

Catalytic projects, mega projects, and spatial targeting

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Spatial logics of spatial targeting

1. Uplift deprived areas/people

- Poor people tend to be concentrated in particular areas
- The concentration of poverty has an area effect

2. Support agglomeration effects/economic clustering

- Economies of scale
- Matching spatially, e.g. human capacity with the job market
- Learning/exchange of information

Debates/criticisms

- Targeting doesn't consider more systemic nature of problems at broader scales
- What about areas not being targeted?
- There should be non-spatial ways of targeting people/social problems.

Spatial targeting and housing - forms

- Brownfield. E.g. urban regeneration or densification.
- Greenfield within/adjacent to existing urban footprint.
- Greenfield new self-contained urban spaces.

Concept Document: National Human Settlements Spatial Plan (2014)

- Spatial targeting happens at different scales
- Government already has different kinds of spatial targeting
- It argues that human settlements should not contribute to urban sprawl but rather improve efficiency of existing urban areas
- Commits itself to SDG principals of compaction, connection and integration

Concept Document cites the NDP:

The transformation of human settlements in South Africa are described in the National Development Plan 2030 (Chapter 8) and are quoted as:

- “Responding ... to entrenched spatial patterns across all geographic scales that exacerbate social inequality and economic inefficiency;
- Implement strategically chosen catalytic interventions to achieve spatial transformation in a manner that supports locally driven spatial governance;
- Achieve a creative balance between spatial equity, economic competitiveness and environmental sustainability;
- Expand personal freedoms by providing the residents of South Africa with greater choice of where to live;
- Support individuals, communities and the private sector in engaging with the state on the future of spaces and settlements in which they work while streamlining processes to enable local governments to implement strategic spatial interventions.”

Housing Development Association process

Part 1: identify priority municipalities

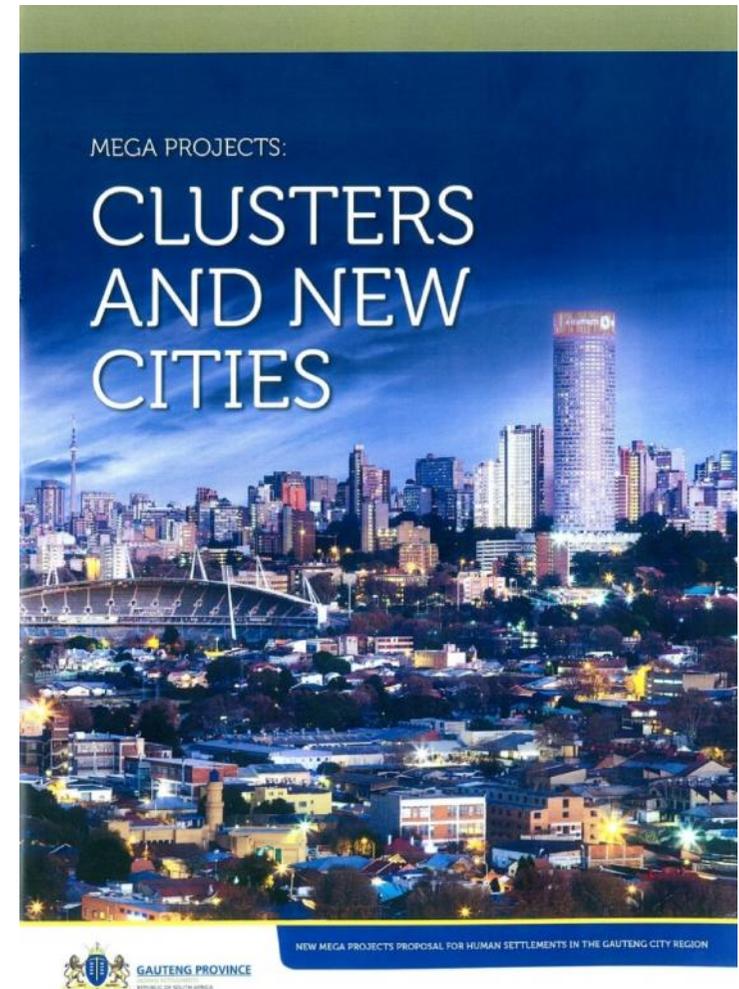
- Linear regression exercise combining
 - Places with need
 - Places with potential
- 117 municipalities

Part 2: Invite & analyse detailed proposals

- the settlement's proposed density,
- mix of housing typologies,
- property market supply and demand,
- funding models,
- potential for home enterprises,
- integration with existing bulk infrastructure,
- plans for social services
- local authority's capacity to implement a large project
- whether or not it was well located

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- New cities
- Economically self sufficient
- Catalytic projects in Gauteng: 15
- Gauteng's mega projects 29
- Catalytic projects in Gauteng which are also listed by Gauteng: 7



Observations

- Opportunity costs of this approach: big projects take a long time to prepare
- Is balance something we only can design in to new settlements – what about a balance of incomes to existing urban areas?
- What do we make of the two separate approaches/projects by national and Gauteng?
- How do we ensure we don't build settlements disconnected from jobs?

Sources

Batey, P., Brown, P., & Pemberton, S. (2008). Methods for the Spatial Targeting of Urban Policy in the UK: A Comparative Analysis. *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, 1(2), p. 117.

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