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DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

WATERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

LIMPOPO PROVINCE

MARCH 2016

PREPARED BY: DITAU GEO-INFORMATICS SOLUTIONS
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1 SECTION ONE – BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The District Rural Development Plan (DRDP) for Waterberg district seeks to contribute to the transformation of the rural economy. In many ways, the DRDP forms part of the implementation of the National Development Plan (NDP), as Chapter 6 of the NDP calls for a radical transformation of rural economies. Informing this call for economic transformation is the pressing need to address the persistent triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and socio-economic inequalities in Waterberg as well as other rural districts identified as priority intervention areas.

The DRDP forms part of a range of strategic spatial planning instruments as well as other sector plans aimed at transforming the apartheid space economy. In achieving the goal of economic inclusivity and transformation, agricultural development has been identified as one of the critical sectors that can unlock development. The appreciation of agricultural development in Waterberg and other rural municipalities should be located within an appreciation of the country's agrarian transformation agenda. In other words, the development of an inclusive and competitive agricultural sector is informed by the appreciation of on-going land reform processes as well as land tenure systems that continue to evolve.

Whilst agricultural development is important, the DRDP also takes into account contributions made by various sectors within the Waterberg region. These include:

- Mining;
- Manufacturing;
- Tourism (including cultural and eco-tourism); and
- Related Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sectors.

The diversification of the district's economy is therefore intrinsically dependent on the interplay between ‘sunset’ sectors (e.g. manufacturing and mining) as well as ‘sunrise sectors’ (e.g. tourism and ICT related industries).

The overarching objectives of the DRDP are to improve competitiveness in the agriculture sector by:

- Improving the mining, manufacturing and tourism sectors;
- Targeting, invest in and marketing non-agricultural economic activities;
- Promote the revitalisation of rural towns and villages and;
• Promote competitive and sustainable rural businesses.

1.2 VISION FOR DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

All the strategic spatial plans as well as sector plans for Limpopo point to the fact that agriculture is at the heart of rural economic transformation. The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) as well as the Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP) attests to the fact that rural areas are faced with the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and lack of service delivery.

To this end, while acknowledging the uniqueness of Limpopo’s districts with regard to population dynamics and economic development, it should be noted that the aforementioned triple challenges cut across all municipal boundaries. Moreover, all five of Limpopo’s districts (i.e. Waterberg, Capricorn, Mopani, Vhembe, and Sekhukhune) are characterised by the dominance of at least four economic sectors namely agriculture, mining, tourism and manufacturing.

The vision for rural development can therefore be shared across these five districts as it is informed by national objectives as espoused in the NDP, the CRDP, APAP and other related strategic initiatives and policies. Moreover, it emerged from the multi-stakeholder engagements that all of Limpopo’s five district municipalities were predominantly rural. As such, issues of infrastructure provision, service delivery and harnessing of agricultural development, mining and tourism cut across all five district municipalities. While there exist district-specific nuances with regard to development priorities a shared vision for rural development for all five district municipalities can be couched in one of the following ways:

**OPTION 1:** Limpopo Province should be characterised by sustainable, integrated, competitive and inclusive rural economies that fully benefit local communities. To this end, district municipalities should act as a nexus to ensure that the economic comparative advantage of each district is maximised.

**OPTION 2:** By 2050, all of Limpopo’s district municipalities should act as engines for rural economic, social, spatial and environmental transformation. This holistic rural transformation should be anchored in sound development planning principles underscored by environmental integrity, spatial justice and inclusive socio-economic development.

**OPTION 3:** By 2050, Limpopo District Municipalities should have a thriving economy, driven by agriculture, mining, tourism and service sectors. People residing within all district municipalities should have access to basic services and amenities, including housing, water, education and food security.

In realising the aforementioned vision(s), district municipalities in Limpopo would have to ensure that DRDPs are meaningfully aligned to existing district strategic spatial plans,
notably the district Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). In the same vein, DRDPs should be viewed as complementing existing district plans, while at the same time anchoring rural development objectives as articulated at provincial and national levels of governance.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

This report was formulated through the distillation and synthesis of the following sources of information, notably:

a) Existing strategic spatial planning instruments and initiatives located at provincial, district and local levels of government. These include the National Development Plan (NDP), Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), Limpopo Development Plan (LDP), Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP), district and local Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Local Economic Development (LED) strategies, Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and other related sector plans.

b) Inputs and discussions from multi-stakeholder engagements. These included comments, concerns and insights from traditional leadership, political leadership, administrative leadership and officials from provincial and local spheres of government.

c) Using various data sets spatial maps were generated to determine the following:
   - Location of water, gas and electricity;
   - Location of agricultural land;
   - Spatial layout of towns and villages across the province;
   - GVA contribution for mining and quarrying;
   - GVA contribution from manufacturing;
   - Accessibility index and;
   - Traditional authority land with high land capability; and
   - State land with high land capability.

d) In loco/ground truthing inspections: Inspections/site visits were conducted in all the district municipalities as part of the ground-truthing exercise. Meetings were held with various stakeholders in order to find out the challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed in the identified intervention areas. Ground truthing informed the formulation of proposals and strategies to address the existing challenges related to rural areas.

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1 The crystallisation of Limpopo’s rural development vision is informed by various vision statements embedded in a range of strategic spatial plans, notably district and local IDPs, SDFs and LED strategies.
The analysis of strategic planning documents, maps and inputs from the stakeholders for each district were categorised and presented in a table format as strengths, opportunities, threats and weaknesses. Emerging from this synthesis was a synoptic situational analysis. The situational analysis will inform the strategic thrust as well as the implementation plan of the DRDPs.

1.4 DRDP & RURAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

From the multi-stakeholder engagements held throughout the district, it became apparent that DRDPs must put emphasis on agriculture as the cornerstone of rural economic transformation. This sentiment was also echoed by the President of the country during his 2015 State of the Nation Address. Thus DRDPs must be characterised by the following:

- Emphasis on agriculture as the most critical sector that can transform rural economies: the presence of a vibrant and competitive agricultural sector plays an important role in generating and/or stimulating additional economic activities such as, food processing, agro-tourism and trade.

- Promoting agricultural businesses: these agri-businesses contribute immensely to economic growth and food security.

- Creation of sustainable jobs: agriculture is one of the major employers in all of Limpopo’s five district municipalities. It is imperative therefore for the DRDPs to ensure that all agriculturally bases economic activities are optimally exploited.

- Promoting sector-specific, targeted funding and investment: sector specific strategies have a propensity of yielding high returns in investment. Leveraging the potential of agriculture therefore is likely to result in rural economic transformation.

1.5 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Rural development priorities are driven by the National Development Plan (NDP), the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) and Outcomes 7 of the MTSF. Read together these aforementioned strategic documents aim to revitalise rural economic life primarily through agriculture by:

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture and forestry in rural areas;

- Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability;

- Promoting food security and risk management in agriculture;

- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry; and
• Promoting the green economy through resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors.

Rural development priorities are underscored by the realisation that in lagging regions, the agricultural sector is complimented by other primary industries such as mining, tourism, manufacturing and other labour intensive economic activities that can create employment for semi-skilled and unskilled population groups. The unlocking of rural economic potential will be done through:

• Fostering knowledge transfer and beneficiation in mining, manufacturing and tourism;
• Mapping out the mining and manufacturing value chain;
• Harnessing the capacity of the energy sector through diversification of energy resources;
• Ensuring meaningful transformation and broad-based participation in the mining industry through empowering emergent black businesses in this sector; and
• Ensuring that there is beneficiation within the mining and manufacturing sectors, leading to the improved quality of life for rural communities.

The unlocking and/or harnessing of economic potential of these sectors is envisioned to promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. The DRDPs for Limpopo provide a unique platform and opportunity to support the sustainable management and optimal utilisation of natural resources; growth of rural business and; improvement of the well-being of rural communities. The DRDP is designed to be innovative, adaptable and integrated with other strategic spatial plans as a means of ensuring maximum value from investments.

The identification of agriculture business as a catalyst for revitalising rural economies does not neglect the vulnerability of this sector to climate change, drought as well as global market forces. To this end, DRDLR and other departments responsible for rural development have put emphasis on non-agricultural sectors. The Waterberg DRDP therefore will employ a targeted approach to key sunrise sectors, notably tourism, creative industries and the service sector. Such an approach will create opportunities for small businesses to a) collaborate with established ones and b) contribute to the growth of rural economies.

Investment in education as well as entrepreneurship also forms an integral part of the Waterberg DRDP. The building of physical infrastructure such as road networks as well as the provision of decent housing, schools, hospitals and places of entertainment and
socialisation has been identified by participants in DRDP formulation as pivotal in promoting rural development. So, rural development is predicated not only on developing places, but also people. The DRDP will therefore act as a catalyst for medium to long-term change, creating resilient rural economies based on sustainable development principles, notably green growth.

1.6 PURPOSE OF DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR LIMPOPO

1.6.1 DRDP as an Instrument for Coordinating Rural Strategic Spatial Planning

DRDPs are envisioned to act as critical levers for coordinating strategic spatial planning, specifically in rural municipalities. From 2009 onwards, South Africa’s development planning praxis has been steered towards harnessing rural development. This deliberate focus on rural development stemmed from the state’s quest for transforming the apartheid space economy.

While Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) still remain the fulcrum of strategic spatial planning within the local government sphere, DRDPs are aimed at reinforcing strategic planning. Put succinctly, DRDPs will act as a platform for harnessing cross-sectoral development. Existing sector-specific planning instruments such as Local Economic Development Plans (LED), Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and Agricultural development plans for instance, will find a more nuanced expression within District RDPs.

1.6.2 DRDP as Rural Economic Transformation Instrument

As articulated above, the Waterberg DRDP is viewed as a strategic planning instrument for transforming the apartheid space economy. Informing this transformation of the apartheid space economy is the identification of key levers of economic change; notably land reform and restitution and the identification of transformative economic sectors. In light of this, DRDPs have identified the agricultural sector as one of the key sectors with potential to unlock integrated and inclusive rural economic development. To this end, the DRDLR has identified strategic sites for Agricultural Parks. Moreover, in the interest of promoting economic diversity and complexity, the DRDP will attempt to unlock other sectors such as tourism, mining and manufacturing in Limpopo.
1.6.3 Promoting Land Use Management & Productivity

Linked to the Waterberg DRDP’s objective of rural economic transformation is the promotion of optimal utilisation of land in rural areas. This is tied to the application of sound land-use management principles in rural areas. The DRDP therefore is envisioned to assist the state as well as other stakeholders operating within Limpopo’s development planning context to optimise land productivity.

1.6.4 Promoting Rural-Urban Functionality

The Waterberg DRDP takes into account existing as well as potential linkages and/or flows of an economic, social, institutional, cultural and environmental nature that promote regional (i.e. urban and rural) development. As the aforementioned factors coalesce and/or intersect, they result in the emergence of specific rural development trajectories. Thus, the DRDP takes into account existing and potential development nodes emanating as a result of urban-rural linkages. Waterberg’s geospatial positioning for instance renders it one of the most important sites for regional development.

1.6.5 Alignment of the District Rural Development Plan with Existing Planning Instruments

In identifying rural development issues at district level, there is an acknowledgement of a range of strategic spatial plans, strategies and policy initiatives located within all three levels of government. These include the National Development Plan (NDP), the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP), the Limpopo Development Plan (2015-19) as well as district IDPs, LED
strategies, SDFs and sector-specific plans. The directive from the DRDLR on the formulation of Agri-Parks for all economically distressed rural regions also informs the DRDP formulation process. The aforementioned plans and development initiatives clearly spell out the developmental vision of the state, which then finds expression in provincial and subsequent district municipalities.

1.7 AGRI-PARK AS AN ANCHOR FOR AGRARIAN REFORM

The Waterberg DRDP is aimed at targeting specific sectors that will revitalise rural economies. As such, it is defined by sector-specific projects, thus acting as a critical platform for multi-sectoral programmes and projects. Some of the key areas of intervention that the DRDP will focus on include the establishment of Agri-Parks (AP) as a means of stimulating rural economic growth.

An Agri-Park is defined as a networked innovation system of agro-production, processing, logistics, marketing, training and extension services located at district level. As a network it enables a market-driven combination and integration of various agricultural activities and rural transformation services. The AP comprises of three basic units:

- The Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) – this a rural outreach unit connected with the Agri-hub. The FPSU does primary collection, storage, processing for the local market, and extension services including mechanisation;
MAP 1: AGRI-HUB AND FPSUs IN WATERBERG
• Agri-Hub Unit (AH) – this is a production, equipment hire, processing, packaging, logistics and training unit;

• The Rural Urban Market Centre Unit (RUMC) – the RUMC has three main purposes;
  a) Linking and contracting rural, urban and international markets through contracts;
  b) Acts as a holding-facility, releasing produce to urban markets based on seasonal trends;
  c) Provides market intelligence and information feedback, to the AH and FPSU, using latest Information and communication technologies.

Agri-Parks therefore are catalytic sites for agrarian reform. Responding to the National Development Plan’s (NDP) call for rural economic transformation, as well as Outcome 7 and its emphasis on promoting food security through agrarian reform; Agri-Parks are envisioned to act as agricultural industrial hubs. These hubs will be linked to existing rural villages and towns, providing key institutional, financial and spatial mechanisms for harnessing agro-related value chain belts and functional regions. The objectives of Agri-Parks are as follows:

• Promote growth of the smallholder sector by contributing to the 300 000 new small-scale producers, as well as to the 145 000 new jobs in agro-processing by the year 2020 (as set out in the NGP);

• Promote the skills of and support to small-holder farmers through the provision of capacity building, mentorship, farm infrastructure, extension services, production inputs and mechanization inputs;

• Enable producer ownership of the majority of Agri-Parks equity (70%), with the state and commercial interests holding minority shares (30%);

• Bring under-utilized land (especially in Communal Areas Land and land reform farms) into full production over the next three years, and expand irrigated agriculture; and

• Contribute to achievement of the NDP’s objective of fostering an inclusive rural economy and target of 1 million jobs created in agriculture sector by creating higher demand for raw agricultural produce, primary and ancillary inputs, as well as generating increased downstream economic activities in the sector.

Modimolle has been identified as an Agri-Hub site for the Waterberg district. This hub will be supported by the FPSUs located in various parts of the district municipality. Within these Agri-Parks the following activities will take place:
• **Knowledge Transfer & Innovation** – this will include development and training of farmers as well as people involved in agri-business, food and forestry sectors as well as agro-tourism. There will also be vertical and horizontal learning between emerging and established agri-business entrepreneurs. Agri-Parks will act as hubs for harnessing competitiveness, resource efficiency, and environmental consciousness of agricultural research centres and firms.

• **Advisory Services** – Agri-Parks will be centres of excellence where experts disseminate information related to markets, investments, funding and other agriculture-oriented modalities.

• **Cooperation** – there will be incubation of small-scale farmers as well as cooperatives within the district. This will allow for small-scale agri-business operators to forge a critical mass that would enable them to compete in both local and global markets.

• **Investment in Physical Assets** – the introduction of Agri-Parks in Limpopo will be accompanied by massive investments in physical infrastructure i.e. road, pack-houses, and other related supporting amenities. Tied to this is the provision of basic services such as water and electricity.

• **Agri-Business Development** – Agri-Parks will act as critical hubs for the identification and harnessing of agricultural belts as well as agricultural value-chains. The spin-offs from agri-business development will transform rural towns and villages into vibrant economies.
2 SECTION TWO – STUDY AREA

Waterberg District Municipality (WDM) is the largest municipality in Limpopo but has the smallest population compared to the other districts. It covers an area of approximately 4,951,882 ha and consists of six local municipalities, namely:

- Bela-Bela Local Municipality
- Lephalale Local Municipality
- Modimolle Local Municipality
- Mogalakwena Local Municipality
- Mookgophong Local Municipality
- Thabazimbi Local Municipality
MAP 2: WATERBERG IN CONTEXT
The WDM is located in the western periphery of the Limpopo province and shares five border control points with Botswana namely, Groblersburg, Stockpoort, Derdepoort and Platjan. Waterberg covers an area of approximately 44 913 km² with Lephalale occupying the majority of the district’s area with approximately 13 784 km², followed by Thabazimbi covering approximately 11 190 km², Mogalakwena covering ± 6 166 km², Mookgophong covering ± 5 689 km², Modimolle covering ± 4 678 km² and lastly Bela-Bela being the smallest covering approximately 3 406 km². This district is characterised by its scenic natural environment, hence being a prime ecotourism destination.
3 SECTION THREE – POLICY & LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

There are national, provincial and municipal policy frameworks in place that influence and guide rural development planning for the Waterberg District Municipality. The national policy framework includes principles that underpin the rural development agenda at a national scale, whilst the provincial policy framework translates this into an agenda for the Limpopo Province.

Waterberg District Municipality aligns with these policies at the municipal level and requires a District Rural Development Plan to further enable it to contribute to the achievement of targets and objectives outlined for the country and province, and to deal directly with economic development and job creation in the district.

3.1 NATIONAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

A review of the relevant national policies is outlined in the following sections, with a focus on those that have implications for rural development at the district level. The following documents are considered:

- National Development Plan: Vision 2030 (NDP)
- The New Growth Path (NGP)
- Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF)
- Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)
- Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)

3.1.1 National Development Plan 2030 (NDP)

The National Planning Commission was appointed in May 2010 by President Jacob Zuma to draft the National Development Plan (NDP). The National Development plan is a framework that aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. The plan outlines the challenges faced by South Africa in achieving this vision and sets out a holistic approach for its fulfilment.

This approach is based on six interlinked priorities, namely:

- Uniting South Africans around a common programme;
- Citizens active in their own development;
- Faster and more inclusive economic growth;

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2 National Development Plan: Vision 2030
• Building capabilities;
• A capable and developmental state and;
• Leadership and responsibility throughout society.

The third priority – faster and more inclusive economic growth – is supported by plans to create an inclusive and integrated rural community. It is based on the premise that South Africa’s rural communities should have the opportunity to participate in the economic, social and political life of the country, with successful land reform, job creation and rising agricultural production contributing to the development of an inclusive rural economy.

With the overall objective being to create an additional 643 000 direct jobs and 326 000 indirect jobs in the agriculture, agro processing and related sectors by 2030 thereby placing agriculture as a driving force behind this priority.³

South Africa’s rural areas experience high levels of poverty and joblessness, with limited employment in agriculture. To address this, the NDP proposes a multifaceted approach:

• Creating more jobs through agricultural development, based on effective land reform and the growth of irrigated agriculture and land production;
• Providing basic services that enable people to develop capabilities to take advantage of opportunities around the country, enabling them to contribute to their communities through remittances and skills transfer; and
• Developing industries such as agro processing, tourism, fisheries and small enterprises where potential exists.

The Waterberg DRDP therefore reflects the developmental principles and ethos espoused in the NDP, allowing for an integrated approach to rural planning.

3.1.2 Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA)

The DRDP’s are guided by four principles of spatial planning as articulated in SPLUMA. These include spatial resilience, spatial justice, spatial equity and spatial transformation. SPLUMA also provides succinct guidelines on how spatial planning ought to be approached in all three spheres of government. It also seeks to transform the apartheid space economy towards a more integrated and equitable rural development planning.

3.1.3 New Growth Path (NGP)

The New Growth Path framework although preceding the NDP, is twinned in its priorities for generating economic growth, alleviating poverty and inequality and promoting job creation. Its overarching objective is to create 5 million new jobs between 2010 and 2020.⁴

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid
According to the framework, achievement of this objective can be reached if there is a consistent focus on areas that have the potential for creating employment on a large scale. These areas are known as job drivers and include:

- Substantial public investment in infrastructure both to create employment directly, in construction, operation and maintenance as well as the production of inputs, and indirectly by improving efficiency across the economy;
- Targeting more labour-absorbing activities across the main economic sectors – the agricultural and mining value chains, manufacturing and services;
- Taking advantage of new opportunities in the knowledge and green economies;
- Leveraging social capital in the social economy and the public services; and
- Fostering rural development and regional integration.

In their application, these drivers must leverage and reinforce each other based on their inter-linkages.

The second job driver, which includes the agricultural value chain, is seen as a key priority for job creation in rural areas with opportunities for employment creation through smallholder schemes and the processing and sale of agricultural products. The Waterberg District Rural Development Plan, by focusing on inclusive agricultural projects that are spatially diverse will align itself closely with the New Growth Path.

### 3.1.4 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) – 2014 to 2019

The Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) is Government’s strategic plan for the 2014-2019 electoral term. It reflects the commitments made in the election manifesto of the governing party, including the commitment to implement the NDP. The MTSF sets out the actions Government will take and targets that need to be achieved. It also provides a framework for the other plans of national, provincial and local government.

The MTSF is structured around 14 priority outcomes, which cover the focus areas identified in the NDP. These are made up of the 12 Outcomes, which were the focus of the 2009-2014 administration, as well as two new outcomes (covering social protection, nation-building and social cohesion). The outcomes are as follows:

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4 New Growth Path: Framework
5 Medium Term Strategic Framework 2014-2019
Quality basic education;
A long and healthy life for all South Africans;
All people in South Africa are and feel safe;
Decent employment through inclusive growth;
A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path;
An efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network;
Vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all;
Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life;
Responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government;
Protect and enhance our environmental assets and natural resources;
Create a better South Africa and contribute to a better Africa and a better world;
An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service;
A comprehensive, responsive and sustainable social protection system; and
A diverse, socially cohesive society with a common national identity

In its focus on these priorities, and their elaboration into fourteen key outcomes and associated activities and targets, the MTSF has two overarching strategic themes – radical economic transformation and improving service delivery.

The outcomes of the MTSF are directly translated into the Limpopo Development Plan.

3.1.5 Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework (CRDP) – 2009

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework (CRDP) forms part of government’s Medium Term Strategic Framework and is aimed at being an effective response against poverty and food insecurity that will maximise the use and management of natural resources to create vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities⁶. This comprises three distinct components, namely:

- Coordinated and integrated broad-based agrarian transformation;
- Strategically increasing rural development; and
- An improved land reform programme

Agrarian transformation is characterised as rapid fundamental change in the relationship between land, livestock, cropping and community. It focuses on, amongst others, initiatives

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⁶ The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Framework - July 2009
that support the establishment of rural business initiatives, agro-industries, co-operatives and the empowerment of rural people and communities.

Rural development is about enabling rural people to take control of their destiny, thereby dealing effectively with rural poverty through the optimal use and management of natural resources. Land reform is a national priority and is further entrenched in Section 25 (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No.108 of 1996).

The Waterberg DRDP will provide a detailed program for the implementation of agrarian transformation in the district which will be aimed at stimulating agricultural production and bringing about improvements in all institutions concerned with rural development.

3.1.6 Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)

The APAP is a programmatic response to key policy documents including the NGP, the NDP and the MTSF in respect of the following outcomes:

- Outcome 4 - Decent employment through inclusive growth;
- Outcome 7 - Vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all; and
- Outcome 10 – Protect and enhance our environmental assets and natural resources

This policy provides a long-term vision and focused interventions in a 5-year rolling schedule, to be updated annually. The key outputs from APAP are well documented and have been broadly incorporated into the various provincial and district plans that are in place.

3.2 PROVINCIAL POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

A review of the relevant provincial policies is outlined in the following sections, with a focus on those that have implications for rural development at the district level. The following documents are considered:

- Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS)
- Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan (PEGDP)
- Limpopo Development Plan (LDP)
- Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework (SDF)

3.2.1 Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2011 (PGDS)

The Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy is aimed at providing the province and all its stakeholders with a vision and pathway for development that reflects the

priorities of the province\textsuperscript{8}. It is a strategic framework for accelerating and sharing economic growth through developmental interventions. It lays the foundation for attracting and instilling confidence from potential investors in the province and seeks to provide the guidelines for developing social contracts that address the challenges faced by the Province.

The Limpopo PGDS is informed by policy at the national, provincial and local levels. Its overarching objectives can be found in the MTSF’s fourteen outcomes, the NGP and the NDP. There are great similarities between the issues identified in these policies at the national level and those identified at the provincial level i.e. increasing unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The Limpopo PGDS sets out five key economic development goals, with related strategic objectives for the province\textsuperscript{9}, namely:

- **Objective one**: The need to improve the quality of life in Limpopo aligned to outcome 2 of the MTSF. This includes the elimination of poverty and unemployment, and improved life expectancy;

- **Objective two**: Growing the economy of the province, sustainable job creation, innovation and competitiveness aligned to outcome 4 of the MTSF. This includes access to technology;

- **Objective three**: Improve the institutional efficiency and effectiveness of government aligned to outcome 9 of the MTSF. This includes service delivery improvement;

- **Objective four**: Address priorities that cut across the three objectives above, such as black economic empowerment, HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction, issues of land and environment, etc.; and

- **Objective five**: Attain regional integration, by harnessing Limpopo’s strategic location as a gateway to Africa.

These objectives are aimed at facilitating economic growth and capital investment in the province and whilst the Provincial Government of Limpopo is leading the process of embedding these objectives, their success depends on smart partnerships with labour, civil society and business. It is critical that all stakeholders be synchronised in the pursuit of shifting Limpopo’s growth path towards shared growth and integrated sustainable development.

\textsuperscript{8} Limpopo Provincial Growth and Development Strategy 2004-2014
\textsuperscript{9} Ibid
Agriculture has been established as a priority sector for the Limpopo province to drive economic development, and in support of key outcomes of the NDP:

- Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth;
- Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all; and
- Outcome 10: Environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced

The ability of agriculture to contribute to job creation makes it a key focus of the New Growth Path, and core to the Limpopo PGDS.

3.2.2 Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan (PEGDP)

The Limpopo PEGDP (2009-2014) is set out to enable the province to address the challenges facing it as set out in the PGDS. It includes specific programmes that are designed to achieve structural change in critical areas of the provincial economy, and ultimately provides a framework for the provincial government, municipalities, the private sector and all organs of civil society to make hard choices in pursuit of the priorities encapsulated in the MTSF.10

The Limpopo PEGDP contextualised ten priority areas contained in the MTSF into key strategic priorities for the province that will guide service delivery. These include:

- Ensuring more inclusive economic growth, decent work and sustainable livelihoods; and,
- Rural development, food security and land reform.

The PEGDP states that province has excellent agricultural potential, mineral reserves and tourism resources, and these sectors can be used to underpin the actions needed to drive these strategic priorities in the province.

The Limpopo PEGDP put forward key action programmes in support of the five economic development goals outlined in the PGDS, and the strategic priorities from the PEGDP, selected interventions that can be leveraged by the Waterberg District Municipality include:

- *Objective two, growing the economy of the province*: proposed interventions include industrial development programme for priority growth sectors including the promotion

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10 Limpopo Provincial Employment Growth and Development Plan 2009-2014
of more labour absorbing industrial sectors such as agriculture; Enterprise development programmes including sectoral SMME growth initiatives such as agro-processing; Agricultural and rural development programme including the development of profitable small scale commercial farming in the province.

- **Objective five, attain regional integration:** proposed interventions include the establishment of regional and local economic corridors and export processing zones.

In order to ensure that the WDM achieves the intended growth and development envisaged within the Limpopo Development Plans, the policies and legislatives mentioned above should serve as tools for the coordination of interventions. They will ensure that the synergies that exist between various government departments as well as the private sectors are exploited to their full potential in order to ensure that the investments of government have the maximum impact possible.

### 3.2.3 Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2015-2019

The Limpopo LDP reflects the efforts made by the province to improve standards of living, reduce poverty, unemployment, and inequality. Through this, the quality of life of the Limpopo citizens will be improved. It further outlines how these objectives will be achieved by focusing on economic development in mining, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing amongst others.\(^{11}\)

Given this backdrop, the purpose of the Limpopo Development is therefore to:

- Outline the contribution from Limpopo province to the National Development Plan (NDP) and Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) for this period;
- Provide a framework for the strategic plans of each provincial government department as well as the IDP's and sector plans of each district and local municipalities;
- Create a structure for the constructive participation of private sector business and organised labour towards the achievement of provincial growth and development objectives; and
- Encourage citizens to be active in promoting higher standards of living in their communities.

\(^{11}\) Limpopo Development Plan 2015-2019
The strategy outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan builds on the foundation laid out in the PGDP and the PEGDP and is based on the 14 development outcomes contained in the MTSF the strategies include the following:

- Decent employment through inclusive growth (aligned to outcome 4) – a long term vision for dealing with the challenges of unemployment, inequality and creating a more inclusive society; and

- Comprehensive rural development (aligned to outcome 7) – developing rural areas that are spatially, socially and economically integrated, with the aim of increasing the contribution of agriculture to the Gross Geographic Product (GGP) of Limpopo

Included in the implementation plan is the concept of growth points or nodal development based on spatial targeting. These are defined as areas where resources are coordinated and directed to selected areas in response to development opportunities. There are ten growth points selected in the province, which are mainly concentrated in the Waterberg District Municipality. These include those located in Thabazimbi, Lephalale, Mogalakwena, Modimolle, Mookgophong and Bela-Bela

3.2.4 Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework (SDF) 2007

Environmental vulnerability, social need and economic development are not evenly distributed in Limpopo, and spatial disparities will always exist due to the spatial distribution of natural resources, historical influences and cultural factors.

Past spatial planning has often aggravated these spatial disparities. This has resulted in a disjuncture between where people live and where social and economic opportunities are concentrated. This spatial marginalization from economic opportunities of the majority of the population needs to be addressed in order to reduce poverty and inequality and ensure shared growth and the protection of vulnerable bio-resources.

The Limpopo SDF states that the future spatial pattern for the province will be determined by political and economic forces and processes. Further, the availability of resources will have a direct impact on economic development in the area and will be the most important factor for development in the province in the future.

Some of the key development factors for future development in the province include\textsuperscript{12}:

- Land: availability, ownership and use; and

- Physical infrastructure: roads, transportation, water, etc.

\textsuperscript{12} Limpopo Provincial Spatial Development Framework 2007
The Limpopo Provincial SDF has been developed in order to achieve the spatial development objectives of the province, in a targeted and spatially co-ordinated manner. The Provincial SDF objectives set out to:

- Formulate a spatial framework which will guide and encourage equitable distribution of investment in terms of a functional settlement hierarchy;
- To achieve spatially balanced development across the Limpopo province and support investment in sustainable settlements;
- Establish an optimal and functional spatial pattern for districts and the Limpopo province over time;
- Rationalise and promote the optimal use of land and protection of natural resources;
- Establish a functional spatial pattern with a hierarchy of settlements which provides a sound basis for long term sustainable economic growth;
- Provide guidelines for the development of transportation and utility networks; and
- The successful integration of planning across national, provincial and local levels

The Limpopo SDF identifies several areas of agricultural potential within the province. This is seen as key to addressing poverty since most areas of poverty are rural. The focus on agricultural development initiatives in the Limpopo SDF will be supported by the Waterberg District Rural Development Plan.

### 3.3 DISTRICT AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITY POLICIES & STRATEGIES

A review of the relevant district and local municipality policies is outlined in the following sections, with a focus on those that have implications for rural development at the district and local level. The following documents are considered:

- Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP);
- Waterberg District Municipality (SDF);
- Waterberg District Municipality LED Strategy;
- Thabazimbi Local Municipality IDP;
- Lephalale Local Municipality IDP;
- Mookgophong Local Municipality IDP;
- Modimolle Municipality IDP;
- Bela-Bela Municipality IDP and;
• Mogalakwena Local Municipality IDP.

3.3.1 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan (IDP) 2014/15

The vision of the Waterberg District Municipality is “We are the energy hub and eco-tourism destination in Southern Africa”. This is supported by the deliverables of the Waterberg District Integrated Development Plan.

The Waterberg DM IDP seeks to align and integrate with policies at the national and provincial level as well as with other spheres of government through the following key priority areas:

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Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development: promoting accountability, efficiency and professionalism in good governance;

Basic Service and Infrastructure Development/Investment: coordinating and monitoring infrastructure development for the provision of and access to, services;

Local Economic Development: Creating a sustainable and enabling environment for local economic development;

Financial Management and Viability: To effectively manage and improve financial sustainability; and

Good Governance and Community Participation: To develop and implement integrated management and governance systems

Each priority is supported by strategic objectives which address developmental challenges and provide short, medium and long term actions to successfully achieve the goals identified in the key priority areas for the District. These include:

- To facilitate access and transform land and rural tourism development: including land audits, negotiation with relevant stakeholders and purchase of land for development;
- To coordinate and monitor infrastructure development for provision and access to services: including feasibility studies, improving blue drop status and infrastructure investment partnerships;
- To create a sustainable and enabling environment for local economic development: including review of the LED strategy, review of the agricultural strategy, and implementation of policies conducive to economic development;

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13 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
14 Ibid
• To effectively manage finances and improve sustainability: including strengthening internal controls, reviewing debt collection strategies, and enforcement of creditor and debt collection policy; and

• To empower the community and instil a sense of ownership for development: including development of a communications policy and the development of district wide shared services;

The Waterberg District IDP acts as a broad business plan for the WDM, and aims to tackle the challenges of skills shortages, aging infrastructure, unemployment, and revenue shortages amongst others that it faces. Emphasis in the financial year will be put on projects linked to budgets that support the opportunities it outlines.

3.3.2 Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework (SDF), 2009

The Waterberg District Municipality SDF is an integral part of the district integrated development plan and is used as a tool to implement the IDP. It seeks to arrange development activities, land uses and the built form in the district - in such a manner that they can accommodate the ideas and desires of people - without compromising the natural environment and how services are delivered.\(^{15}\)

The Waterberg SDF identified specific spatial development objectives for the District Municipality. These are aligned to the Limpopo SDF and include\(^{16}\):

• Stimulate development and growth where there is proven demand;
• Ensure sustainable use of environmental resources, their enhancement and replenishment;
• Capitalise on the valuable role of environmental resources;
• Enhance the uniqueness, ecological sustainability, and liveability of the municipal area;
• Meet community needs and promote community values and aspirations;
• Create new social and economic opportunities and improve access to the existing ones;
• Promote all aspects of spatial integration;
• Enhance the functionality of all the elements constituting the municipal area;
• Create healthy, comfortable and safe living and working environments for all; and

\(^{15}\) Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework, 2009
\(^{16}\) Ibid
• Instil business confidence in the municipal area as a whole by providing an enabling spatial framework that supports development.

To fulfill these objectives, the Waterberg SDF indicates a number of development strategies along with a detailed spatial development framework for the area that will guide and facilitate growth and development. These are as follows:

• Highlight intra-municipal development issues;
• Integrate and facilitate the development initiatives between local municipalities;
• Promote and support spatial development initiatives and strategies that cut across local municipal boundaries; and
• Align development support with development potential. This implies that the WDM makes a clear distinction between support for developmental investments and support for maintaining basic health and human living conditions as part of a broader welfare strategy.

The SDF identifies a number of challenges that may impede the achievement of the strategies laid out above and therefore the objectives they are driving. These will need to be carefully considered and addressed. Key spatial challenges identified include:\n
• Illegal occupation of land (Informal Settlements);
• Poor understanding of Spatial Planning issues (Spatial Development Frameworks, Land Use Management System, and Integrated Development Plans);
• Delayed restitution of land;
• Inadequate land for development;
• Illegal subdivision of agricultural land;
• Delays in transfer of land; and
• Delay in settling outstanding land claims can create a risk to investors.

To ensure the success of spatial development in the district and therefore the rural development plan, the above challenges will need to be directly addressed. This will enable the successful delivery of the area’s spatial development objectives.

3.3.3 Waterberg District Municipality LED Strategy 2007

Local Economic Development (LED) is an approach to sustainable economic development that encourages local communities, public and private sectors to work together to stimulate local economic activities that will result in an improvement in the quality of life for all.

\[17\] Ibid
LED aims to increase standards of living, create more and better jobs, advance skills and build sustained development for the future. It is a practical understanding of what the local area does well and what it has to offer, where its weaknesses and gaps lie as well as where threats and opportunities exist considering the needs of the local area. The main focus is enhancing competitiveness, increasing sustainable growth and ensures that growth is inclusive.18

The Waterberg economy’s largest contributors to the provincial economy are mining, electricity and agriculture, with the bulk of formal employment in the district being in the mining and agriculture sectors. Tourism is also an important emerging sector in the WDM economy and as such its impact should not be underestimated.19

The Waterberg DM LED strategy outlines the municipal economy’s main features, describes its dominant sectors and provides an overview of the development strategies it has in place to promote economic development in the region. These strategies include20:

- Agricultural strategy: focusing on the development of the agricultural sector in the Waterberg District
- Mining Development strategy: focusing on providing leadership and direction for the mining sector
- Tourism Strategy: providing a tourism development and implementation plan for the district
- Marketing and Investment strategy: promoting the district as a preferred investment and trade location in South Africa
- Poverty Reduction Strategy: aimed at reducing poverty in the Waterberg district

The Waterberg District Municipality’s economy is characterised by three active sectors, namely mining, tourism and agriculture. The District is one of the major mining regions within South Africa of which platinum, iron ore, coal and diamonds are mined. The District is also home to internationally renowned icons such as the Biosphere Reserve. The fertile soil leads to a competitive advantage in the agricultural sector and opportunities within this sector still need to be taken advantage of to their full potential through agro-processing and agri-tourism activities.21

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18 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
19 Waterberg District Municipality Local Economic Development strategy
20 Ibid
21 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
The Waterberg LED further identified a number of sectoral comparative advantages in each of its local municipalities, which will contribute to economic development in the district, these include:

- Thabazimbi – the mining sector is the main and most important sector with the main products, iron ore and platinum being mined;

- Lephalale - mostly based on agriculture and mining. The mining of coal is the main mining activity in the region whilst agriculture is the largest employer;

- Mookgophong - does not show a competitive advantage in a particular sector, however the agricultural sector is the best performing sector in the economy;

- Modimolle - agricultural products, game farming (opportunity to improve the tourism sector) and government services;

- Bela-Bela - well known for its contribution to the tourism industry; and

- Mogalakwena – platinum mining.

Based on the comparative advantages identified in the district, the Waterberg LED plan highlights agriculture as one of the region’s main opportunities, with the agriculture sector already playing a strong role in the district economy.

### 3.3.4 Thabazimbi Local Municipality IDP 2013/14

The Thabazimbi Local Municipality is situated to the southwest of the Limpopo Province and borders the Republic of Botswana in the west, the North-West province in the south and is a 2-hour drive from Tshwane Municipality. Within the Waterberg District, Thabazimbi LM borders the Lephalale LM in the north, Modimolle LM in the east and Bela-Bela LM in the southeast.

Thabazimbi LM is known as “mountain of iron” which is the Tswana name for the town, which refers to the highly lucrative iron ore reef first discovered in the LM in 1919. The Municipality has Marakele National Park, which is a subsidiary of National Parks Board, and at the same standard as the Kruger National Park and Mapungubwe game reserve.

Despite these attractions, the LM is primarily rural in nature with a high unemployment rate resulting in high poverty levels. The Thabazimbi Local Municipality identifies, tourism and mining as areas of significant development potential in the region, however there are a number of constraints to development. Some of these are summarized as follows:

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22 Waterberg District Municipality Local Economic Development strategy
23 Waterberg district Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy
24 Thabazimbi Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
25 Waterberg district Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy
• Access to basic service delivery – including electricity, roads and water;
• Local economic development – including the conversion of agricultural land, constraints of small scale mining; and
• Spatial Development – including the lack of land for development owned by the LM.

The Thabazimbi LM IDP outlines the vision of the municipality as follows: “to be the leading municipality offering quality services in the most economic, affordable, equitable and sustainable manner”. It is proposed by the LM that this vision will be obtained through the 9 strategic objectives put forward. These include26:
• Promote the wellbeing of all communities;
• Ensure economic growth;
• Enhance financial viability and accountability;
• Manage infrastructure and services for access and mobility;
• Promote community involvement; and
• Develop & implement integrated management & governance systems.

3.3.5 Lephalale Local Municipality IDP 2013-16

The Lephalale Local Municipality is situated in the North of the Waterberg District Municipality and borders with four local municipalities (Blouberg, Modimolle, Mogalakwena and Thabazimbi). Its northwestern border is also part of the international border between South Africa and Botswana. The Lephalale LM is the largest municipality in the Limpopo province by area, and is located approximately 280km from Tshwane.

Nestled at the spur of the Waterberg Mountains, Lephalale is a place of peace and breathtaking beauty, known as “the heartland of the Waterberg bushveld”. Lephalale LM is richly blessed with pristine natural beauty and an abundance of fauna and flora. It offers a variety of scenic contrasts and encompasses the unique Waterberg wilderness, which boasts superb vistas, mountain gorges, clear streams and rolling hills. 27

The Lephalale Local Municipality identifies, agriculture, mining and electricity as areas of significant development potential in the region, however there are a number of constraints to development. Some of these are summarized as follows28:
• Access to basic service delivery – including electricity, roads and water;
• Transportation – distance between economic activities;

26 Thabazimbi Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
27 Lephalale Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013-16
28 Waterberg district Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy
• Local economic development – including the failure to implement and monitor progress of LED strategies;

• Spatial Development – including the lack of land for development, illegal subdivision of agricultural land and land invasions.

The Lephalale LM IDP outlines the vision of the municipality as follows: “to build a vibrant city and be the energy hub of Africa”. It is proposed by the LM that this vision will be obtained through the implementation of its developmental strategies. These include

• Rationale planning to provide land for development;

• Provision of quality and well maintained infrastructure services;

• Protect the environment and improve community wellbeing;

• Enhance revenue and financial management; and

• Create an enabling environment for business to invest and prosper.

3.3.6 Mookgophong Local Municipality IDP

The Mookgophong Local Municipality is situated in the southwest of the Waterberg District. It borders Mogalakwena LM in the north, and Modimolle LM and Bela-Bela LM in the west. Mookgophong was established in 1886 as a halfway house between Pretoria and Polokwane and served as a trading post until 1907 when it was proclaimed as a town.

The Mookgophong LM has a comparative advantage in the tourism industry due to its natural beauty and proximity to Gauteng, with the agricultural sector being the best performing sector in its economy

As the Mookgophong LM is predominantly agricultural in nature, it therefore faces the problems and constraints that are typical of a farming area. These include:

• Over reliance on the agricultural sector – a large number of the population are employed on farms as labourers;

• Financial constraints – including a limited tax base and over reliance on government grants and allocations;

• Provision of services – including water, sanitation, electricity, roads and storm water;

• Spatial Development – including housing and land reform related problems;

• Unemployment and economic decline – including lack of sustainable jobs;

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29 Lephalale Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013-16
30 Waterberg District Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy
31 Mookgophong Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan
The Mookgophong LM IDP outlines the vision of the municipality as follows: “we strive for the creation of an economic hub built on tourism, agriculture and mining”. It further puts forward strategic objectives for the LM, and the strategic outcomes they drive. These are as follows:

TABLE 1: MOOKGOPHONG STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Objective</th>
<th>Strategic Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To ensure integrated and sustainable human settlement</td>
<td>Prosperous community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To deepen democracy and Promote accountability</td>
<td>Active citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To promote and enforce acceptable environmental practices</td>
<td>Sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To create a conducive environment for businesses to invest and prosper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To develop and maintain an infrastructural system which provides sustainable access to basic services</td>
<td>Access to basic services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To enhance compliance with the MFMA and improve financial viability</td>
<td>Financial sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To increase institutional capacity, efficiency and effectiveness</td>
<td>Good governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To attract, develop and retain human capital</td>
<td>Increased productivity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3.7 Modimolle Local Municipality IDP 2014-2015

The Modimolle Local Municipality is situated in the middle of the WDM and is surrounded by the other five local municipalities in the Waterberg district, namely, with Bela-Bela LM to the south, Lephalale LM to the northwest, and Thabazimbi LM to the southwest, Mogalakwena LM to the north-east and Mookgophong LM to the south- east. Modimolle is regarded as the administrative centre for the Waterberg District as the offices of the WDM are situated there.

The Modimolle LM is strategically located, with the R101 passing through it and the N1 that connects Gauteng province to the Limpopo province. The link provided by the LM can create an enabling business climate for the municipality as a distribution point to support vast growing developments in the surrounding areas.

32 Mookgophong Local Municipality Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan 2013/14
The Modimolle town sits at the intersection of the R33 and R101 which provides added economic advantage. The municipality consists of urban and rural areas, with vast areas of land either under cultivation or being utilized for game farming purposes.\textsuperscript{33}

The Modimolle Local Municipality identifies, tourism agriculture and government services as areas of significant development potential in the region, however there are a number of constraints to development. Some of these are summarized as follows\textsuperscript{34}:

- Access to basic service delivery – including electricity, roads and water;
- Local economic development – including the lack of a business attraction, retention and investment policy and lack of municipal land for projects;
- Spatial Development – including the lack of land for human settlement and land invasion;
- Environmental Development – including land degradation and land pollution

The Modimolle LM IDP outlines the vision of the municipality is to be: “the eco-tourism destination of choice”. It further puts forward strategic objectives for the LM, and the strategic outcomes they drive. These are as follows\textsuperscript{35}:

**TABLE 2: MODIMOLLE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Objective</th>
<th>Strategic Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Promote the welfare of the community</td>
<td>Healthy and good living conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Promote and encourage sustainable economic environment</td>
<td>Prosperous community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Plan for the future</td>
<td>Sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Improve financial viability</td>
<td>Financial sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Resource management of infrastructure and services</td>
<td>Increased accessibility of basic services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Improve administrative and governance capacity</td>
<td>Good governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Attract, develop and retain human capital</td>
<td>Improved employee satisfaction and increased productivity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3.8 Bela-Bela Local Municipality IDP 2014/15

The Bela-Bela Local Municipality is located just north of the Gauteng province in the WDM, against the Waterberg Mountains in bushveld country. It is located 105km north of Pretoria

\textsuperscript{33} Modimolle Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014-2015

\textsuperscript{34} Ibid

\textsuperscript{35} Ibid
and 8km to the west of the N1 North, and borders Modimolle in the north, Mookgophong to the northeast, and Thabazimbi in the North West.

The Bela-Bela region is well known for its contribution to the tourism industry. Warm water springs in the area are an attractive factor for tourists to visit the region. There are currently well-established and existing tourism facilities that enhance the attraction for tourists when coming to the region. Some of the well-known attractions include Aventura Resorts, Klein Kariba, The Carousel, Mabalingwe Game Reserve and the Rust de Winter Dam and Nature Reserve.

The Bela-Bela LM has a high unemployment rate (particularly among the youth) resulting in high levels of poverty. As part of the LM’s local economic development plan, the municipality identified tourism and agriculture as areas of significant development potential in the region, however there are a number of challenges faced when considering development. Some of these are summarized as follows:

- Access to basic service delivery – including electricity, roads and water;
- Local economic development – including the limited development of SMME’s and cooperatives, limited sustainable projects (e.g. in agriculture and farming);
- Spatial Rationale – including unsettled land claims; most land is under private ownership, and no land for development.
- Environmental management – including soil erosion and water and air pollution

In order to address the challenges identified, the Bela-Bela LM has identified municipal priority issues. The main strategic priorities are:

- Basic service delivery: including roads and storm water drainage; water, sanitation and refuse removal; and electricity;
- Financial viability and management: including municipal financial viability
- Municipal transformation and institutional development;
- Good governance and public participation; including good governance and participation;
- Spatial planning: including land and housing infrastructure;
- Local Economic Development: Including training of local SMME’s

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36 Waterberg District Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy
37 Waterberg district Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy
38 Bela-Bela Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
3.3.9 Mogalakwena Local Municipality IDP 2014/15

The Mogalakwena Local Municipality is located in the northeastern part of the Waterberg district. It is in close proximity to Polokwane and encloses the N1 and the N11. These are two main linkages to Zimbabwe and Botswana as well as the Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces.

The Lephalale LM borders it in the north and to the west, Modimolle LM to the southwest, and Mookgophong in the South.\textsuperscript{39}

The Mogalakwena LM is largely rural in nature with some semi-urban settlements. The LM identifies key thrusts of development that include tourism, SMME development and industrial development, with mining remaining the dominant economic sector. However, there are a number of constraints to development. Some of these are summarized as follows\textsuperscript{40}:

- \textit{Spatial Development}: including illegal occupation of land, increase of informal settlements, uncoordinated demarcation and management of sites;
- \textit{Environmental Development}: including water quality, air quality and land degradation;
- \textit{Local economic development}: including lack of bulk services;
- \textit{Basic Service delivery and infrastructure investment}: including water quality
- \textit{Financial viability}: including revenue collection.

The Mogalakwena LM IDP outlines the vision of the municipality as follows: “to be the leading, sustainable and diversified economic hub focused on community needs”. It further puts forward priority issues and strategic objectives for the LM, and the strategic outcomes they drive. These are as follows\textsuperscript{41}:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Issues</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sustainable infrastructure development and maintenance</td>
<td>To improve the quantity and quality of municipal infrastructure and services</td>
<td>Enhanced and sustainable socio economic growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Building and Retention of Institutional capacity</td>
<td>To ensure that all stakeholders within the institution are adequately capacitated and retained</td>
<td>Competent and productive workforce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{39} Mogalakwena Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
\textsuperscript{40} Ibid
\textsuperscript{41} Mogalakwena Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2013/14
### Priority Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Issues</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Revenue enhancement</td>
<td>Ensuring sound and efficient financial management</td>
<td>Sustainable financial viability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Stimulating economic development</td>
<td>To create inclusive and well-coordinated investment opportunities for the growth of the economy</td>
<td>Reduced poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Consistent and regular monitoring, reporting and evaluation</td>
<td>To develop and implement integrated management and governance systems</td>
<td>Accountable and good governance – clean audits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Effective and clear communication</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Integrated land use planning &amp; management</td>
<td>To ensure the optimum utilization of land</td>
<td>Coordinated, rational, regulated and orderly land development and utilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Foster, regulate, maintain and promote a sustainable environment</td>
<td>Improved quality of life and protected natural resources for future generations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Social/community development</td>
<td>Improve the quality of lives through social development and the provision of effective community services</td>
<td>Developed community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3.10 Synthesis

The policies mentioned introduce a set of principles that are intended to influence the substantive outcomes of planning decisions in relation to the alleviation of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment in South Africa, the Limpopo Province and the Waterberg District Municipality.

The overall aim of these principles is to achieve planning outcomes that:

- Promote sustainable development and use of natural resources;
- Channel resources to areas of greatest need and development potential, thereby redressing the inequitable historical treatment of marginalized areas;
- Take into account the fiscal, institutional and administrative capacities of role players, the needs of communities and the environment; and
• Stimulate economic development opportunities in rural areas; and support an equitable protection of rights to and in land.

Rural development has a common thread from the National and Provincial policy level through to the District and Local Municipality policy level and is seen as core to the achievement of stated policy outcomes.

Waterberg, as a largely rural district municipality will therefore benefit from the implementation of a rural development plan that will guide the application of policy in the communities it serves.

The objectives of the Waterberg DRDP are therefore:

• To establish and outline long term vision and direction for rural development in the district;

• To provide an overarching and coordinating framework for planning and rural development initiatives, within each of the local municipalities and across municipal boundaries;

• To provide a spatial context and justification for priority interventions;

• To develop institutional arrangement for an effective implementation of the Waterberg rural development plan;

• To align and integrate departmental strategic plans at a district level; and

• To facilitate commitment of resources (human, financial, etc.) towards the implementation of strategic objectives, catalytic initiatives and other district priorities.
4 SECTION FOUR– SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

This section is informed by inputs from stakeholder engagements held in the month of June 2015 in Limpopo Province, as well as Inputs from various strategic spatial plans located at the provincial and local level. It provides an analysis that will inform the strategic thrust and the implementation plan of the Waterberg district rural development plan.

4.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

Data acquired from the 2011 census indicates that the Waterberg District Municipality has an estimated population of 679 336 people, with Mogalakwena having the highest population of about 307 682 people (45.29%), followed by Lephalale with approximately 115 787 people (17.04%), Thabazimbi with 85 234 people (12.55%), Modimolle with 68 513 people (10.09%), Bela-Bela with 66 500 people (9.79%) and Mookgophong with 35 640 people (5.25%). A glimpse at these figures from 2001 to 2011 indicates an increase in population for most local municipalities, with Modimolle the only local municipality that has seen a decline in population from 69 027 in 2001 to 68 513.

4.2 KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS

Mining, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing are the key economic drivers in the WDM with the mining sector being the largest creator of job opportunities for the majority of those residing within the district.

The demand for energy in South Africa has made coal mining one of the most important economic activities. This is reflected in the districts GDP with mining being the highest GDP contributor in the district (47.4%) as well as contributing substantially to the national mining sector. Coal resource in the WDM is estimated at 76 billion tons, which is more than 40% of the national coal reserve. Other minerals found in the district include: chrome, platinum, nickel, tin, tungsten, iron and many other metals.

Agriculture is a sector that is relied on for employment opportunities in the WDM, with the main crops within the district including cotton, sunflower, tobacco and soya beans. The Waterberg DM is well endowed with fertile soil and if used optimally can bolster the district’s competitive advantage.

Tourism can contribute significantly to local economic development in the Waterberg district however, the community do not participate meaningfully in this sector. Despite growing interest in the sector from previously disadvantaged individuals, slow transformation still poses challenges such as the large number of facilities in the region which are family owned businesses. Development potential for the tourism sector lies in the following:
4.3 AGRICULTURE

The Waterberg District Municipality contributes almost 30% of the Limpopo Province's agricultural activity, and is a sector that many people rely on for employment. Although named Waterberg, the district is actually classified as a semi-arid area with poor water resources. There is little cropping that takes place without some form of irrigation and with the demand on water resources increasing consistently, crop farmers will have to examine returns on the use of water in future.

For crop farmers there has been dramatic change in many commodity prices leading to changes in cropping patterns. Crops such as cotton, tobacco, maize and sorghum have been badly affected by low international prices and over production and plantings have been reduced significantly, often with negative financial and employment implications. Alternative crops like sunflower, wheat, soya beans, groundnuts and paprika are all internationally traded commodities and thus sensitive to the rand/dollar exchange rate.

The cattle and game industry is undergoing significant transformation. Led by water constraints, areas previously under dry land and irrigation are being consolidated and converted for extensive livestock production. Similarly other former cultivated land and livestock grazing is being converted to game ranching and eco-tourism. Even within the game ranching industry owners are diversifying into lodges and eco-tourism. The establishment and development of the Waterberg Biosphere have encouraged this general trend. This trend is expected to continue.\(^{42}\)

More than two thirds of households in the WDM do not engage in agricultural activity. Agricultural activity recorded among households in respective local municipalities in descending order is Mogalakwena (33%), Lephalale (23%), Mookgopong (16%), Modimolle (16%), Bela-Bela (12%), and Thabazimbi (9%).

The nature of agricultural activity by household shows a diversity of production mainly confined to livestock production, and major cropping in cotton, sunflower, tobacco, and soya bean production. These perspectives are noted in the figures overleaf.

\(^{42}\) Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
Among agricultural households, those headed by males dominate across all the local municipalities, with the exception of Mogalakwena local municipality where the female gender dominates (53%). Delineating the district demographics further shows that 37% of agricultural household heads are between the age cohorts of 46-64 years. This does have
inferences on the type and intensity of agriculture to be undertaken, especially with regard to mechanisation of agriculture. This is depicted in the figures below.

Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

FIGURE 3 : HOUSEHOLDS BY GENDER OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD AND AGE COHORT

There is a low level of formal education in the WDM, with approximately 73% of agricultural household heads without schooling past grade 11. This confines them to the semi and unskilled as well as informal employment categories. This level of education makes the most viable economic activity with the best absorption being agriculture due to its low skill requirements and capacity to absorb large segments of the population, albeit in low value occupations or jobs.
This situation invariably limits revenue generation capabilities, hence 76% of these agricultural households fall in the no income and R1-R38 400 income level. This creates challenges in enabling individuals to achieve living wages that are sustainable, hence the need for social interventions to mitigate poverty. This perspective is noted in the figure below.

source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

FIGURE 4: LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND INCOMES OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLD HEADS

The main type of agricultural activity engaged in by agricultural households in the WDM is largely confined to animals only, crops only and mixed farming. Lephalale is engaged more in animal production than other types of activity, while Mookgophong is engaged more in crop production. This is illustrated in the figure below.
Livestock ownership in the WDM is dominated by poultry only ownership, with 5 out of 6 local municipalities (Thabazimbi, Mookgophong, Modimolle, Bela-Bela and Mogalakwena) in the district showing this as their main source of livestock. Cattle production is mainly in Mogalakwena and Lephalale. This is depicted in the figure below.
The scale of livestock production is a significant inference on the sophistication of livestock value chains in the WDM. In cattle production, subsistence farming (1-10 cattle) is the mainstay in the district, especially in Lephalale and Mogalakwena local municipalities. Commercial cattle production (+100) is mainly practiced in Mookgophong and Modimolle local municipalities. Sheep production is mainly carried out at the subsistence level in Mogalakwena and Lephalale local municipalities. Commercial sheep production is practised in Mookgophong and Modimolle. This is illustrated in the figure below.
Goat and pig production in the district is mainly at subsistence level. Pig production shows greater potential of commercial production in the district especially in Bela-Bela and Lephalale local municipalities. Goat production exhibits commercial production in Modimolle local municipality mainly.

Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

FIGURE 7: AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS OWNING CATTLE AND SHEEP
The agricultural capability of the district is highly dependent on the availability and consistency of the supply of water. Modimolle, Thabazimbi and Bela-Bela local municipalities have the best water reticulation in the district with Mogalakwena, Modimolle and Thabazimbi local municipalities experiencing the most challenges in water access. This is depicted in the figure below.

Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

FIGURE 8: GOAT AND PIG PRODUCTION IN WATERBERG DISTRICT
Source: Statistics South Africa Census 2011

FIGURE 9: WATER ACCESS AND SOURCES
Agricultural potential in the district has been identified. These are noted in the table below.

**TABLE 4: AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Municipality</th>
<th>Agricultural potential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lephalale</td>
<td>Table grapes value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marula in Maraphong value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mogalakwena</td>
<td>White meat cluster value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Citrus farming value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Doring-draai fishing value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mookgophong</td>
<td>Goat value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paprika production under irrigation value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Citrus farming value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spices value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Granadillas value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bela-Bela</td>
<td>White meat cluster value chain enhancement (crocodile, broiler and day-old chick production)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thabazimbi</td>
<td>Horticultural product value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Game ranching value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red meat value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modimolle</td>
<td>Organic vegetables value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Game ranching value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red meat value chain enhancement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key learnings from the agricultural sector situational analysis include:

- The WDM is largely rural with activity confined mainly to agriculture, mining and tourism. The sector with the lowest barriers to entry and enhanced food security is the agricultural sector.
• Water access is central to developing and enhancing agricultural value chains in the district especially among emerging subsistence farmers, as it will enable consistent production away from rain fed agriculture.

• Agricultural activity is mainly subsistence, hence challenges in creating living wages for households that could see growth in indigent households.

• Low levels of education among the local population make initiatives in agriculture one of the key means to enable food security and the creation of employment opportunities in the form of semi and unskilled employment.

• There is a need to harness commercial production to stimulate the development of value chains that are inclusive to emerging subsistent farmers in the district, thereby enabling access to market and education on good agricultural practices.

• Land tenure management systems are critical to the growth of subsistence farmers into smallholder farmers as it enables access to finance, markets and education.

4.4 LAND REFORM

Like most rural districts, issues of agrarian reform and land tenure systems pose a challenge and must be prioritised in order to bolster economic development in the district. Most land claims in the district have been gazetted. However, the majority of them have either been rejected or are still under investigation. For example, approximately 200 claims were lodged in Lephalale in 2011 with only 28 of those have been gazetted, 52 accepted and ± 105 are still under investigation.

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Waterberg District Municipality has numerous natural attractions. The name Waterberg translates into English as ‘Water Fountain’, and is a collective name for the Sand River Mountains, Hoekby, Swaershoek and the Moepel range.43

The history of the Waterberg District extends as far back as the Stone Age and is diverse, and greatly influenced by natural phenomena and features of the area. To the people of the Waterberg District it provides a host of South African treasures - a land of intense beauty and colour reflected in the environment and its people. Over three million years of history

43 http://www.waterberg.gov.za
has created a unique area that challenges the farmer, the adventurer and the investor alike.\textsuperscript{44}

4.5.1 Sites of Cultural, Heritage, Religious and Historical interests

The Waterberg District Municipality offers a rich cultural heritage. Some important cultural and historical features of the area include rock paintings and stone tools of San hunters and Khoekhoe herders, Bambata clay pottery, and also ruins of Langa Ndebele settlements.

The WDM also has a rich cultural history, with various tribes inhabiting the area as well as colonial settlements. The interaction between the colonial Voortrekers and local tribes in the area is of importance especially at sites such as the Makapans Caves.\textsuperscript{45}

The WDM offers a number of heritage sites, some of these are outlined below:\textsuperscript{46}:

* Makapans Valley World Heritage Site:* is a site of one of the most dramatic incidents in the long and fascinating local history, and one of the most notable archaeologically significant sites in the country. Today the caves are a fascinating area that continues to provide clues to the way ancient Africans once lived.

* Modimolle Mountain:* Modimolle meaning "the gods have eaten" is a prominent hill in Modimolle town with significant cultural importance to the local people and is referred to as a "place of spirits".

* Telekishi Ramasobana Cultural Village:* is set in one of the most beautiful parts of Waterberg. The village is built in an enchanting traditional Pedi style with earth covered walls, enclosed courtyards, eco-toilets and ridged thatching. It is decorated using local techniques in patterns of coloured soils and cow dung. Enjoy hiking along the escarpment and the pristine scenery. This destination offers a truly memorable and highly educational experience.

* Lehlabile cultural tours:* four women have opened their Pedi style homes and they conduct tours giving visitors a great insight into local lifestyles, food, decor, song and dance and oral history. Tours start with viewing of the community crèche and school, moving through the village and ending with an optional lunch in a traditional Pedi homestead.

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{44} Ibid

\textsuperscript{45} Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15

\textsuperscript{46} http://www.waterberg.gov.za
4.5.2 Nature Reserves and Game Parks

Waterberg is home to internationally renowned icons such as the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve, Nylsvley Wetlands, Makapans Valley World Heritage Site, and the Marakele National Park. The WDM also boasts a number of privately owned and provincial game parks, some of these are set out in the table below:\footnote{47 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15}

**TABLE 5: NATURE RESERVES & GAME PARKS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature Reserves</th>
<th>Bela-Bela</th>
<th>Lephalale</th>
<th>Modimolle</th>
<th>Mogalakwena</th>
<th>Mookgophong</th>
<th>Thabazimbi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mabalingwe Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• Waterberg Biosphere</td>
<td>• Marakele National Park</td>
<td>• Waterberg Biosphere</td>
<td>• Waterberg Biosphere</td>
<td>• Waterberg Biosphere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sondela Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• D’Nyala Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• Nylsvley Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• Mosdene Private Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• Marakele National Park</td>
<td>• Marakele National Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mokolo Dam Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• Mokolo Dam Nature Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Nylsvley Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• Nylsvley Nature Reserve</td>
<td>• Ben Alberts Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Waterberg Biosphere</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Atherstone Nature Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Marakele National Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Mabula Game Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Bonwa Phala Game Reserve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Kunkuru Game Reserve</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5.3 Protected Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The following environmental problems have been identified in most parts of the Waterberg District Municipality:\footnote{48 Waterberg Environmental Management Plan}:

- Drought;
- Land degradation;
- Groundwater pollution;
- Soil erosion;
- Informal Settlements;

\footnote{47 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15} \footnote{48 Waterberg Environmental Management Plan}
• Mining pollution; and
• Pollution from power stations

The WDM has Environmental Health Officers in place, however environmental management does not fall within their competency. There is currently therefore, limited capacity available at the municipalities to address environmental issues.

Given the above environmental challenges faced, special care must be taken to preserve and protect those areas that may come under threat such as the Waterberg Biosphere which is a large protected area. The presence of the Biosphere Reserve in the region provides an opportunity to promote biodiversity conservation at the same time as advancing eco-tourism in the study area.

There are a number of other protected areas within the Waterberg District, including Marakele National Park, Entabeni Nature Reserve, and the D’nyala Nature Reserve.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
MAP 3: ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS
4.5.4 Topography

Topography and drainage are two elements that determine the ability to develop specific areas for agriculture, housing, etc. Municipal services such as sanitation and storm water are directly linked to drainage patterns while the slope of the area determines where what can be developed. There are limits to the slope on which urban development can take place while very severe slopes might restrict crop farming or certain mining techniques. The slope and drainage patterns describe the physical appearance of the municipal area.\(^{50}\)

Topographically the landscape of the Waterberg District Municipality is a unique feature that distinguishes it from any other place in South Africa. There are four main landscape features in the district, namely the Waterberg Plateau, the Transvaal Plateau Basin, the Pietersburg Plain and the Limpopo Depression.

The character of the Waterberg Escarpment is an important feature of the area. It is an asset that should be protected. Similarly, the wide open bushveld plains of the Limpopo Peneplain represent a special South African bushveld character. This character is one of the key selling points that the tourism sector employs in their marketing strategy. Steep slopes have also been identified in the Environmental Management Framework as they are inherently sensitive to change.\(^{51}\)

4.5.5 Water Resources (Hydrology, Water Catchment Areas)

The Waterberg District derives its name from the Waterberg Mountains and was given by the indigenous people of the area because of the many water streams flowing down the mountain slopes. The rivers flowing in the WDM drain in a north-westerly direction to the Limpopo River and have a direct influence on South Africa’s neighboring countries.

The following rivers are the most prominent in the District\(^{52}\):

- Mokolo;
- Limpopo;
- Lephala;
- Mogalakwena;
- Sterk;
- Olifants; and

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\(^{50}\) Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework 2009

\(^{51}\) Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15

\(^{52}\) Ibid
Nyl

Water from these rivers is mainly used for irrigation and human consumption, and the main catchment areas in Waterberg are Mokolo, Lephalale and Mogalakwena.

As well as rivers, hydrology in the Waterberg District consists of other water related features including, dams, canals, pans, wetlands, and springs, and includes both surface and groundwater features. The hydrology of an area can impact on development, and the relatively arid nature of the Waterberg district can be a major constraint in this regard. A prime example is the demand for water for mining and electricity generation around Thabazimbi and Lephalale. These areas receive continuous attention from the local municipalities involved.\textsuperscript{53}

\textsuperscript{53} Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework, 2009
MAP 4: HYDROLOGY
4.5.6 Vegetation

The majority of the vegetation of the Waterberg District Municipality falls within the Central Bushveld Bioregion, which is part of the Savanna Biome. This consists of tall grasses and low trees, most of them deciduous, fine-leaved and thorny. The region provides examples of the dense shrub land with large trees and shrubs that include the Umbrella Thorn, Marula, Mopane and Baobab.

There are small patches of vegetation that fall within the Mesic Highveld Grassland Bioregion, which is part of the Grassland Biome. Patches of Azonal vegetation is also found within the area. Lowveld Riverine Forest, Springbokvlakte Thornveld, Central Sandy Bushveld, Makhado Sweet Bushveld and Subtropical Salt Pans are the vegetation types of most concern for conservation.

Three centres of endemism occur near the eastern boundary of the Waterberg District. A small part of the Wolkberg Centre of Endemism occurs within the area. Conservation of this unique vegetation is important.

The Waterberg District's natural vegetation has experienced degradation in some areas. This includes urbanisation, cultivation and mining. Severe over-grazing is also problematic. Biodiversity hotspots and conservation priorities in the region should be preserved before transformation leads to the loss of the entire area.\textsuperscript{54}

4.5.7 Geology and Soil Types

The geology of the Waterberg area is fundamental in sustaining development over the long term. Geology determines not only soil conditions but has an impact on development cost and safety in an urban development context. It also directly determines agricultural potential in terms of soil potential and vegetation types.\textsuperscript{55}

The geology of the WDM can be classified into five distinct geology types, namely the Transvaal Super Group, Waterberg Group, Bushveld Igneous Complex, and the Archaean Granite/Gneiss and Swazian Complex. The Karoo Super Group contains coal deposits while Bushveld Igneous Complex harbors important sources of platinum and chromium. The Waterberg Group contains no minerals of economic value. The Transvaal Super Group has iron ore deposits. The lithology of the area shows that there are 26 dominant rock types occurring in the Waterberg District.\textsuperscript{56}

\textsuperscript{54} Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
\textsuperscript{55} Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework 2009
\textsuperscript{56} Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
Gaming and conservation are not directly affected by geological conditions. The only exception may be where unique geological features may warrant specific conservation efforts (e.g. Makapan’s Caves). This is usually on a very small and localised basis and should not affect the macro development patterns.  

4.5.8 Soil Types

The Waterberg region is characterised by diverse soil types, with all major soil associations identified. These include weakly developed soils on mountainous catchments, uplands and rocky areas, dystrophic, red and yellow, freely draining sandy soils, and plinthic upland duplex and paraduplex soils on undulating middleveld, rugged terrain.

The agricultural potential of the area is intimately associated with topographical, pedological (soil) and climate determinants. Rainfall distribution is also an important factor in determining the agricultural potential.

There are areas in the Waterberg district Municipality where soil depth impacts negatively on crop farming and these areas are found to correlate with topography. Soil depth can be an important factor in agriculture, and the possible negative impact of shallow soils can be seen on subsistence farming. A general assessment of soil depth as a determining factor for crop farming points to a limited potential for crop farming in the municipal area. Soil depth has generally no ramifications for other types of development except that in combination with geological conditions and topography, it can add to the cost of urban development.

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57 Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework 2009
58 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
59 Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework 2009
4.5.9 Biodiversity

Biodiversity describes the variety of life in an area including the number of different species, the genetic wealth within each species, the interrelationships between them and the natural areas in which they occur. Sensitive vegetation and watercourses should be maintained for both the conservation of biodiversity and for their ecological functioning in water quality improvement and flood control.

The Waterberg Biosphere is the largest centre of biodiversity in the Waterberg district and it is important that the environmental heritage, conservation areas, biodiversity hotspots and ecologically sensitive areas be actively protected, managed, and enhanced to ensure that they are not adversely affected by other activities. The biosphere is also something that all the local municipalities in the district share and it is therefore the responsibility of the Waterberg District Municipality to develop the biosphere.

The biosphere does allow for activities such as farming, and eco-tourism. To ensure that the ecological integrity of the Biosphere stays intact uses such as mining, large scale intensive agriculture and human settlement activities should be avoided.\(^{60}\)

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\(^{60}\) Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework
MAP 12: CRITICAL BIODIVERSITY GROUPS
4.6 CLIMATE

Across the globe, environmental stresses and major changes in climate conditions are influencing the lives and livelihoods of ordinary people and communities everywhere. This is apparent in the Waterberg District, with a prime example being the rainfall patterns which are highly variable. This disrupts a wide range of activities in the area such as rain-fed crop production, often with very little warning.

The northern and western regions of the Waterberg District Municipality experience a hot and semi-arid climate. The southern and eastern regions are more humid and slightly cooler. The rainy season lasts from November to March and the average rainfall is 600-650mm with the highest measurements occurring in January and December. Temperatures range between the cooler temperatures of the Waterberg and the hotter climate of the Springbok Flats.\(^61\)

4.6.1 Climate Change and Global Warming

Climate change is a change of the general weather conditions of which the most significant is an increase in temperature of the earth’s surface. Besides an increase in average temperature, climate change also causes significant changes in rainfall patterns, and an increase in extreme weather events, giving rise to floods and droughts. Climate change is a Global issue however the impacts of changing weather patterns will be felt most likely at local level and municipalities need to ensure that they can adapt to projected changes.

Rising CO\(^2\) emission has a detrimental effect on the socio economic situation within global communities, with developing and poor countries being the hardest hit. Some of the visible impacts are severe drought and water scarcity, forest degradation and overgrazing. The Waterberg district’s vulnerability to climate change has direct influence on the following:\(^62\)

- Increased water stress – significant decrease in water availability in many areas;
- Agricultural production and food security – failing crop yield in many areas; and
- Impact of climate change on human health – large proportion of South African population has low resilience to extreme climate events (poverty, high disease burden, inadequate housing infrastructure and location)

\(^61\) Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
\(^62\) Ibid
4.6.2 Air Quality

The Waterberg District Municipality Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) was completed in 2009, and was developed to set the framework within which air quality will be managed in the WDM in future. The Air Quality Management Plan found that pollution sources in the region include the following:

- Power generation;
- Mining;
- Industrial emissions;
- Domestic fuel burning;
- Vehicle emissions;
- Agricultural activities;
- Biomass burning;
- Waste treatment & disposal; and
- Dust from various sources.

Currently, the air quality of the Waterberg District is fair, but with future development set to happen in the area, it is expected that air pollution will increase. An example of this is the construction of the power station in Lephalale, which requires industries to comply with air quality standards. In Waterberg, the air quality hot spots are Lephalale, Mogalakwena and Thabazimbi.63

4.7 MINING

The Waterberg District is known as a region with numerous natural resources. The district is one of the most mineralised regions in South Africa that dates back more than 600 million years. The District is one of the major mining regions in the country64 with mining activities centred on Mokopane, Lephalale, and Northam-Thabazimbi, and is a prominent spatial feature in the form of65:

- The Ellisras coal fields;
- The Potgietersrus (Mokopane) platinum belt;
- The Potgietersrus (Mokopane) tin field;
- The Springbok flats coal fields;

63 Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
64 Waterberg District Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy
65 Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework 2014/15
• The Elands tin fields;
• The Rooiberg tin field; and
• The Northam-Thabazimbi iron and platinum mining complex.

The mining of coal and petroleum development in Lephalale LM has seen increased demand due to electricity generation with the Medupi Power Station that is built by Eskom near Lephalale. This will have direct influence on the future development of the region.\textsuperscript{66} While mining is recognised as a pillar of the local economic base and key job provider, the long-term impact thereof should be carefully considered. Current indications are that with the exception of one or two protected areas there is no direct conflict between mining and prospective mining activities and the major tourism and conservation areas in the municipality.\textsuperscript{67}

\textsuperscript{66} Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
\textsuperscript{67} Waterberg District Municipality Spatial Development Framework 2009
4.8 TOURISM

Nationally, there has been a major shift in the tourism sector away from strategies that rely on physical attributes towards those that emphasize competitive behavior. This can be seen in documents such as the LEGDP that calls for the development of spatially concentrated clusters that have unique competitive success in a particular field.

According to the Waterberg tourism strategy (2006) the proposed tourism vision for the district is: “To position the Waterberg as a leading weekend, short break, holiday, meetings and events destination for domestic travellers and a new “must see” destination for international business and leisure tourists”\(^{68}\).

The WDM is rich in natural, historical and cultural attractions that remain largely untapped in key tourist markets. The region’s undiscovered resources represent an opportunity for the district to expand tourism in a responsible and organised manner. Responsible tourism will bring about benefits both socially and economically with minimum negative environmental impacts. As a result, the WDM is in a position to develop a tourism destination that will in time be successful and competitive both locally and abroad (Waterberg Tourism Strategy, 2006:37).

Tourism can therefore be seen as an important sector in the Waterberg economy, and the Waterberg District hosts internationally renowned tourist attractions that can be used as draw cards to attract more tourists in the area. Some of these are as follows\(^{69}\):

- **Waterberg Biosphere Reserve**: received its international status in March 2001 and now forms part of the World Network of biosphere reserves, registered with UNESCO. The Waterberg Biosphere Reserve is the first “savannah” biosphere reserve registered in Southern Africa;

- **The Makapan Valley World Heritage Site**: The Makapan Valley was declared as one of the first National Heritage Sites in the district and UNESCO has approved its application for World Heritage Status.

- **Nylsvley Wetland**: is a registered Ramsar site (Ramsar is the international convention for the protection of wetlands). More than 400 bird species have been recorded on the 16000ha wetland extending some 70 kilometers between the towns of Modimolle and Mokopane. The heart of the Nylsvley wetland is in the Nylsvley

\(^{68}\) Waterberg District Municipality Local Economic Development Strategy

\(^{69}\) Ibid
Nature Reserve with five modern bird hides providing perfect view and photo opportunities.

- **Marakele National Park**: located in the northeast of Thabazimbi, this park is undoubtedly one of the greatest wilderness areas of South Africa, the park has become a ‘place of sanctuary’ for an impressive variety of wildlife due to its location in the transitional zone between the dry western and moister eastern regions of South Africa.

- **Hot Spring Water**: the strong mineral springs with a flow of 220 000 litres of water per hour with a temperature of 52°C gave rise to the establishment of Bela-Bela (Warmbaths). The town’s progress was to a large extent due to the hot water and their healing qualities. The water from the springs is rich with sodium chloride; calcium carbonate and other salts are, amongst others, beneficial to persons suffering from rheumatic ailments. About 400 000 people visit the beautiful swimming baths of the springs annually, mainly during winter months when the climate is pleasant.

Although the current tourism sites are of significance for the development of the local economy, there is a challenge that communities in the area do not participate and take advantage of the competitive advantage that lies in tourism in the district. It is therefore important that the municipality engage in partnership with private sector to ensure that the local environment is conducive to the business environment and participation of the communities.

**Synthesis**

Whilst the Waterberg Municipality is a region still plagued with high levels of poverty and unemployment, it has substantial opportunities for cooperative development in mining, agriculture and tourism which have been identified as key drivers of economic growth in the DM.

The fertile soil leads to a competitive advantage in the agricultural sector and opportunities within this sector still need to be taken advantage of to their full potential, namely agro-processing and agri-tourism. The area has variety of natural resources, and has the potential to create countless opportunities for the local population to encourage entrepreneurship and economic development.\(^7^0\)

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\(^7^0\) Waterberg District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2014/15
From the environmental desk top analysis conducted, it is clear that there are agricultural, mining and tourism opportunities in the Waterberg district that will drive economic growth and development and alleviate the core challenges of poverty and inequality in the region. In order to get full benefit from the range of opportunities outlined in the various policy documents at a national, provincial and local level it is vital that Waterberg approaches planning in an integrated and holistic manner. The Waterberg Rural Development Plan will fulfill this need for the district.

SOME INPUTS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

A meeting was held on the 8th of June 2015 in Modimolle. Present were representatives from Waterberg DM, representatives from local municipalities and provincial sector departments. Below are some of the issues raised:

— Questions were raised on the rationale of the proposed DRDP and its potential in addressing rural land-use planning.
— Enquiries were made on the funding mechanism for DRDPs. Municipal officials were concerned that DRDP would be an unfunded mandate.
— It was suggested that projects identified as part of IDP should be acknowledged and/or harmonised within the proposed DRDP for Waterberg.
— Issues of environmental integrity and green economy where emphasised. The district has a biodiversity plan that seeks to promote a balanced and sustainable approach to rural development.

SLOW PACE OF LAND REFORM

Land ownership and land claims are challenges for the WDM and the Limpopo province. Whilst land claims in the area threaten to destabilize development, the uncertainty of land ownership especially regarding state owned land and tribal owned land hinders development and future investments.

Land invasion is another challenge faced, with the number of informal settlements increasing alongside a housing backlog within the district, partly due to competing land use with agriculture and mining. The provision of basic services, especially the provision of adequate water for all settlements in the district is still lacking. An example of informal settlements and land invasion is Jabulane in Thabazimbi where people have occupied private land and approximately 288 households do not have basic services.
4.9 SWOT ANALYSIS

Overleaf is a synopsis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) that exist in Waterberg, by local municipality. While this is not an exhaustive SWOT outline, it assists in providing a sound appreciation of the district’s main economic, social, environmental and institutional endowments, at the same time allowing for the identification of barriers to inclusive rural development.

4.9.1 Bela-Bela Local Municipality

**Strengths**

— Bela-Bela is uniquely known for its hot water and healing quality.
— Consists of 2 growth points, one in Bela-Bela town and the other one in Pienaarsrivier.

**Weaknesses**

— Has a shortage of basic services especially in rural area such as Rapotokwane.

**Opportunities**

— There lies great potential in the sectors of Agriculture and Tourism for this local municipality.

**Threats**

— Not all beneficiaries are interested in commercial farming which can impact negatively on the success of the agricultural sector of the municipality.
— The issue of land claims also hinders development, there has been approximately 30 land claims that have been gazetted with the LM and there are ± 42 more which are still under investigation. These land claims affect an area of ± 109 061 ha.

4.9.2 Lephalale Local Municipality

**Strengths**

— Most mining activities take place in Lephalale.
— Forms part of the international border between South Africa and Botswana.
— Rich in geological sites and rock art.

**Weaknesses**

— Predominantly rural in nature.
— Has a backlog in infrastructure development and service delivery.

**Opportunities**

— SDF 2011 indicates that there lies great potential in the sectors of Agriculture, Tourism and Mining for this local municipality.

**Threats**

— The municipality does not have its own land for development purposes.
### 4.9.3 Mogalakwena Local Municipality

**Strengths**  
- Consists of three growth points namely, Mokopane, Rebone and Bakenberg.

**Weaknesses**  
- There are sprawling informal settlements adjacent to growth nodes.  
- Uneven delivery of basic services.

**Opportunities**  
- There is great potential in the sectors of Agriculture and Tourism for this local municipality.

**Threats**  
- Majority of the land especially in rural areas is owned by Traditional Authorities, which to a certain extent results in the unavailability of land.  
- Illegal occupation of land.

### 4.9.4 Mookgophong Local Municipality

**Strengths**  
- Mookgophong has a beautiful natural landscape critical for tourism development.

**Weaknesses**  
- Mookgophong has low levels of formal education sitting at an estimated 30.40% as per census 2011.  
- Prevalence of illegal dumping.  
- Poor enforcement of municipal by-laws.  
- Uneven and poor delivery of basic services.

**Opportunities**  
- Great potential for Agriculture and Tourism for this local municipality.  
- Has the potential of being a regional development node.

**Threats**  
- There exists a culture of non-payment of services in this municipality.  
- Prevalence of service delivery protests.

### 4.9.5 Modimolle Local Municipality

**Strengths**  
- Has a defined and established development footprint.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>— Housing Backlog.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities</td>
<td>— There is land available for development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>— Agricultural Potential in Alma and tourism potential in Mabatlane.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats</td>
<td>— Inadequate land for human settlement development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.9.6 Thabazimbi Local Municipality

| Strengths          | — Renowned for the cattle ranching and farming. |
|--------------------|— Classified as a growth point. |
| Weaknesses         | — Rapid urbanisation and mushrooming informal settlements. |
| Opportunities      | — There is potential for the growth of both the agricultural and tourism sectors. |
| Threats            | — Illegal land occupation. |
|                    | — Lack of land for development owned by the municipality. |

### 4.9.7 Synthesis

Waterberg District Municipality has one of the greatest and most beautiful environments and is situated in an area with a long and proud history. Its natural environment characterised by mountains, lush valleys and meandering rivers can be said to be the district’s greatest asset. There is a need therefore to ensure that the district’s natural capital is not disrupted by pressures for economic growth. Moreover, most land within the district has great agricultural potential, i.e. livestock, vegetable, grains and pasture.

To improve the quality of life in Waterberg, certain high impact opportunities such as the fostering of the white meat value-chain in Bela Bela i.e. crocodile, broiler and day-old chick production and; in Lephalale, the fostering of citrus value-chain, such as table-grapes and enhancing the Marula value chain which is a niche and high value commodity is critical.

Information that can be deduced from in loco inspections and meetings held with the municipalities, traditional leaders and other stakeholders, points to the following:

- There are a number of projects in the villages that were abandoned and neglected and this has resulted in communities losing jobs;
- There are many commodities in the villages that need to be developed and marketed in order to enter into the mainstream economy;
Most of the schemes visited experienced recurring challenges and problems that hinder production and these need to be attended to;

- Capacity building and infrastructure provision remains a challenge in the rural communities;
- Regular Monitoring and evaluation of projects by funders needs to be carried out as there are a lot of projects that are left in a dilapidated state with almost all the necessary infrastructure and this leads to wasted expenditure.

4.10 KEY FINDINGS FROM IN-LOCO/ GROUND TRUTHING INSPECTIONS

In loco inspections were conducted in the Mokgalakwena municipality intervention area (functional region 3, intervention area 1) in order to ascertain basic information. Meetings were held with Mokgalakwena municipality officials to determine the challenges and opportunities in the rural areas that need to be taken into account in the draft plan. There is a lot of undocumented information that is only seen when visiting the intervention areas and talking to community members. This information will inform proposals and strategies to address the existing challenges and also assist in forward planning.

Projects were visited in the rural areas of Waterberg in order to find out the kind of interventions that the government can implement. It was not possible to visit all the functional regions and intervention areas however only functional region 3, intervention area 1 was visited and this gave a general feel of the rural setting. Areas visited included Marken, Mapela, Makapan, Tauyatswala, Marulaneng, Masodi, Tsamahantsi and other villages in close proximity.

Mokgalakwena as a municipal area has a large number of villages followed by the Lephalale municipality. It is rich in minerals, hence there are big mining activities in the area, with mines in the region contributing immensely to employment opportunities for the communities and also providing infrastructure such community halls. The mining houses have played an important role in funding existing agricultural schemes, as part of beneficiation and social corporate investment. The area also has great potential for agriculture, heritage sites, small-scale mining and manufacturing. Citrus is one of the major products in the area.
5  SECTION FIVE - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

In proposing development-oriented interventions in Waterberg, an attempt was made to take into account the DRDP objectives as articulated in the preceding sections, as well as the findings from the status quo analysis. This provided an opportunity for the formulation of operational strategies that are critical for the realisation of the DRDP objectives. The DRDP objectives are outlined as follows:

- Objective 1: Improving productivity and competitiveness in the agriculture sector
- Objective 2: Investment in Rural Revitalisation
- Objective 3: Promoting Integrated Human Settlements
- Objective 4: Improving Tourism Competitiveness
- Objective 5: Mining

5.1 Objective 1: Improving productivity & competitiveness of the agriculture sector

Agricultural development is likely to create jobs for many people residing in the Waterberg district’s towns and villages. The pressing need for agricultural development should however be underscored by a sound appreciation and conservation of the environment and natural capital.

5.1.1 Development Action 1: Optimising the potential of Agri-Parks

Agri-Parks provide a unique opportunity for the realisation of transformative agricultural development and rural economic transformation in Waterberg and beyond. The three components of Agri-Parks i.e. Farmer Production Support Units (FPSU), the Agri-Hub (AH), and the Rural Urban Market Centre Unit (RUMC) allow for targeted financial, intellectual and infrastructural investment in agricultural development in Waterberg. To this end, Agri-Parks are presented in this district rural development plan as providing a holistic operational strategy to agrarian reform and agri-business development. It is recommended that:

- Modimolle as an Agri-Hub (production, equipment hire, processing, packaging, logistics and training unit) be utilised for strengthening the agricultural commodity value-chain in the entire Waterberg district municipality;
- There be development of Agri-villages in settlements adjacent to the Agri-hub and FPSUs
- There be provision of agricultural related infrastructure in settlements and villages engaged in agricultural activities;
- The Farmer Production Support Units (FPSUs) be located close to Mmlepeteke and Ga- Mashu;
there be access to funding for investment in new machinery and equipment, as well as agriculture and conservation-related research and development (R&D).

5.1.2 Development Action 2: Supporting small-scale farmers through promoting of micro-enterprises and villages and households

- Improvement of the irrigation schemes through investment in irrigation infrastructure to benefit small scale farmers.
- Strengthening/Promoting the participation of small-scale farmers in the Agri-Park concept.
- The provision of agricultural implements, seeds, fertilisers as well as irrigation equipment to small-scale farmers.

5.1.3 Developmental Action 3: Addressing the effects of climate change on agriculture

- Feasibility study of the development of farm level mitigation methods e.g. avoiding excess nitrogen/fertilisers crop choices, etc.
- Develop a plan to roll out the programme to local farmers
- Investing in drought resistant crops

5.1.4 Developmental Action 4: Fast track the process of addressing land use management schemes (LUMS) and land development in the DM

- Identify land for development
- Review outstanding land claims and fast track processing to put in place land use management plans

5.1.5 Development Action 5: Leverage the meat production capabilities of Waterberg

Waterberg has potential for significant production of meat for regional consumption. The District has done extensive assessments on expanding the existing abattoir to meet local and regional demand for white meat as well as extending chicken farming initiatives. Successful management and execution in this could yield positive results for local employment and production. There are a number of agricultural activities taking place within the municipality, namely:

- Development of a meat cluster (crocodile, broiler and day-old chick production) in Bela-Bela
- Extension of beneficiation initiatives and primary food production along river courses in Mogalakwena
- Meat processing (goat) project in Mookgopong
- Initiatives in Modimolle include, Dipudi Project (Goat abattoir), LDA Leseding Poultry Project (Vaalwater) and processing of venison
5.2 Objective 2: Investment in Rural Revitalisation

Rural revitalisation is critical for the provision of physical and social infrastructure that can allow for the creation of socio-spatial and economic linkages between urban nodes and the rural hinterlands. Integrated rural development is dependent on the strength of economic, social and technological relations between economic nodes such as Lephalale, Mogalakwena, and Thabazimbi as well as the townships and villages surrounding them. To this end, the economic functionality of the Waterberg district must take into account the flow of goods and capital as well as the movement of people within and between urban and rural spaces. The following development actions are therefore proposed:

5.2.1 Development Strategy 1: Promoting the Renewal of Rural Towns and Villages

- *Rural town revitalisation* projects must be implemented in all major towns. The renewal of these towns is important as it provides them with an opportunity to attract local and global investments of a financial, business and human capital nature.

- *Township revitalisation* – projects for the entire district must be implemented to allow for infrastructural investments as well as the provision of basic services such as water, electricity, and decent housing. As rural townships continue to grow, their revitalisation will attract more skilled people, as well as other forms of investments;

- *Village revitalisation* – projects must be implemented in all densely populated villages. The focus of these projects must be on provision of water, electricity and other social services critical for the improvement of quality of life, in accordance with the NDP;

- *Develop village place-making and/or branding strategy* – this is important as it promotes rural spaces as liveable and marketable places that can attract investment, skills and tourism. Strategic towns proposed for revitalisation are: -
  
  o Roedtan
  o Lephalale
  o Alma
  o Thabazimbi
5.2.2 Development Action 2: Completion of Current Rural Development-Oriented Projects such as the Tshabang Tlala Babirwa Pebble Cooperative

- Sustainable, long-term funding mechanisms be put in place for all rural development-oriented projects;
- Fostering of inter-governmental and inter-departmental coordination of rural development projects for strategic harmonisation and alignment of efforts;
- Strengthening of the monitoring and evaluation instruments in the district municipality to ensure successful completion of existing projects.

5.2.3 Developmental Action 3: Enterprise development with a focus on agro-business and cooperative business development

- Conduct feasibility studies on agro-business potential in the DM
- Engage potential partners in terms of possible funding and skill development
- Identify SMME’s to participate

5.2.4 Development Action 3: Investment in Physical Infrastructure

- Provision of roads, rail, freight and ICT infrastructure that can foster intra and inter-district connectivity and mobility within and beyond Waterberg district. Improving access to communication technology, and harnessing the use of new media for promoting urban-rural business interactions and innovation.
- Waterberg’s integrated transport plan include the following strategies:
  - Upgrade and maintain transport infrastructure (roads and public transport facilities)
  - Improve and integrate transport planning
  - Develop transport as an economic growth tool
  - Provide public transport options for rural communities

5.2.5 Developmental Action 4: Promotion of rural industrialisation and innovation enterprises.

- Conduct feasibility studies for techno Hub development and Industrial Parks
- Concept development for proposed techno hubs and identification of niche areas in R&D
- Consideration of the infrastructure required and engaging the local community
- identify pilot areas
- Market and promote the venture and identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships

5.2.6 Developmental Action 5: Identification of sustainable green energy sources for rural industrialization and development

- Conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy parks.
- Identification of green energy sources
- Concept development for proposed energy park and identification of niche areas in R&D
- Identify pilot areas and consideration of the infrastructure required
- Engage local community

5.3 Objective 3: Promoting Integrated Human Settlements

Following the recommendations set out in Chapter 8 of the NDP, there is a need for Waterberg to fast-track the provision of adequate public amenities such as schools, clinics, community centres and recreational facilities. Moreover, the provision of water and sanitation has been identified as a priority for the district municipality. The condition of schools in the WDM has been raised as a major concern which needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Furthermore, the use of pit latrines is still prevalent in the area and the sooner this is addressed, the better for the communities residing in Waterberg. There is no direct route connecting the Limpopo Province and the North West Province. There is concern on the rapid degrading of many of the roads due to the increasing economic activities in the District (increase in heavy vehicles with mining materials), and a lack of maintenance and rehabilitation. Local access roads are generally gravel.

5.3.1 Development Action 1: Reduction of service delivery backlogs

There is poor quality of RDP houses and inadequate land for development.

- Monitoring of water service backlogs and development of water infrastructure plan;
- Installation of new sanitation connections to households;
- Social institutions such as schools, clinics, police stations, Thusong Centres and community halls;
- Electrification projects;
- Housing projects;
• Adopting district-wide Public Transport Network.

5.3.2 Development Action 2: Promoting integrated rural spatial planning
• Strengthening, and monitoring of IDP, SDF and LED implementation processes;
• Standardising land use management and administration thereof across the district municipality, in order to address existing inconsistencies;

5.4 Objective 4: Improving Tourism Competitiveness
5.4.1 Development Action 1: Harnessing the cultural heritage and development of tourism corridors
• Development of tourism-related activities in townships and villages to allow for broad-based participation in this sector, with a specific focus on the participation of women and youth;
• Harnessing the pristine natural environment in and around Waterberg to boost eco-tourism. This includes Bela-Bela, as well as game reserves.
• Develop village place-making and/or branding strategy – this is important as it promotes rural spaces as liveable and marketable places that can attract tourism;
• The inclusion of women and youth in tourism-related opportunities, ranging from tour guides to selling of arts & crafts through craft markets that are strategically located to tourist attraction destinations;
• Taking advantage of the proximity of Waterberg to Gauteng.

5.4.2 Developmental Action 2: Development of Agro Tourism in the Waterberg DM
• Feasibility study of agro tourism in the Waterberg DM
• Identify projects to develop the agro tourism industry e.g. botanical tours
• Identify beneficiaries
• Training of beneficiaries/local community members

5.5 Objective 5: Development of the Mining Sector
5.5.1 Development Action 1: Reviving of mining operations
• Promoting beneficiation in mines in Lephalale;
• Involving women and the youth in mining beneficiation programmes;
• Fostering Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the revitalisation of mining towns
• Small scale mining of sand and gravel to be regulated; and
• Monitoring the negative impact that mining operations may have on the environment.

5.5.2 Developmental Action 2: Investigate forward and backward linkages in the mining sector in the DM

• Develop a mineral processing and beneficiation hub
• Investigate the potential for the development of mining
• Extensive platinum reserves have been discovered in the Mokopane and Northham areas. These have the potential to change the landscape of the region significantly and provide employment to local people.
6 SECTION SIX – SPATIAL RATIONALE

The district rural development plan for Waterberg is informed by a functional regional approach. The salience of this approach to rural development rests in its emphasis on the nodal-hinterland economic and socio-spatial linkages. In other words, the economic development of Waterberg’s villages and rural townships is intrinsically dependent on these places’ linkages with established nodes. A functional region therefore would typically have established nodes as well as areas in need of various forms of intervention from a development perspective.

Functional regions are defined as ‘a spatial economic system, which consist of a number of economically interdependent nodes (centres) of varying sizes and with varying geographical extensions’. From a regional economic development perspective, rural districts can be identified as salient platforms for the harnessing of inclusive and sustainable economic development. What renders districts their functionality is the existence and interplay of a range of economic, demographic, infrastructural, cultural and technological flows and linkages. While administrative boundaries are important, the flow of goods, services, capital and people is not confined within these boundaries.

The market potential of a functional region is defined by its economic complexity i.e. the internal and external concentration of a range of economic activities within a functional space. The harnessing of the competitiveness of functional regions is dependent on the optimal utilisation of both internal and external market potential. In instances where niche commodities, and/or skills exist within a functional region, value-chain potential ought to be fully nurtured.

It must be noted that different areas within functional regions have different specialisations. In any given functional region, there exist areas with a) knowledge-intensive business services, b) land-intensive as well as c) transport-accessibility-dependent economic activities. Thus, while the centre/surrounding areas relations are important within functional regions, there has been a growing observation in regional economics and rural development discourse that functional regions are dependent on the existence of a range of centres or regions with varying specialisations. Thus, there exist a range of regions namely:

- Diverse/composite service regions;
- Specialised service regions;

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72 Ibid.
• Agricultural regions;
• Manufacturing regions; and
• Consumption regions.

Labour market characteristics and behaviour within a given functional region are also worth noting. This is intrinsically tied to the population size, density and levels of literacy. Moreover, the commuting patterns of labour from home to work have a direct effect on the economic productivity as well as the quality of life of the labour-force. Thus, functional regions are interconnected, as they defy administrative boundaries. These regions act as critical units for spatial economics analyses. As district rural development plans attempt to transform rural economies, a functional regional approach is likely to provide a more nuanced understanding of rural development.

In identifying and mapping functional regions for Waterberg, various variables and datasets were used. These include;

• Strategically Located Land Index (SLLi). The SLLi takes into account the following variables notably: proximity to physical infrastructure; proximity to major towns/gateways and markets; average rainfall; slope elevation and temperature and; soil types. The SLLi allows for the identification of strategically located land for various economic activities and land uses.

• The Gross Value Add (GVA) – this data depicts average GVA contribution to district economy per sector (inter alia agriculture, mining, manufacturing, wholesale & retail, transport, community services and government services, and finance, and insurance services).

• Accessibility – this depicts the availability of transport networks and total travel time between points. The existence of a developed and integrated transport network makes it possible for both intra-regional and inter-regional flow of goods, services and people to occur.

• Population count in the WDM (decline and growth) – This value is indicative of urbanisation and depopulation trends in Waterberg. Rural development is about improving people’s lives, and so the analysis of population trends allows for a more people-centred approach to development.
MAP 13: ACCESSIBILITY INDEX

Legend
- Towns
- Gateways
- Major Roads
- Railway
- Waterberg Coal Railway

Accessibility Index
- 0.025180 - 0.848820
- 0.848821 - 1.491380
- 1.491381 - 2.172900
- 2.172901 - 2.868320
- 2.868321 - 3.773370

0 25 50 Km

MAP 13: ACCESSIBILITY INDEX
MAP 15: ACTIVE MINES AND MINING COMMODITIES
MAP 18: AREAS OF AGRICULTURE POTENTIAL
MAP19: AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE
7 SECTION SEVEN - WATERBERG FUNCTIONAL REGIONS AND INTERVENTION AREAS

Based on the above analysis diverse Functional Regions have been identified in Thabazimbi, Modimolle, Bela-Bela, Mokopane and Lephalale. Lephalale, Bela-Bela, and Thabazimbi are all district gateways. The gateways are well serviced with good transport infrastructure which supports the movement of goods and services as well as the mobility of people. The existence of mining commodities and active mines warranted the selection of functional regions. Agricultural potential shows that the land is arable, which can allow for the utilisation of the identified agricultural infrastructure in the area. Some of the identified departmental projects in the functional regions include CASP, RID and REID projects in addition to agriculture infrastructure (red meat and poultry abattoirs).

The regional Agri-hub is located in Modimolle town. In addition to that, proposed sites for FPSUs’ are located in settlements close to Mmlepeteke and Ga-Mashu. The establishment of FPSU’s in these areas will support the settlements in agriculture production. The subsequent maps show the spatial distribution of various transport and agriculture infrastructure as well as various commodities which were taken into consideration in locating Diverse Functional Regions and subsequently areas within the district that are in need of government intervention i.e. Intervention Areas.

Proximity to commodities, infrastructure and government projects (RID, REID, CASP projects, CDRP sites) contributed significantly to the selection of intervention areas, supplemented by the population count within an area, as development needs to be implemented where there are people. The conservation map shows the spatial distribution of conservation areas which can be used to promote the tourism sector. Proximity to such areas also contributed to the location of intervention areas.

7.1 DFR 1: THABAZIMBI FUNCTIONAL REGION

Thabazimbi is an iron-mining town in the Waterberg District Municipality The town is situated at the feet of the Ysterberg and is surrounded by the Witfonteinrand and Boshofberg with the majestic Kransberg in the background. The name Thabazimbi means mountain of iron because of the large iron ore reef that was discovered in 1919 by J.H. Williams. The mine boasts one of the largest mining shafts in Africa. More than 2 million tons of ore are mined every year. The railway line from Rustenburg reached the area in the 1930s and full-scale iron and steel production began. The town was proclaimed in 1953. Kumba Iron Ore is now the principal operator of the iron ore mine. The above information tells without doubt that Thabazimbi has been started because if iron ore and this make it a mining town.
Thabazimbi town is surrounded by Regorogile Township on the west along the R 510 road to Lephalale, and other townships on the east. Majority of the people in the residential settlements works for the mining companies and the farms around.

Mining is the main commodity in Thabazimbi followed by game farming in the surrounding farms. Subsistence farming takes place in the townships in a small scale due to shortage of land. Land in the area is privately owned therefore it is difficult for the rural communities to be involved in commercial agriculture.
7.2 **DFR 2: BELA-BELA, MODIMOLLE, AND MOOKGOPONG FUNCTIONAL REGION**

FR2 is comprised of three towns bounded by the N1 road and the R101 road. The towns mainly depend on agriculture; game farming and tourisms are the main commodities. The famous Warmbath (natural hot spring water) attracts people from all over the country and it is generating a lot of income for the town. Bela-bela CBD is growing extensively in terms of infrastructure development. Majority of the people reside on the township west of the CBD.

Modimolle is also one of the towns that are growing fast and they rely mostly on the commercial farms and game farming in the vicinity.

### 7.2.1 Modimolle Agri-Hub

There is proposed Agri-Hub in the Modimolle town which will act as a catalyst for agriculture and non-agriculture development in the district. The Agri-Hub will connect to the FPSUs in Mokopane and Ga-Seleka in the Lephalale local municipality.

Mookgopong on the other hand is also dependent on the agriculture farming and game gaming in the vicinity and the town is growing in a slow pace. All the towns that formulate the FR2 comprises of private land with small portion owned by the state.

The dominant commodity in this functional region is game farming, agriculture, tourism and mining. There are small towns outside the intervention areas, which also need intervention especially in case where there is a special commodity or niche i.e. Alma and Vaalwater.

Roedtan also forms part of the FR2 although is dependent on Mookgopong and Mokopane for services. Roedtan is farming towns that assist farmers and farm workers with basic services.

### 7.2.2 Rapotokwane Village

Stakeholders enquired about the feasibility of making Rapotokwane an intervention area. Further investigations of this village of approximately 2000 does not have an economic base and is a dormitory settlement with people working as migrant labourers elsewhere or in the surrounding areas and farms. It is proposed that the village be provided, as far as possible, with basic municipal infrastructure but not necessary be considered as an intervention area.
7.3 DFR 3: MOKOPANE FUNCTIONAL REGION

Mokgalakwena as a municipal area has a large number of villages followed by the Lephalale municipality. It is rich in minerals, hence there are big mining activities in the area, with mines in the region contributing immensely to employment opportunities for the communities and also providing infrastructure such as community halls. The mining houses have played an important role in funding existing agricultural schemes, as part of beneficiation and social corporate investment. The area also has great potential for agriculture, heritage sites, small-scale mining and manufacturing. Citrus is one of the major products in the area.

The Mokopane area is one of South Africa’s richest agricultural areas, producing wheat, tobacco, cotton, beef, maize, peanuts and citrus. The Zebediela Citrus Estate, 55 km to the southeast, is one of the largest citrus farms in the southern hemisphere. The area is rich in minerals with the mining of platinum, diamonds and granite.

The economy of Mokopane used to be basically farming, until the opening of Anglo American’s platinum mine. Currently the mine is the biggest contributor to the economy. Recently there has been interest displayed by other mining companies to start up, but community resistance around mining remains the main reason for the slow growth in mining.
MAP 16: FUNCTIONAL REGION 3
7.3.1 Intervention Area 2: Masodi, Tshamahansi, Phafola, Bakenberg, Mabuladilare and Marulaneng

Settlements found in intervention area 1 include Masodi, Tshamahansi, Phafola and Marulaneng. The area exhibits some population dynamics however the existence of Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programs (CASP) within the area should be used as a benchmark for development hence curbing the migration of people away from these settlements to other areas. In addition, there is a proposed Farmer Production Support Unit within 5km of the intervention area in Mokopane town, and the area has both REID and RID projects located in the area.

7.3.1.1 Commodities

Mining
Mining is one of the strongest commodity in the intervention area and majority of people in the intervention area are employed in the mines. The mining houses have assisted rural communities in terms of development as per beneficiation policy and scheme. Anglo American platinum and others are the mining houses in the intervention area.

Stone crushing is also a small scale type of mining in the area that need intervention from government and private sectors. They produce pebbles that are sold to local markets, however, there is a greater opportunity for the business to grow up since the markets are not explored fully.

Illegal sand mining is also a problem when it comes to the environment, it needs to be regulated.

Agriculture
Crop farming is prevalent in the area since there a lot of agricultural schemes formed by cooperatives and the majority of them are funded by the mining houses. The products are delivered to the shops and factories in Mokopane and Polokwane areas. The products produced are mainly maize, tomatoes, pepper dew and potatoes. There are also agricultural schemes in the area

Tourism
Cultural tourism is prevalent in the intervention area with rock paintings at Telekishi trails and the Makapans heritage site which is internationally proclaimed.
MAP 19: HERITAGE AND CULTURAL PROJECTS
MAP 20: ABANDONED SISAL PROJECT LOCALITY
MAP 22: VIEW OF STONE CRUSHING PROJECT IN TAUEATSWALA VILLAGE
7.3.1.2 Proximity to the FPSU and Agri-Hub

Mokopane FPSU

The proposed FPSU is to be located in Mokopane area (see image above) and it will assist the local areas with services such as skills, marketing and other relevant services. The FPSU is accessible from all angles especially the intervention area in the proximity.

7.3.1.3 Projects visited

Mapela Irrigation Scheme

The scheme is well established and funded by DRDLR and the surrounding mines. It has employed 60 people from the cooperatives and it is approximately 90 hectares in extent. It supplies agricultural products to Checkers, Spar and Woolworth’s stores amongst others.

Telekishi Ramasobana Cultural Village

This is a cultural, heritage and tourism site, which attracts tourists from all over the world and needs to be marketed, supported and established further. It contains heritage artefacts such as bushman paintings and tourists visit in large numbers to see these paintings as well as other tourist attractions. The cultural village has an accommodation facility that needs to be expanded in order to accommodate more visitors/tourists.
primary challenge here is the infrastructure as the access road is in poor condition since it is rarely maintained.

Telekishi cultural scheme

Tshabang Tlala Babirwa Pebble Cooperative
This scheme deals with pebbles or stones that are used for many purposes including decoration, tombstones, and jewellery making. A government initiative to build a facility that packages the stones is in place but it needs to be developed further in order to allow for it to be more competitive. Other facilities include the Limburg farming enterprise, which assists in employing people within the municipal area. Further opportunities include the rejuvenation of the Sisal project that is currently neglected in the area.
Makapans Valley Heritage Site

This is an international heritage site known for its historic caves. The site has immense history, which is documented, and known worldwide. The main issue of concern here is that the surrounding community has not benefited from the site, as it is still underdeveloped.

7.4 DFR 4: Lephalale District Functional Region

Lephalale is one of the industrial towns that is growing very fast in terms of infrastructure development. Availability of Medupi and Matimba power stations and mines make the area popular and creates employment a lot of people. The town has shopping centres, government buildings and proclaimed settlements. The rural areas are on the eastern side of the town and that is where there is a lot of intervention needed.

Lephalale is therefore one of the market areas in terms of the products produced from the farms and irrigation schemes. Most of the people within the vicinity depend on it for services since Mokopane is far away. Mining, tourism, agriculture and game farming are the dominant commodities in the functional regions. There is a strong dependency between the functional region and the intervention area.
### 7.4.1 Intervention Area 1: Ga-Seleka, Madibaneng, Setateng and Ga-Phahladira

Settlements found in intervention area 2 include Ga-Seleka, Madibaneng, Setateng and Ga-Phahladira. The R572 and R518 are major routes which cut through the area and secondary roads can feed these major routes for movement of goods and services. There are CASP projects in the region which can be used to foster development by supporting subsistence farming, as land in the area is recognized as arable. The SLL Index shows that there are areas which are suitable for agriculture, which is supplemented by the availability of the perennial stream which cuts across the area. These aspects can support the notion of spearheading agricultural activities for development in the region. The proposed FPSU can also go a long way in supporting agriculture and development in the region.

**Commodities**

Agriculture is one of the commodities in the area along the Lephalale river. There are schemes that are not functioning well and they need assistance and support from the government and private sectors. The area from Ga-Seleka until Phahladira along the Lephalale river has a lot of irrigation schemes. There is less economic activity as far as rural development in the area is concerned.
7.4.1.1 Proximity to the FPSU and Agri-Hub

Ga-Seleka FPSU

There is a proposed unit in the Seleka area (see image above) that will assist the local farmers with enhancing the production from their entities. The FPSU is strategically located and is accessible from the rest of the intervention area. The unit is along the main road which is an advantage in terms of accessibility.

7.4.1.2 Challenges

- Lack of support for the local schemes
- Abandoned irrigation schemes.

7.4.1.3 Projects Identified by the Municipality

Ikageng tshehlong cooperative

Ikageng Tshehlong Cooperative is a poultry project measuring 2 ha. The project consists of 15 members, 14 females and 1 male. There are six poultry houses; only four is functional with carrying capacity of 1000 birds each, the remaining two houses are still new with carrying capacity of 2500 birds each. Electricity is available, only four houses are electrified and the two new houses are not yet connected. There is one fully equipped borehole not having enough water and the beneficiaries are in the process of drilling another borehole. The project members work on the project full time and that shows commitment and determination.

Mmamosiwa Coop

Ikaneng broiler project was established in 2006 by Mme Mosima of Reabetswe village to increase her household income since she is a stay-at-home mom, so supply Reabetswe community with live chicken and to minimize level of poverty in the community by creating jobs. She is the only member of the project and has hired one permanent worker. The project measures 1 ha in extend. The project is well fenced and has one borehole not equipped, it is the only infrastructure available on the project.

Galeboe Broiler Project

The project is made up of 5 females. It was established in 2009 by women of Senoela village to minimize poverty in the Senoela community by creating jobs and increase household income. Since 2009 the project has been doing well through the commitment of the members and with the assistance of the extension officers form the DoA.
The project has one broiler house with a carrying capacity of 1000 and only the portion where the broiler house is constructed is fenced.

**Nailana project**

The project is owned by one lady and it measures 6ha in extent. The project has employed 1 female permanent worker and employs more than 6 temporary workers during planting and harvesting session. Only 3ha of the project is under irrigation ad they intend utilizing the remaining 3ha to increase production.

The project is located by the main road from Seleka to Mokuruanyane village. 3 ha is well fenced, it has old drip irrigation which covers 1ha, poor condition storeroom, 2phase electricity, and one fully equipped borehole and 1000L jojo water tank. The project donates vegetables to Kauletsi orphanage weekly and also supplies one stop fruit and veg supermarket to Lephalale Site Services. The project was linked to market in the year 2012 and has been supplying the market consistently.

**Segale Tshiamo**

Segale Tshiamo is a food security project, a communal piece of land with permission to occupy. It measures 0.5ha in extent. It is made up of 1 female member. The project owner intends to acquire more land and expand her farming activities. The project is fenced but need some repairs. Water is available but not enough and electricity is also available. The project has drip irrigation covering 0.5ha.

**RBM**

RBM is a vegetable production project which measures 6ha in extent; it is a communal land with permission to occupy. It is made up of 5 members, 2females and 3males. The cooperative is situated at Shongoane 2 village. The project uses water from the nearby river. Only 3ha is fenced. The project has a tractor and poor condition storeroom and old drip irrigation.

**Etla Rejeng Primary Cooperative**

Farm size is 4ha, it is a communal land with permission to occupy. The project is made up of 9 members, 1 member is disabled/ living with disability. The project is fenced, has equipped borehole, toilet and designed irrigation system.

**Phomelelo Boikanong Cooperative**

The farm measures 6ha in extent, communal land with permission to occupy. Project comprises of 10members, 4 females and 6 males (7 of 10members is youth). There is water source available, two boreholes and drip irrigation.
Kgatelopele Agricultural Project

Kgatelopele project is a communal land with permission to occupy and its extent is 4ha and only 3ha is under production. The project is made up of 7 members, 3 males and 4 females (one is youth). The project is situated in Moong village. The project is fenced, has old drip irrigation which covers 3ha, storeroom in good condition and single phase electricity. The project uses water from nearby river using old pump machine. The project members are full time on the project.

Botsalanong Agricultural Project

Botsalanong project is a vegetable production project which measures 1.5ha in extent, it is a communal land with permission to occupy and it is made up of one female member. The project is situated at Botsalanong village. The project is well fenced; it has old drip irrigation which covers 0.5ha, and single phase electricity. The project has employed one male permanent worker and 3 temporary workers. The project supplies one stop fruit and veg supermarket. The project was linked to market in 2012. There is no water source on the farm the owner draws water from the home to the project using pipeline. The project is about 800 meter from her home. The farmer won female farmer of the year in 2011 in the category of small holder farmers provincially. The owner is the treasure for Seleka Badirammogo Temong Secondary cooperative.

Senoamadi Agricultural Project

Senoamadi project is a communal land with permission to occupy. It measures 2ha in extent. The project is made up of one female member. The project member was farming in her backyard which won her award in the district, she then moved to the land permitted by chief Manaka to occupy. There is one permanent worker and 2 temporary workers. The project is fenced, has 2ha drip irrigation, currently using generator to pump water from the borehole. The project member is full time on the farm. She produces vegetables, cabbages, and spinach and supply one stop fruit and veg supermarket in Lephalale. The project owner is the member of Lelabula primary cooperative affiliated to Seleka Badirammogo Secondary cooperative which bought drip irrigation of R13000.00 and distributed to cooperative members. The project was among those that benefited.

Bangwetse Primary Cooperative

The project measures 3ha in extent, 2ha of land is under irrigation and 1ha is for broiler production. The Project is made up of 5 members. The project is fenced, has drip irrigation which covers 1ha, storeroom, water source.
### 7.4.1.4 Other Rural Development Project underway in Lephalale Villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Phahladira shopping centre</td>
<td>Phahladira Village</td>
<td>under construction</td>
<td>To be supplied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Solar Plant</td>
<td>Tomburke</td>
<td>Under construction</td>
<td>To be supplied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ferrum Crescent iron ore mine</td>
<td>Maritz</td>
<td>Mining right approved but not operational yet</td>
<td>To be supplied</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thusanang Bakery primary cooperative limited</td>
<td>Thabo Mbeki</td>
<td>operational</td>
<td>To be supplied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 8 SECTION EIGHT – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### 8.1 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

#### CATEGORISATION

**TABLE 6: RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS CATEGORISATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Programmes &amp; Projects</th>
<th>Characterisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District-wide programme &amp; projects</td>
<td>❖ <em>District economic game changers</em> - these are projects that profoundly redefine and/or alter the structure of a given district economy. Examples include Agri-Parks and related physical Infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>❖ <em>District social needs projects and programmes</em> – these support immediate social needs at a district level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>❖ <em>District development enablers</em> – projects that provide enabling infrastructure at a district levels. These include building of roads, large-scale housing, and dams for instance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village &amp; Household Survival Strategies</td>
<td>❖ <em>Household microenterprises</em> – these are projects that are located at a village level, with households and/or specific communities participating in small-scale survivalist economic activities. medicinal herbs gathering, processing and selling, operating Spaza shops, gathering firewood and grass for selling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>❖ <em>Village microenterprises</em> – these are projects that for a community to participate, usually seasonally. These include communal growing of vegetables (small-scale agricultural cooperatives)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
While the district-wide projects and programmes require more financial investment from government and the private sector; village and household survival strategies are more often than not driven by the community through various grass-root structures. These include community-based organisations, traditional leaders as well as other recognised community development champions. There is a need however for the government, the public sector, academia and other stakeholders in development to invest in the promotion, and in some instance, commercialisation of village survival projects and programmes.
### TABLE 7: LOCALISED PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</th>
<th>INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
<th>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>LEAD ROLE</th>
<th>STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI's</th>
<th>LOCALITY/INTERVENTION AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Improving tourism competitiveness | Tourism    | Harnessing the cultural heritage and development of tourism corridors | Support existing and identify new cultural heritage sites including Telekishi Ramasobana cultural village and the Makapans valley heritage site | Supportive   | Key enabler  
- Conduct site inspections and needs analysis  
- Repair of the Telekishi access road  
- Expansion of tourist accommodation  
- Stakeholder and community consultations | Short term | Waterberg DM | DRDLR  
- Department of water affairs  
- DTI  
- Financial institutions  
- Commercial farmers  
- Community members  
- Traditional authorities  
- Dept. of Arts and Culture | Site inspection carried out and documented  
- Needs assessed and prioritised  
- Infrastructure repaired  
- Number of jobs created | Intervention Area 2 (Mokgalakwena LM) |
| Improving productivity & competitiveness of the agriculture sector | Agriculture | Supporting small-scale farmers through promoting of micro-enterprises and villages and households | Development of the Mapela Irrigation Scheme and linking it to the FPSU | Key enabler | Key enabler  
- Conduct site inspections to determine need  
- Include the Mapela scheme in FPSU plans  
- Conduct stakeholder consultations | Short to medium term | Waterberg DM | DRDLR  
- Traditional leaders  
- Community members  
- Farm beneficiaries | Number of farms and cooperatives supported  
- Number of jobs created | Intervention Area 2 (Mokgalakwena LM) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>DEVELOPMENTAL ACTION</th>
<th>INTERVENTION S/ PROJECTS</th>
<th>PROJECT TYPE</th>
<th>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
<th>LEAD ROLE</th>
<th>STAKEHOLDERS</th>
<th>KPI's</th>
<th>LOCALITY/ INTERVENTION AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investing in rural revitalisation</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Completion of Current Rural Development-Oriented Projects such as the Tshabang Tlala Babirwa Pebble Cooperative</td>
<td>Fast track development in the pebble cooperative and the Sisal project</td>
<td>Key enabler</td>
<td>• Conduct site inspections and needs analysis&lt;br&gt;• Invest in further development of the pebble cooperative&lt;br&gt;• Rejuvenation of the Sisal project&lt;br&gt;• Stakeholder and community consultations</td>
<td>Short to medium term</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
<td>• DTI&lt;br&gt;• financial institutions&lt;br&gt;• community members&lt;br&gt;• Site inspection carried out and documented&lt;br&gt;• Needs accessed and prioritised&lt;br&gt;• Increase output of facilities&lt;br&gt;• Number of jobs created</td>
<td></td>
<td>Intervention Area 2 (Mokgalakwen a LM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</td>
<td>INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</td>
<td>PROJECT TYPE</td>
<td>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>TIME FRAME</td>
<td>LEAD ROLE</td>
<td>STAKE HOLDERS</td>
<td>KPI</td>
<td>LOCALITY/INTERVENTION AREA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Optimising the potential of Agri-Parks. Supporting small-scale farmers</td>
<td>Development of Agri-Hub to foster small and medium-scale agricultural development as well as harnessing existing agricultural value chain and identification new ones.</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>• Agri-Hub establishment &amp; development in Modimolle • Infrastructural development projects linked agricultural development (roads, rail, freight, water, and related bulk infrastructure) • Development of agro villages linked to agri-hubs and FPSUs</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
<td>• Dept. of Agriculture Forester and Fisheries • Dept. of Small Business • DRDLR • Private Sector</td>
<td>• Small Scale farmers supported • R&amp;D in the agricultural sector • Markets identification and expansion • Identification of niche commodities</td>
<td>DFR2 (Modimolle LM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farmer Production Support Unit development in Mmlepeteke and Ga-Mashu</td>
<td>• Review existing FPSU plans and objective • Incorporate into a development plan for Mmlepeteke and Ga-Mashu • Access funding • Implement projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
<td>• DAFF • Dept. of Small Business • DRDLR • Private Sector • Emerging farmers • Commercial farmers • Traditional authorities</td>
<td>• FPSUs identified and developed.</td>
<td>Intervention Area 2</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</td>
<td>INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</td>
<td>PROJECT TYPE</td>
<td>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>TIME FRAME</td>
<td>LEAD ROLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving productivity &amp; competitiveness of the agriculture sector</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Addressing the effects of climate change on agriculture</td>
<td>Put in place plans to address counteracting the effects of climate change in the DM</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major Enabler</td>
<td>• Monitor success of projects</td>
<td>Medium to Long term</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
<td>• Department of water • DRDLR • commercial farmers • emerging farmers • community/SETA’s</td>
<td>• Feasibility study completed and reviewed • Projects identified and approved • Project plans in pace • Farmer education programmes rolled out</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving productivity and competitiveness in the</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Fast track the process of addressing land use management schemes (LUMS)</td>
<td>Engage traditional authorities to address the issue of</td>
<td>Catalytic - Major Enabler</td>
<td>• Identify land for development • Review outstanding land claims</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
<td>• DRDLR • Traditional leader • Local municipalities</td>
<td>• Number of land claims • Increase in land available for development</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>SECTOR</td>
<td>DEVELOPMENT ACTION</td>
<td>INTERVENTIONS/PROJECTS</td>
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<td>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>TIME FRAME</td>
<td>LEAD ROLE</td>
<td>STAKEHOLDERS</td>
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</table>
| agricultural sector | and land development in the DM | releasing land for development | and fast track processing  
• put in place land use management plans | | | | | | | |
| Investing in rural revitalisation | All Sectors | Enterprise development with a focus on agro-business and cooperative business development | Development of small business incubators and mentorship programmes | High Priority Programme | • Conduct feasibility study  
• Engage potential partners  
• Identify SMME’s to participate  
• Monitor and measure programmes | Short to Medium | Waterberg DM | | | Waterberg DM |
| Investing in rural revitalisation | All Sectors | Promoting the Renewal of Rural Towns and Villages | Align development plans in the district | Key enabler | • Review of all development plans in the district  
• Look for alignment and linkages in the plans  
• Outline collaboration areas  
• Ensure relevant parties engage to | Short term | Waterberg DM | | | Waterberg DM |
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</table>
| Investing in rural revitalisation | Industry & Technology | Promotion of rural industrialisation and innovation enterprises. | Establishment of techno Hub and district industrial parks to foster innovation and enable its commercial application in the Waterberg DM | Catalytic - Major enabler | • Conduct feasibility studies for techno Hub development and Industrial Parks  
  • Concept development for proposed techno hubs and identification of niche areas in R&D  
  • Consideration of the infrastructure required  
  • Engage local community  
  • Identify pilot areas  
  • Market and promote the venture  
  • Identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships | Medium to Long Term | • Waterberg DM | • Department of Science and Technology  
  • Department of Trade and Industry  
  • Agri SETA  
  • Private Sector  
  • Community members | • R&D investigative activities completed and published  
  • Number of R&D pilot projects undertaken  
  • Funding identified and in place | Waterberg DM |
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| Energy    |        | Identification of sustainable green energy sources for rural industrialization and development | Creation of an industrial and business park focused on the development of renewable energy technologies and the manufacturing of renewable energy products. | Catalytic - Game Changer | • Conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy parks.  
• Identification of green energy sources  
• Concept development for proposed energy park and identification of niche areas in R&D  
• Consideration of the infrastructure required  
• Engage local community  
• Identify pilot areas  
• Market and promote the venture  
• Identify funding opportunities and potential partnerships | Medium to Long Term | Department of Energy | • Waterberg DM  
• DRDLR  
• Regional and International Development Agencies  
• Private Sector  
• ESKOM  
• Independent power producers  
• Universities  
• Community | • R&D investigative activities completed and published  
• Number of renewable energy pilot projects undertaken  
• Funding identified and in place | Waterberg DM |
| Sustainable Human Settlements | Promoting intergrated rural spatial planning | Formalisation of Rural Towns and villages | High Priority Programme | • Promoting the Renewal of Rural Towns and villages | Short to Medium | Waterberg DM | • Regional and International Development Agencies | • Number of Rural renewal projects | Waterberg DM |

Promoting Integrated Human Settlements
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</table>
| Promoting Integrated Human Settlements | Sustainable human settlements | Reduction of service delivery backlogs   | Expansion and maintenance of roads, water, electricity supply    | Catalytic - Major social needs projects                                     | • Reduction of service delivery backlogs.  
  • Promoting integrated rural spatial planning                                      | Short to Medium | Waterberg DM | Department of Human Settlements  
  Department of Public Works  
  Department of Environmental Affairs  
  Private Sector                                                                       | Number of New housing units provided  
  Number of new social infrastructure developed/built                                | Waterberg DM |
| Improving Tourism Competitiveness | Tourism                      | Harnessing the cultural heritage and development of tourism corridors | Various tourism development Projects including the identification and packaging of tourism products | High Priority Programme                                                      | • Marketing and support of existing tourism sites,  
  • Promotion of Eco-tourism in the Waterberg biosphere  
  • Tarring of roads especially those areas leading to tourism attraction areas.     | Short to Medium | Waterberg DM | Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPW)  
  Department of Economic Development, Environment & Tourism (LEDET)  
  DRDLR  
  SA Tourism  
  Private Sector  
  Communities                                                                       | Increased numbers of visitors to tourism sites  
  New tourism types identified  
  Number of jobs created                                                             | Waterberg DM |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving Tourism Competitiveness</td>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>Development of Agro Tourism in the Waterberg DM</td>
<td>Identify the feasibility of an agro tourism industry in the DM</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>Feasibility study of agro tourism in the Waterberg DM&lt;br&gt;Identify projects to develop the agro tourism industry e.g. botanical tours&lt;br&gt;Identify beneficiaries&lt;br&gt;Training of beneficiaries/ local community members</td>
<td>Medium term</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
<td>Department of tourism&lt;br&gt;DRDLR&lt;br&gt;DAFF&lt;br&gt;Communities&lt;br&gt;community based organisations&lt;br&gt;commercial farmers&lt;br&gt;private sector</td>
<td>Feasibility study completed and reviewed&lt;br&gt;Percentage increase in income derived from tourism&lt;br&gt;training programs completed</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmen t of the mining sector</td>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Investigate forward and backward linkages in the mining sector in the DM</td>
<td>Investigate the mining value chain and identify opportunities for SMME's in mineral beneficiation</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>Develop a mineral processing and beneficiatio n hub&lt;br&gt;Investigate the potential for the development of mining related industries such as catering</td>
<td>medium term</td>
<td>Department of Minerals and Energy</td>
<td>DAFF&lt;br&gt;DRDLR&lt;br&gt;DTI&lt;br&gt;Communities&lt;br&gt;private sector</td>
<td>Number of small scale miners supported&lt;br&gt;Spending on R&amp;D in the mining sector Markets identification and expansion&lt;br&gt;Identification of niche commodities</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmen t of the Mining Sector</td>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Reviving of mining operations</td>
<td>Promotion of beneficiation as well as involvement of new entrants in the mining</td>
<td>Catalytic - Game Changer</td>
<td>Fostering Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)&lt;br&gt;Small scale mining of</td>
<td>Short to Medium</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
<td>Department of Mineral Resources&lt;br&gt;DRDLR&lt;br&gt;Private Sector</td>
<td>Mineral beneficiation plans and jobs in place&lt;br&gt;Number of Partnerships formed</td>
<td>Waterberg DM</td>
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<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>industry.</td>
<td>sand and gravel to be regulated</td>
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<td>Regulatory frameworks formulated</td>
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TIME FRAMES: SHORT TERM 1-3 YEARS; MEDIUM TERM 3-5 YEARS; LONG TERM > 5 YEAR
8.2 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the Waterberg DRDP is dependent on the strengthening of the existing institutional framework. As aptly articulated in the NDP (chapter 13) the realisation of all development-oriented objectives is intrinsically linked to the building of a capable state. A capable state therefore is defined by the existence of functional, well-capacitated and well-funded institutions. Put succinctly, a capable, developmental state is characterised by the existence of institutional thickness and resilience primarily within government. As the NDP and the Provincial Growth and Development Plan (PGDP) also outline, the private sector, as well as civil society also have an integral role to play in the development of communities.

In implementing the identified projects, programmes and initiatives, an integrated approach to development planning will be critical. As the DRDP is located at a district level, the Waterberg district will play a leading role in the implementation process. Moreover, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) will be one of the key custodians of the DRDP. The departments engaged in agricultural development, economic development, and social development and environmental planning also have roles to play in realising the objectives of the DRDP.

The DRDP for Waterberg is also meant to allow for strategic planning and coordination within the internal branches of DRDLR i.e. Land Reform and Administration (LRA), Rural Enterprise and Industrial Development (REID), as well as Rural Infrastructure Development (RID). Moreover, the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management unit within the DRDLR is mandated with ensuring that there is alignment and harmonisation of spatial planning, land reform as well as rural development initiatives, projects and programmes.

While rural development forms one of the key focus areas of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), the district municipality as well as other sector departments also has a critical role to play in the realisation of rural economic transformation.
This institutional arrangement framework is shown in the figure below:

![MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MAPPING Diagram]

Institutional issues that may impede on the implementation of the DRDPs include:

- Changes in the demarcation of municipal boundaries;
- Changes in the allocation of municipalities – i.e. moving a local municipality from one district to another, although this can, to a certain extent, be addressed by the functional regional approach;
- The lack of integration in the development and implementation of development projects by the various sector departments;
- Traditional leader’s reluctance to have their role to allocate land and direct its usage diminished
- Land invasion and illegal demarcation of sites in proclaimed areas by traditional authorities
9 SECTION NINE - CONCLUSION

What is apparent from the main issues outlined in this document is the persistence of hallmarks of underdevelopment in Limpopo's rural areas. These markers of underdevelopment include; lack of basic services such as electricity, water, roads infrastructure and housing. The culmination of these absences is abject poverty, unemployment, frustration and a relatively poor quality of life.

As the DRDP is aimed at transforming rural economies in the WDM, there exist economic, socio-spatial and environmental endowments that can be harnessed. From various policy articulations, focus is given to the potential of the agricultural sector in revitalising rural economies. To this end, the Presidency as well as DRDLR have identified strategic sites for setting up Agri-Parks. These Agri-Parks will be critical hubs where investment in physical infrastructure and human capital will be harnessed to promote agri-business. While agriculture, mining and manufacturing are traditional sectors holding rural economies, there is a need to identify sunrise i.e. new economic sectors that can diversify rural economies.

Tourism as well as the service sector promise to provide new vistas for rural economic transformation. As rural economic development is taking place in the bedrock of a technological revolution, the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has the potential to drive integrated rural development. In achieving this, the rural development approach for Limpopo at large is hinged upon the identification and fostering of urban/rural linkages.

The functionality of urban/rural spaces is dependent on the flow of capital, goods, people and ideas between and within these two spaces in an integrated fashion. The revitalisation of functional rural regions therefore will be dependent on the creation of sector-specific economic hubs, such as Agri-Parks, Techno-parks and all-purpose community centres. As highlighted, the vision for rural development in Waterberg as well as the issues identified as levers and barriers to rural economic transformation informs the strategic thrust of DRDP's. Moreover, these development issues inform the implementation plan of DRDP's, outlining specific programmes and projects that will act as catalysts for integrated rural development.