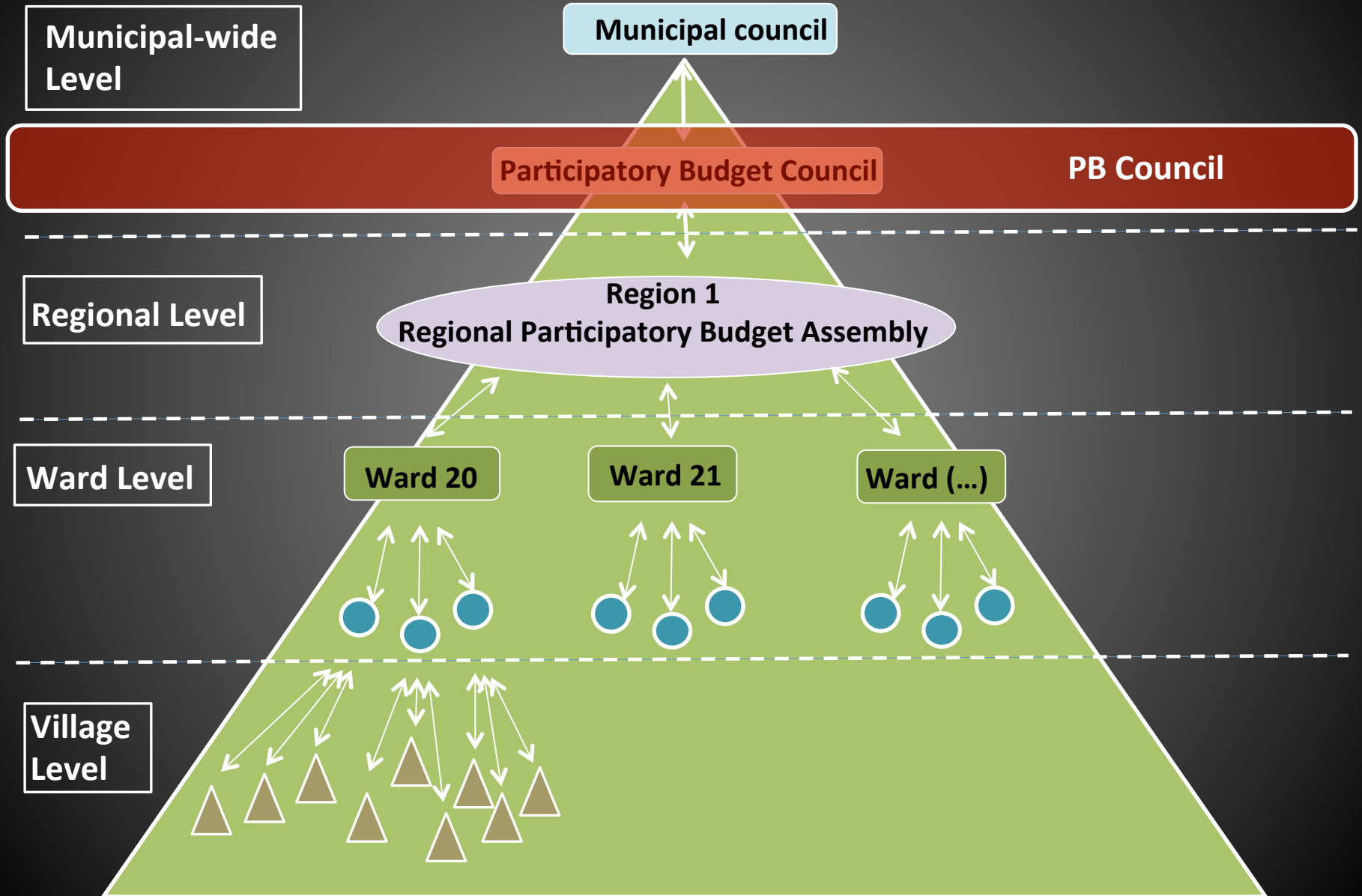
1.6.3 Regional level

REGIONAL PB ASSEMBLY

- One meeting for **entire region** (all wards together)
- Consists of **five delegates from each ward**
- Deliberates and decides on **five priorities** for the **region** to be taken to the **PB Council**
- **Municipal officials** give input on plans, technical feasibility of projects and progress with implementation of projects
- Key role in **performance monitoring and evaluation** of projects in the region
- Elects **2 delegates** from each ward to represent region at **PB Council**



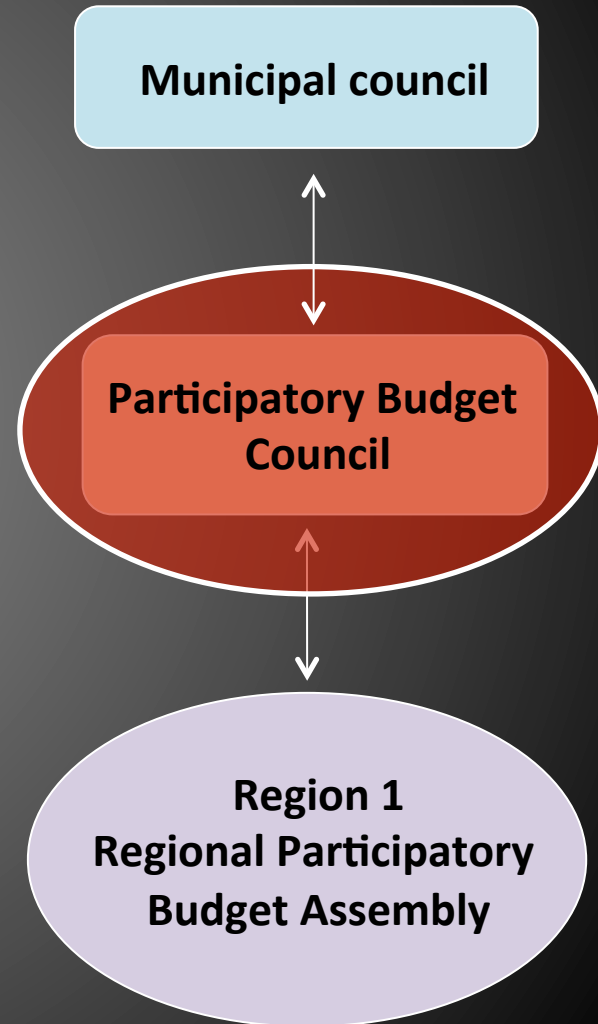
1.6.4 Municipal-wide level (1)



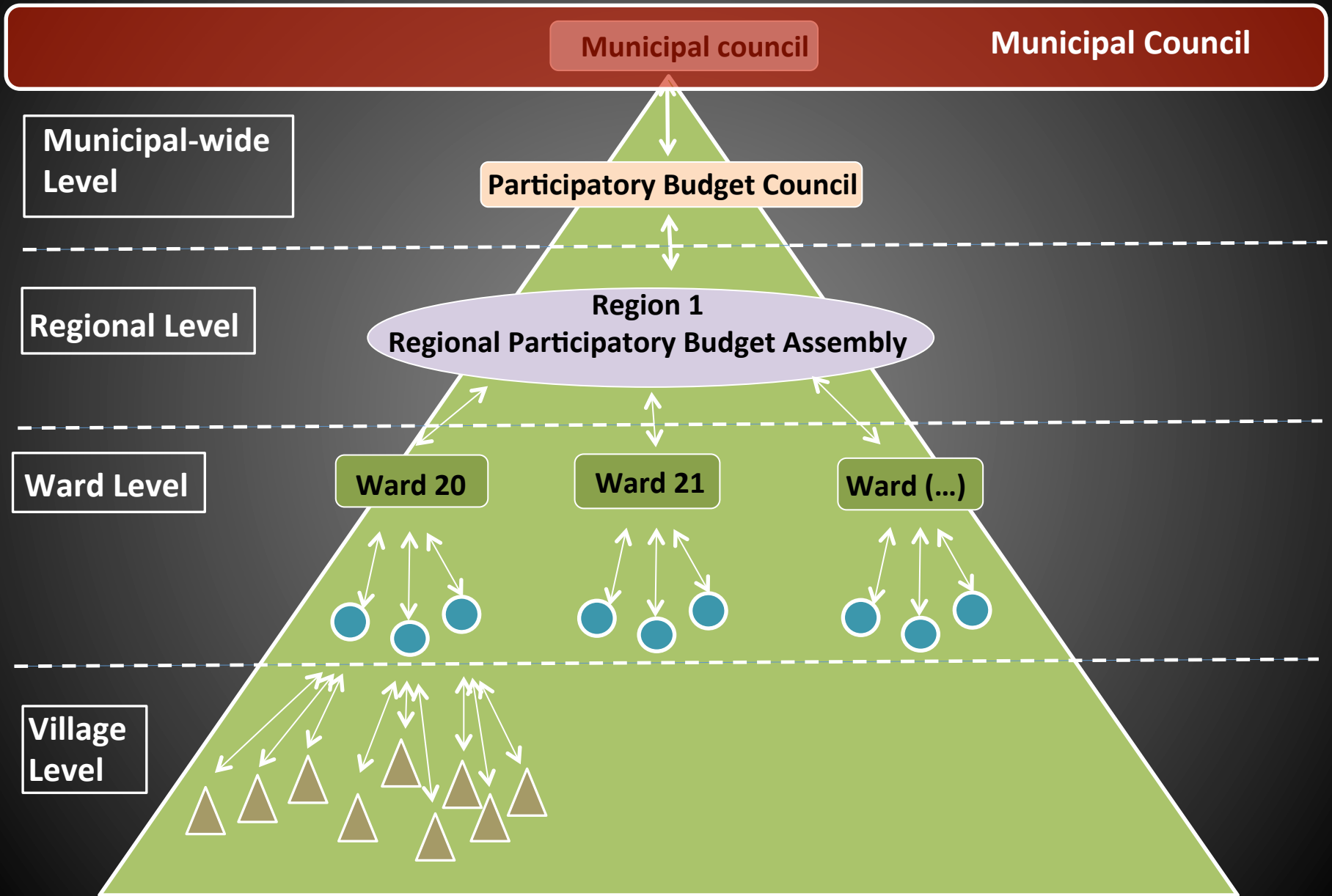
1.6.4 Municipal-wide level (1)

PB COUNCIL

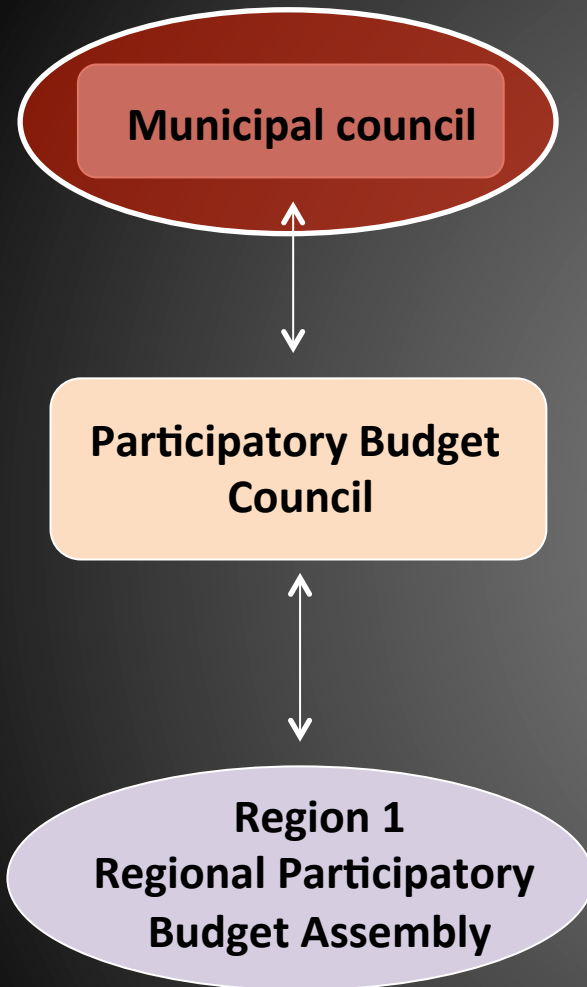
- Consists of **two delegates from each ward**
- Deliberates and makes final **recommendations** to the **Municipal Council** on priority expenditure (projects) for the wards based on inputs from the Regional PB Assembly plus a set of pre-determined agreed upon criteria (“**rules of the game**”) – should take into account equity as well as technical and financial feasibility considerations



1.6.4 Municipal-wide level (2)



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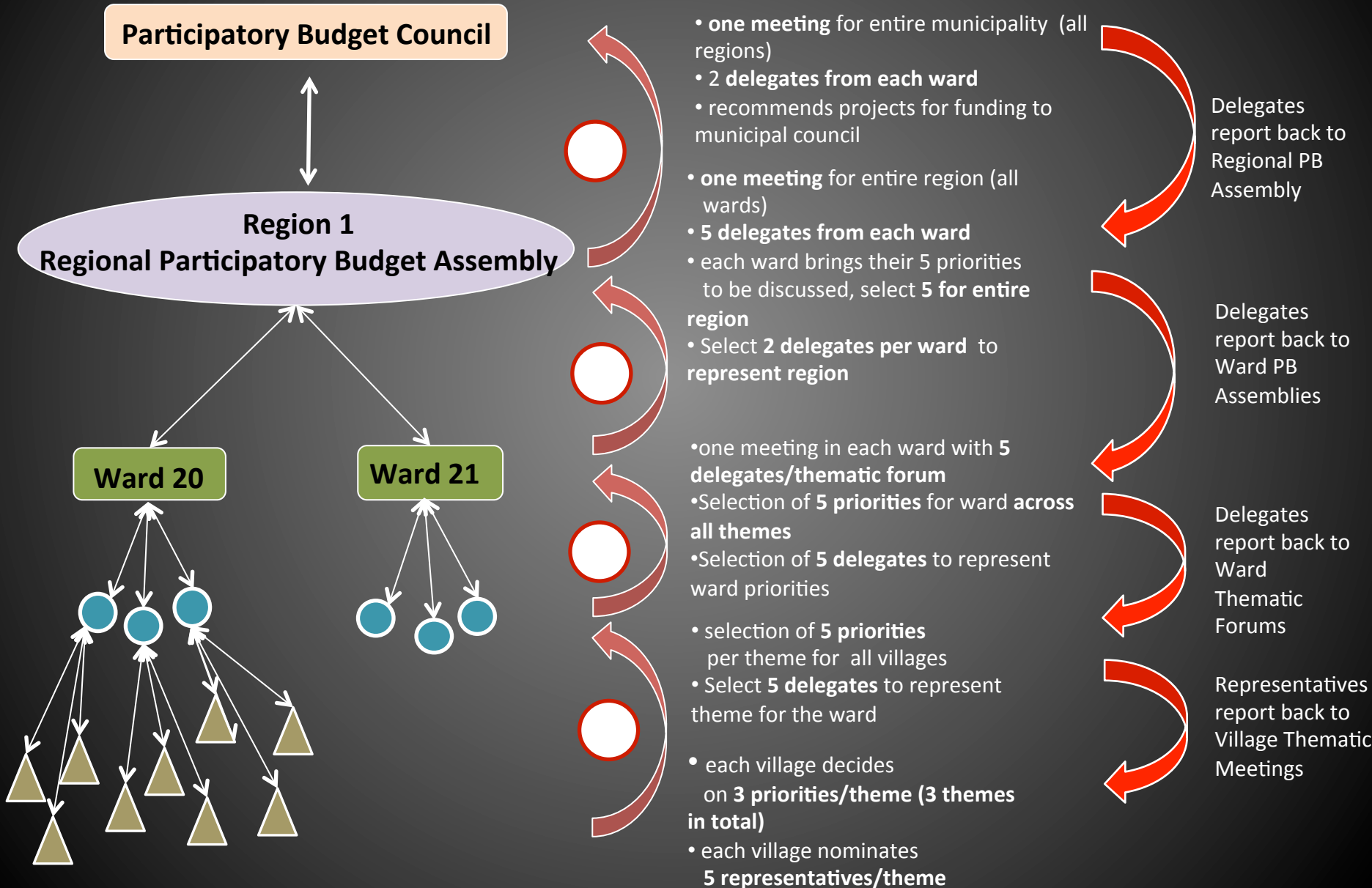


MAKHADO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- Receives recommendations from PB Council
- Makes final decisions on which projects will be funded

NB: The PB process does not take away the ultimate power over the budget of the elected municipal council. It is intended as a way to further deepen and support the process of democratic decision-making

1.7 Process cycle of Makhado PB pilot project



2. Challenges and Lessons learnt

2.1 Challenges and lessons learnt

- **Delays** with implementation & time needed for preparation
- Finding the right **institutional location** within the municipality
- Importance of municipal **champions**
- **Institutionalizing** the process (beyond individuals)
- **Alignment** to IDP/budget cycle
- **Clarifying roles** between different role-players
- **Sustaining political will** – accept shift in power balance
- **Departure from “business as usual”** – engaging officials
- **“Learning by doing”**



2.1 Challenges and lessons learnt (cont.)

- Clarifying “the rules of the game” for representation & prioritizing expenditure
- Need to make **budget information** more **accessible**
- Ensuring **inclusive participation** (**gender & youth equity**)
- How **meetings** are **publicized** – different methods
- **Up-scaling** beyond Makhado
- **Financial literacy** and **facilitation skills**
- Constructive role **traditional leadership** can play



Ke a leboga

Dankie

Ndo livhuwa

Inkomu

Thank you

Ke a leboha

Ngiyabon

Enkosi

ga

Ngiyathokoza