WEST RAND DISTRICT
Rural Development Plan
2016
The West Rand Rural Development Plan is not only the first (after the Gauteng Rural Development Plan) integrated, strategic plan prepared for the rural areas of the province, but also represents an attempt at not just shallowly looking at rural areas as “places of farming, isolation, marginalisation, poverty, and/or despair.” It looks at these areas as for-far-too-long-forgotten zones of huge opportunities for economic activities; job creation, a quality of life and a decent chance at life for all that live in them. In support of this decidedly “opportunity-centred approach”, the project team, including regional planners, rural development planners, civil engineers, geo-data specialists, agricultural specialists and senior officials from the DRDLR introduced a number of novel rural development concepts, notably those of “functional regional rural zones”, “rural design” and “transit-orientated rural development”.

While commissioned by the DRDLR, this plan is not a blueprint for use or implementation by any entity in government. Instead it is a framework within which (1) national and provincial departments and the municipalities in the province, (2) communities and their representatives, and (3) private sector stakeholders, can engage and deliberate shared challenges they face, the prospects on offer, and collectively map ways forward in which all those living in the rural parts of the West Rand District, can make a life, have a place in life and live a dignified and meaningful life.

The plan was conceived, prepared and refined over the course of a two-year period through (1) extensive and intensive data gathering, site visits and analysis of and integration and harmonisation with the legislation, policies, strategies, plans, frameworks, programmes and projects of national and provincial government departments and municipalities; (2) GIS-based analysis using purpose-made Land needs and Suitability Criteria and Rural Development Typologies; (3) work-sessions with DRDLR officials, officials from national and provincial government departments and municipalities, agricultural economics, rural development planners, the environmental management consultants appointed by the Gauteng Province to prepare an Environmental Management Framework for the Province, and municipal engineering services-experts; and (4) distillation and refinement of all the data, ideas, inputs, proposals and concerns into the key West Rand Rural Development Plan outcomes. The framework / Plan was signed off and handed over to the DRDLR. The directorate: SPLUM Gauteng took the plan, and had to update it in 2016 to be aligned with their RDP Methodology and also updated the document as some of the original documents used in the analysis were outdated. They also had to extract information from the document to compile 2 separate Plans / Frameworks for the West Rand District Municipality and the Sedibeng District Municipality. The original Plan that was compiled by a service provider was a provincial plan.

The key West Rand Rural Development Plan outcomes and components are: (1) a set of three Functional Rural Regions spanning the West Rand District and in some cases “functionally-tied” to neighbouring provinces and districts; (2) a set of three templates, one per functional rural region,
for ease of use in intergovernmental planning, budgeting and implementation scheduling sessions; (3) a three-phased approach to developing each of the functional rural regions; and (4) a set of significant quick gain actions that be undertaken in the West Rand District to – in general – meet government’s overarching objective of addressing the triple challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment facing the country. It also contributes to the realisation of Outcome 7 by:

- Transforming rural nodes into high-potency, catalytic regional rural development anchors and rural service centres;
- Expanding small-scale faming and supporting small-scale farmers and associated agro-processing;
- Enabling and supporting Transit-Oriented Rural Development (TORD) along suitable provincial routes; and
- Strengthening and deepening natural systems-based tourism in the province

Even though the implementation of the plan rests on the enthusiastic, sustained and collaborative efforts by a wide range of stakeholders and role-players, the following actions are important:

- Regular engagement with the relevant stakeholders in and outside the Province
- Lobbying and influencing other stakeholders and role-players for the inclusion of the West Rand Rural Development Plan objectives, concepts and ideas in plans, frameworks, policies and strategies that have an impact on rural development in the province;
- Aligning proposed plans, policies and strategies in the DRDLR with those of other spheres and sectors of government;
- Populating and regularly updating the GIS database with all relevant information, notably around projects and programmes; and
- Keeping an eye open for new national, provincial and municipal legislation, policies, plans, frameworks, strategies and programmes that may have an impact on rural development in the province, and informing, as and where necessary, the other units in the department of such documents.

It is the Departments view that, should all stakeholders and key role players play their unique roles, there is every chance that the plan could make a real difference for the better to the lives of those living in rural Gauteng.
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INTRODUCTION
1.1 INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the DRDLR undertook to prepare three Area-based Plans (ABP’s) in the Gauteng Province and appointed Business Enterprises at the University of Pretoria (BE@UP) to assist them in this endeavour. However, due to (1) the process of establishing the focus and approach to rural development of the newly created DRDLR, and (2) the accompanying process of developing a suitable policy framework for the preparation and review of the new Rural Development and Land Reform Plans, which had since replaced the ABP’s, the project was placed on hold until mid-2011. With the resuscitation of the project, it was decided that there was a need for a provincial Rural Development Plan instead of the three district ABP’s. This Rural Development plan would provide strategic direction for rural development and land reform in the province as a whole. The Gauteng Rural Development Plan (GRDP) was born as a result of that decision.

After the Gauteng Rural Development Plan was handed over to the DRDLR, it was decided by the Branch: Spatial Planning and Land Use Management (SPLUM) that Rural Development Plans needed to be compiled for all the priority districts in the country, including the West Rand and Sedibeng Districts in Gauteng. Thus it was decided by SPLUM that 2 District Plans had to be extracted from the Gauteng Rural Development Plan. The directorate: SPLUM, Gauteng then proceeded to do that. This document is the West Rand Rural Development Plan that was extracted from the Gauteng Rural Development Plan. Some information was also updated, new consultations were held with the 2 districts separately, and this is the new draft Rural Development Plan for the West Rand District. Consultations were held with officials from the West Rand District on 2 separate occasions, namely 18 November 2016 and 17 February 2017. The Attendance Registers for these meetings are available.

The GRDP consisted of one main document with several annexures providing the detailed studies referred to in the main document. The main document is divided into four sections.

- Section 1 provides an introduction to the GRDP and an overview of the rural development landscape;
- Section 2 discusses the conceptual approach used in the GRDP;
- Section 3 provides the details of the GRDP; and
- Section 4 is the implementation framework of the GRDP.

The annexures consist of:

- A compilation of all maps prepared for the project in A4 format;
- The “institutional fit” templates and
- An engineering services study

The new WRDM RDP was slightly altered to have a more logical order, and a few new sections were added, such as the Agri-Parks, Value chain analysis, institutional framework. Etc.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Rural development has seen various incarnations since 1994, starting with the “Rural Development Strategy” of 1995, followed by a “Rural Development Framework” in 1997 and
the “Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy” and accompanying nodal-based “Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme” in 2001. In 2009, the “Comprehensive Rural Development Programme” (CRDP) with a proactive participatory community-based planning approach, instead of an interventionist approach to rural development was introduced. While all of these strategies, frameworks and programmes had rural development in mind, none of them focussed on the development of high-level strategic plans on a provincial level, with a variety of rural development and land reform projects being undertaken, but without being located in a broader, long-term rural development plan.

In 2010, Cabinet adopted 12 Outcomes within which to frame public service delivery projects, with **Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security, emphasising the importance of sustainable rural development**. Five key outputs are tied to this outcome:

- **Output 1**: Sustainable agrarian reform with a thriving small and large farming sector
- **Output 2**: Improved access to affordable and diverse food
- **Output 3**: Improved rural services to support sustainable livelihoods
- **Output 4**: Rural job creation linked to skills training and promoting economic livelihoods
- **Output 5**: An enabling institutional environment for sustainable food security

More specifically, the NDP 2030 envisions the creation of one million jobs by 2030 in the agricultural sector.

The Gauteng Province is the economic hub of mining, manufacturing, tertiary and quaternary sectors of the national economy and while being the smallest province in the country in terms of spatial extent, presents a largely unique rural development context. With the largest population of all the provinces and a limited rural hinterland, it presents a variety of opportunities such as easy access to huge and diverse urban markets and a myriad of import and export facilities, but equally so, many challenges. Challenges such as the increasing pressure placed on rural land by the expanding urban centres, and relatively small state budget when compared to that spent in the urban areas of the province.

In support of this analysis, the Gauteng Provincial Spatial Development Framework (GPSDF), which focuses predominantly on urban Gauteng nodes that a fairly significant section of Gauteng’s rural hinterland is good for extensive agricultural production and that, in these terms, Gauteng is important from a national food security point of view. In addition to this, it emphasises the very real economic opportunity that goes with being able to produce primary and allied value-added agricultural products intensively in such close proximity to the large and most affluent market on the subcontinent.
It is within this (1) policy and (2) provincial context that the GRDP and subsequent West Rand District Rural Development Plan and Sedibeng Rural Development Plan was developed as a strategic tool to focus on, plan for and coordinate rural development in the province by taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the urban core while seeing the rural areas of Gauteng as interconnected functional units with their own intrinsic value and social, economic, ecological and spatial logic.

The key focus areas of Outcome 7 are echoed in the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP 2030) of 2012, which proposes a multifaceted approach to rural development that includes successful land reform, infrastructure development, job creation and rising agricultural production security.

1.3 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

The Rural Development Plan seeks to:

- Strategically plan for and provide guidance for future rural development and land reform projects in the West Rand District;
- Provide up-to-date detailed GIS data to assist future rural development and land reform decision-making;
- Provide an integrated framework (i.e. that of the ‘functional rural region’) within which to approach, engage, explore, think about and undertake rural development and land reform; and
- Assist with reaching the goals of national government as set out in the NDP 2030 and the 12 outcomes as adopted by Cabinet.

1.4 INTENDED USERS

The Rural Development Plan is intended to be used by:

- The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (Gauteng Provincial Shared Services Centre)
- Municipal Officials responsible for the development, implementation or approval of strategies, frameworks, plans or projects in, or related to the rural areas of the WRDM and the 3 local municipalities;
- Service providers appointed by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to prepare strategies, frameworks, plans or projects related to or impacting on “rural Gauteng”, i.e. the “un-built up area of the West Rand;
- Provincial or government agencies responsible for the development, implementation or approval of strategies, frameworks, plans or projects related to the rural areas of the WRDM; and
- The private sector to seriously consider before embarking on development projects that could impact on – negatively or positively – the rural areas of the WRDM.
1.5 WRDM RDP PREPARATION PROCESS

A wide variety of specialist studies were undertaken and specialists consulted during the preparation of this plan. Bi-weekly project team meetings and many smaller and larger working sessions were held with different stakeholders. Inputs were sourced from and ideas were tested with officials from national and provincial government departments and municipal officials and other stakeholders. A comprehensive GIS database was developed.

**Figure 1** provides an overview of the process followed in the preparation of the GRDP which led to the development of the WRDM RDP.
Figure 1: WRDM RDP Preparation Process

1. Develop Rural Development Typologies
   - Workshop Land Needs Criteria with DRDLR
   - Develop Rural Development Typologies
   - Gathering and layering of GIS data to develop Draft Rural Development Typologies Map

2. Identification of Functional Rural Regions
   - Conceptual development of “Functional Rural Regions”
   - Prepare Land Suitability Map
   - Identification of nine Functional Rural Regions in Gauteng

3. Institutional Fit
   - Analysis of all relevant National, Provincial and Local Government plans, policies and strategies
   - Identify areas of agreement, neutrality and disagreement
   - Adjust Rural Development Typologies as and where required

4. Pilot Study
   - Pilot intergovernmental engagement and learning process with the Sokhulumi CRDP node as pilot area
   - Identify opportunities and challenges to rural development in Gauteng
   - Assess the applicability of the Functional Rural Regional Concept

5. Engagement with Relevant Stakeholders
   - Engagement with a range of national, provincial and municipal stakeholders, the consultants appointed to compile the EMF for Gauteng, the Klipriviersberg Sustainability Association and agricultural experts

6. Engineering Services Study
   - Appointment of Delta BEC to investigate and prepare a report and series of GIS layers on the availability of engineering services in the rural areas of Gauteng

7. Rural Design
   - Appointment of an urban designer to assist with the preparation of the final GRDP concepts and plans

8. Priority Rural Development Maps
   - Develop Priority Rural Development Maps based on:
     - “Spatial Institutional Fit” (mapping of municipal IDP, SDF & LED projects)
     - Spatial location of DRDLR projects and state-owned land
     - Availability of engineering services