



EMERGING EVALUATOR'S REPORT

12 – 16 OCTOBER 2015

Drafter: JOHANNAH MODIGA

INTRODUCTION:

It has been a great privilege for me to be offered a scholarship to attend the SAMEA Evaluators' Conference. Not only did this give me a good opportunity of learning more about issues related to evaluation, but also attendance of various workshop themes had really opened my thought and widened my interest in the field of monitoring and evaluation. All that I learned had equipped me with experience that I cannot trade in anyway and that had resulted in me being encouraged to continue with my studies in the field of public monitoring and evaluation.

From the onset, I happened to choose thematic areas which were related to my work projects/ daily activities and these are:

- Approaches, Designs and methods for monitoring, evaluation and conveying developmental impact:
- M&E Systems

The above thematic areas has equipped me with knowledge and competency necessary for my daily work. At the moment I am tasked with the design / development of measurement tools for the assessment/ evaluation of the status quo of the existing norms and standard for public administration.

CONTENTS:

Attendance of the conference has assisted me in gaining knowledge and experience on the types and number of tools that I would use in monitoring and evaluation plans and as indicated above, to assist in the development of tools that assess the measurability of norms and standards for public administration.

Thematic workshops on key areas for Monitoring and Evaluation systems made impact in ones work environment. It was interesting to note that most institutions define M&E system differently, however all consider its meaning the same.

Several issues which were highlighted to make the M&E systems work has deepened ones insight into the field. This is an account on how much one can bring back changes in one's workplace.

Also was the topic on: "How to develop M&E systems for complex organisations: Approaches and Methodologies. The topic and related issues were unpacked and the facilitator ensured that all subthemes to all topics were well articulated in a practical manner.

After the workshops, one had to be part of the SAMEA Conference. While several topics and presentations were given, of more interesting to me were case studies on "Evaluation Plans", presented by various public sector institutions. Of these presentations, I acquired knowledge that made it possible for me to do comparative studies and to further benchmark on lessons learned from these sector case studies. To name but few, the Department of Trade and Industry case study on "Offshore jobs "project. Also the department of Environmental Affairs on its evaluation project for the "YakaYiko partnership" project. Both departments highlighted their challenges with regard to programmes they were evaluating however, these were challenges which were thought provoking to learn from and yet at the same time, the project got approval from Cabinet. This was a lesson learned that while evaluation of projects is crucial, the manner in which is done should bring also improvements and dividends to the beneficiaries.

Lastly, opportunity given to me to attend these Evaluators' workshops and the conference gave me confidence and pride to receive and accept the certificate of attendance of these thematic workshops.

Once more I really want to thank SAMEA secretariat for offering me this opportunity of a life time and hope and trust that more individuals could be assisted in these ventures to gain more knowledge in the field of M&E and be its advocates in future.