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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARC Agricultural Research Council
BD Blue Drop
CBD Central Business District
CPA Communal Property Association
CRDP Comprehensive Rural Development Plan
CS Community Survey
DRDLR Department Rural Development and Land Reform
EAP Economically Active Population
FPL Food Poverty Line
FPSU Farmer Production Support Units
FRA Functional Rural Areas
GIS Geotechnical Information System
IDP Integrated Development Plan
LED Local Economic Development
LM Local Municipality
LEDS Local Economic Development Strategy
LBPL Lower Bound Poverty Line
MEGA Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency
MFMA Municipal Finance Management Act
MLL Minimum Living Level
MPCC Multi Purpose Community Centre
MTA Mpumalanga Tourism Authority
NDM Nkangala District Municipality
NDP National Development Plan
NR Nature Reserve
RAMSAR
RIA Rural Intervention Areas
RUMC Regional Urban Market Centre
SDF Spatial Development Framework
SDA Strategic Development Area
SPLUM Spatial Planning and Land Use Management
SPLUMA Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act
TA Traditional Authorities
UBPL Upper Bound Poverty Line

WHR Water Management Areas
WSA Water Services Authorities
### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural development is defined as “a process of endless variety having as its main objective the overall balanced and proportionate well-being of rural people. This process leads to a rise in the capacity of rural people to control their environment resulting from more extensive use of the benefits which ensue from such a control” (Poostchi, 1986:1).

The Agricultural Information Bank (2011) defines rural development as “the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. It is an integrated process, which includes social, economical, political and spiritual development of the poorer sections of the society”.

Katar Singh defines rural development as “the overall development of rural areas, which aims at improving quality of life of rural people” (Rural Development: Principles, Policies and Management, 2009).

Uma Lele (1984:20) defines rural development as “improving living standards of the mass of the low-income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining”.

The World Bank defines rural development as “a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people – the rural poor” (1975a:3). The “rural poor” include small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless (ibid).

The Guidelines for the Development of Spatial Development Framework as prepared by DRDLR defines rural development as “primary economic activities which generally includes: agriculture, agro-processing, mining, tourism, resource extraction, water, energy”.

### RURAL AREAS

A rural area is “a sparsely developed area, with a population density of less than 100 persons per acre, where the land is under developed or primarily used for agricultural purpose” (Lindbloom and Moskowitz, 1981: 162).

Poostchi refers to a rural area as “a geographical area away from large urban settlements and towns, which is inhabited by rural people” (Poostchi, 1986:6).

The Guidelines for the Development of Spatial Development Framework as prepared by DRDLR defines rural areas as “areas outside urban settlements where population densities are less than 150 people/ km²; and dwelling densities are less than 1du/ ha”.

According to the Rural Development Framework (1997), rural areas are defined as “the sparsely populated areas in which people farm or depend on natural resources, including the villages and small towns that are dispersed through these areas. In addition, it includes the large settlements (rural clusters) in the former homelands, created by the apartheid removals, which depend for their survival on migratory labour and remittances as they have no economic base”.

### Summary: Rural Development Key Features

- **Improving** the living standards of the subsistence population. This involves mobilisation and allocation of resources so as to reach a sustainable balance overtime between the welfare and productive services available to the subsistence rural sector.
- **Mass participation** which ensures that rural people take control of their environment and destiny.
- **Development** of the appropriate skills and capacity of the communities involved.
- **Integrated/ comprehensive approach** involving economic, social, institutional and physical development.
- **The presence of institutions** at the local, regional and national levels to ensure the effective use of existing resources and to foster the mobilisation of additional financial and human resources.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

Rural communities in South Africa are still characterized by poverty, inequality, limited access to basic social infrastructure, underdevelopment, lack of economic opportunities, fragmented spatial patterns and environmental degradation. Historically, rural communities relied on agriculture and subsistence farming for food and income/exchange benefits, but pressure is mounting for these communities to diversify their local economies beyond agriculture to service industries, tourism, mining, retail etc. which require skills development.

Furthermore, the National Development Plan reports that general productivity in rural South Africa has been declining and outmigration to cities and towns has been accelerating. The rural landscape is also characterised by residential densification without associated infrastructure and governance arrangements, ill located land reform initiatives from the perspective of viable farming, or access to markets, and many of these initiatives are in conflict with other imperatives such as mining or preserving biodiversity.

The Nkangala District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province is no exception in this regard and is also associated with high levels of poverty, poor spatial planning, lack of economic opportunities and poor access to basic services in the rural parts.

Land use practices in these areas are in most cases done in an unsustainable manner with no proper plans in place to manage and guide development and to maximize improvement of livelihoods of the rural communities. As a result these areas have been left displaced, segregated, underdeveloped and impoverished and in most instances people were left with no option but to travel long distances to places of better employment, access to services and economic opportunities.

1.2. STUDY AREA AND STUDY OBJECTIVES

1.2.1. Study Area

The Nkangala District Municipality comprises the western parts of Mpumalanga Province and represents one of three District Municipalities in the province, the other being the Gert Sibande District Municipality located to the south thereof and Ehlanzeni District towards the east. The Nkangala District Municipality (the Study Area) furthermore comprises six local municipalities as depicted on Figure 1, namely Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Emalahleni Local Municipality, Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Emakhazeni Local Municipality, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality. The latter two
Nkangala District Municipality

municipalities historically formed part of the former homeland area of KwaNdebele.

1.2.2. Study Objectives

The main objective of this project is to develop a Rural Development Plan for a number of functional rural regions in the Nkangala District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province. The Rural Development Plans compiled for the functional regions in the district are then to be consolidated into a Rural Development Plan for the District as a whole.

The main requirement is that this plan addresses the needs of people who live in extreme poverty and who are subjected to underdevelopment in the rural parts of the Nkangala District.

This Rural Development Plan will furthermore enhance the impact of intensified and targeted government and private investments in these areas through an assessment of current developmental realities and potential in these areas. It will then come up with interventions that will bring change in the livelihoods of people in these rural communities.

This will ensure inclusion of rural areas in spatial planning and land development in line with the requirements of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013). The Rural Development Plan compiled through this process will eventually also be incorporated into the District SDF and Local SDF’s while projects identified will feed into the District and Local IDP processes from where it will also be integrated with existing national, provincial and municipal plans, processes and priorities. This will ensure effective alignment between sector departments, parastatals and the municipal development agenda in ensuring integrated and sustainable development.

1.3. Methodology and Report Structure

The detailed methodology to be followed in conducting the study is contained in the Inception Report. Essentially the following seven phases were followed:

Phase 1: Inception and Data Collection
Phase 2: Issues and Vision
Phase 3: District Situational Assessment/ Status Quo Overview
Phase 4: Demarcation and Analysis of Functional Regions
Phase 5: Compilation of Functional Area Rural Development Plans and Consolidated District Rural Development Plan
Phase 6: Compilation of Implementation Plan per Rural Development Plan and Consolidated Implementation Plan for the District
Phase 7: Approval of Rural Development Plans

The structure of this report broadly resemble the methodology followed and comprise the following components:
Section 1 provides some background to the study and confirms the study area and associated study objectives. It also provides theoretical information to “rural development” following from a literature survey conducted during August 2016.

Section 2 comprises a summary of some of the priority development issues prevalent to the District as determined from existing strategic planning documents like the Integrated Development Plan, Local Economic Development Strategy and Spatial Development Framework of the District; concluding with a preliminary Spatial Vision for the area which led to a more focused District Situational Analysis.

Section 3 reports on the District Current Reality and concludes on the major structuring elements and development opportunities and constraints identified in the District.

The findings from Section 3 informed the identification and demarcation of Functional Rural Areas in the District.

Section 4 dealt with the demarcation of Functional Rural Areas in the District while the analysis of the social, economic, institutional and physical features of each of the Functional Rural Areas were captured in Annexures A, B and C in this report.

Section 5 of the document summarises the Rural Development Plan for Nkangala District based on the outcomes of the individual Rural Development Plans for each of the Functional Rural Areas (as contained in the Annexures), followed by an Implementation Plan for the District.

1.4. Rural Development: Literature Overview

Rural development has seen various incarnations since 1994, starting with the ‘Rural Development Strategy’ of 1995, followed by a ‘Rural Development Framework’ in 1997, and the ‘Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy’ and accompanying nodal-based ‘Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme’ in 2001. In 2009, the ‘Comprehensive Rural Development Programme’ (CRDP), with a proactive participatory community-based planning approach, instead of an interventionalist approach to rural development was introduced. In 2010, Cabinet adopted 12 Outcomes within which to frame public-service delivery projects, with Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security, emphasising the importance of sustainable rural development. Five key outputs are tied to this outcome:

- Output 1: Sustainable agrarian reform with a thriving small and large farming sector;
- Output 2: Improved access to affordable and diverse food;
- Output 3: Improved rural services to support sustainable livelihoods;
- Output 4: Rural job creation linked to skills training and promoting economic livelihoods; and
- Output 5: An enabling institutional environment for sustainable and improved growth.
The key focus areas of Outcome 7 are echoed in the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP 2030) of 2012, which proposes a multifaceted approach to rural development that includes successful land reform, infrastructure development, job creation and rising agricultural production to ensure food security. More specifically, the NDP 2030 envisions the creation of one million jobs by 2030 in the agricultural sector.

DEFINING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Looking at numerous national and international definitions of Rural Development, the following five common features are noted:

- **Improving the living standards** of the subsistence population through the mobilisation and allocation of resources so as to reach a sustainable balance overtime between the welfare and productive services available to the subsistence rural sector.
- **Mass participation** which ensures that rural people take control of their environment and destiny.
- **Development** of the appropriate skills and capacity of the communities involved.
- **Integrated / comprehensive approach** involving economic, social, institutional and physical development.
- **The presence of institutions** at the local, regional and national levels to ensure the effective use of existing resources and to foster the mobilisation of additional financial and human resources.

For this particular study, rural development is therefore defined as:

*A process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated area, through focused skills development, improvement of rural institutions and systems, expansion of rural infrastructure and growth in rural economic activities.*

Acknowledging that traditionally rural development has centred on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. This definition recognises that rural development is not just about agricultural activities but includes poverty alleviation, infrastructure provision, institutional structures and varied actions to uplift the economic status of people in rural areas.

OBJECTIVES, CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MECHANISMS

As specified by the Guidelines for Rural Development (2014), from international best practice and case study analysis, the following objectives, critical success factors and rural development mechanisms are essential in addressing rural development.
Integrated Rural Development Objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve Quality of Life</td>
<td>To improve the living standards or well-being of the mass of the people by ensuring that they have security and that their basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and employment are met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance Competitiveness</td>
<td>To make rural areas more productive and less vulnerable to natural hazards, poverty and exploitation, and to give them a mutually beneficial relationship with other parts of the regional, national and international economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Community Participation</td>
<td>To ensure that any development is self-sustaining and involves the mass of the people. In addition to ensure as much local autonomy and as little disruption to traditional custom as possible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical Success Factors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Success Factor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Rural development should be a needs-based participatory approach, developed for the local people by the local people through a process of continued dialogue (local solutions to local challenges).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment</td>
<td>Rural communities must make commitments and contributions in terms of labour and other resources for implementation of projects. They must have a reason to bring about the ultimate objective of a progressive rural community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Diversification</td>
<td>The agricultural sector plays an important role in rural development, food security and job creation. Diversifying the rural economic basis while stabilizing and developing agriculture as a unique economic sector is essential.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rural Development Mechanisms

The following development mechanisms are available to achieve the above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Infrastructure</td>
<td>Invest in infrastructure that will enhance economic development and job creation: irrigation systems, dams, electricity networks, transport infrastructure, agro industries, farming equipment and markets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market</td>
<td>Support the development of agro-food market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rural Development Plan

**2. KEY ISSUES AND VISION**

**2.1. REGIONAL OVERVIEW**

As shown on Figure 2 the NDM is bounded by the Limpopo Province to the north (Sekhukhune and Waterberg District Municipalities) and Gauteng Province to the west (the City of Tshwane and Sedibeng District Municipality). To the south lies the Gert Sibande District Municipality and to the east the Ehlanzeni District.

The NDM is situated relatively close to the hub of economic activity of South Africa (i.e. Gauteng Province), and is traversed by three major national roads namely the N12, N4 and N11. The N4 forms part of the Maputo-Walvis Bay Sub Continental Development Corridor.

The District is predominantly a rural area, comprising extensive farming, nature reserves and mining areas. There are approximately 165 towns and villages distributed throughout the area. These can be classified in three main categories, namely towns, rural villages (mainly residential) in the Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka areas, and settlements associated with mining or electricity activities (collieries) in the southern parts of Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete municipalities.

Witbank and Middelburg are the two main towns in the District, both in terms of location and function. Kwaggafontein, KwaMhlanga, Siyabuswa, Victor Khanye (Delmas) and eMakhzeni are secondary service centres serving as central places to the surrounding farming communities. The tourism potential associated with the eastern regions of the District has resulted in the regeneration and growth of Dullstroom and Emgwenya (WATERVAL-BOVEN) in the Emakhzeni Municipality.
The Nkangala District holds an estimated population of 1 308 128 people (Census 2011) and covers an area of approximately 188 118 hectares of land.

The majority of the population (60%) reside in the urban parts of the District, while 34% live in Traditional Authority areas and 6% on farms (refer to table on Figure 3). It should also be noted that 70% of the Thembisile Hani population and 93% of the Dr JS Moroka population live in areas under Tribal Authority.

### 2.2. Key Issues

The following is a summary of Key Issues identified in the Nkangala District which are deemed to be relevant to the formulation of the Nkangala Rural Development Plan:

#### Fragmented Settlement Structure

- The Nkangala District has a dispersed spatial structure comprising 165 towns and villages. This could mainly be ascribed to the following:
  - a) the distribution of natural resources (e.g. coal) which determined the location of many settlements; and
  - b) the former homeland areas to the north which are under Traditional Authority and which were established under the Apartheid system.

- This distorted spatial structure makes the provision of community facilities costly and problematic. It results in the duplication of facilities and services, which is evident from the analysis of community facilities in the District. The threshold levels for the provision of community services are however low in rural areas, due to vast distances and low population densities characterising these areas.

- Engineering services are expensive to provide to small settlements in remote areas. The vast distances imply that communities have to make use of public transport to access community facilities, while the rural nature of the area also makes the provision of public transport costly and unsustainable.

#### Poverty Footprint

- The spatial distribution of people reflects that there are three distinguishable groups of people affected by poverty, namely:
  - **Tribal Authority Areas**: The main concentration of poor people is located in the north west of the Nkangala District, in the Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Municipalities. The conglomeration of settlements in these areas present communities displaced due to Apartheid planning.
  - These areas have limited local economies, due to the fact that expenditure until recently mainly occurred closer to employment centres which represents a significant leakage of income out of the area.
Rural Development Plan

- **Informal Settlements**: The second concentration of poor people is communities residing in informal settlements on the periphery of towns, specifically the informal settlements situated around Witbank and Middelburg. The population densities in these areas are very high, with poor access to basic infrastructure and community facilities. These areas also have no local economies and are reliant on the main centres for employment and business activities.

- **Farms and Mining Villages**: The third category of poor people resides in the rural areas on small mining villages and on farms. The communities residing on farms are particularly vulnerable, as they do not have ownership of the land where they are staying and are affected by evictions and unfair labour practices. These communities have to travel long distances to the major centres in the Nkangala District to access community facilities and economic activities and are highly reliant on public transport, which is generally poor.

Demographic Features

- **Population densities** vary from very high in some of the urban areas, such as the settlements in Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka in the north-west of the District as well as Witbank and Middelburg, to very low in some of the small settlements such as Dullstroom and the rural areas.

- The population profile of the Nkangala District revealed that the majority of people living in the area are extremely poor and do not have access to mainstream economic activities. Approximately 86.1% of all households earn less than the Minimum Living Level of R4000 per month.

- Thembisile Hani (37%) and Dr JS Moroka (46.6%) are characterised by excessively high unemployment levels.

- The number of households in Nkangala is increasing while the average household size is decreasing. This has meant that, while there has been an increase in the number of households living in formal dwellings, the number living in informal housing remained constant – and the backlog of households needing basic sanitation and refuse removal services has increased.

### Accommodation

- An estimated 41,502 households live in informal settlements excluding those living in backyards and overcrowded households (23,336 units) while about 8,645 households live in informal structures in Traditional Areas. The total informal backlog hence stands at 73,490 units.

- The poor management of the mushrooming of informal settlements and the non-enforcement of the by-laws by Municipalities exacerbates current informal settlement trends.

- There is also a significant need for housing in farm areas for farm workers.

### Land Reform
There is substantial need for upgrading of tenure – especially in the tribal areas in order to provide tenure security to residents. Nkangala District Municipality is faced with backlogs of incomplete land tenure upgrading applications and opening of township registers in the Traditional Authority Areas.

In Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani municipalities, most of the settlements are not formalised, not registered with the Surveyor General and there are no Title Deeds on individual properties.

Similarly, the speedy processing of land claims in terms of the Land Restitution Act in the Nkangala District remains a priority issue. According to the Land Claims Report, there are 721 land claims registered in the Nkangala District (NDM IDP 2013/14). These claims are located on 271 properties. The largest number of claims submitted are in the Steve Tshwete Municipality (270), followed by Emakhazeni (159), and then Thembisile (133).

The long process of finalising land tenure projects on State Owned Land and the limited capacity within the relevant Department to approve such applications has also been identified as a major challenge. However, the District has conducted a Land Tenure Strategy in order to address the challenges pertaining to the long process of upgrading of land tenure.

Little support is provided to beneficiaries with regard to developing sustainable livelihoods by those involved in land reform processes.

The N4 and N11 freeways create economic opportunities for the Nkangala District through trade opportunities associated with the Maputo and Richards Bay harbours as well as tourism opportunities associated with some of the main tourism centres in South Africa. The inherent potential to this initiative is however not optimally utilised at this stage.

The R540 (P81-1), which runs from the N4 freeway through Emakhazeni and Dullstroom, provides a link with the tourist attractions located in the Graskop, Lydenburg, Sabie, Pilgrim’s Rest and Hoedspruit areas (Tourism Triangle) which should be protected and further enhanced in future.

The road network in southern parts of the district is frequently damaged due to high volumes of coal haulage.

The City of Tshwane is the main employment centre for communities residing in the Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka areas, necessitating daily commuting of approximately 35 000 people via the Moloto bus route. The introduction of a rail system along this corridor is long awaited by the communities.

Global climate change will impact upon Nkangala, specifically on agriculture, water resources, biodiversity, forestry and human health.

Nearly 9% of the districts ecosystems are endangered, some critically so; 9% of land is already degraded, 35.8% of land has been transformed, primarily within the grassland biome; and 33% of the river types are critically endangered. This is mainly due to poor...
environmental management in mining areas which leads to excessive levels of water and air pollution.

- There is a growing urgency to establish equitable and realistic trade-off that maximise the provincial benefits from the mining and energy sectors while mitigating any environmental impacts – especially with regards to agricultural production.

**Economic Development**

- Natural resources make a significant and direct contribution to the District economy in the following sectors/industries, commonly referred to as a ‘resource based economy’:
  - Mining and energy generation via coal deposits;
  - Agriculture, industry, domestic consumption: water reserves, also for distribution outside the District;
  - Agriculture, forestry: land capacity and geographical features, climate;
  - Tourism: conservation areas and ecosystems, natural features.

- The relatively large economies of Steve Tshwete (Middelburg) and Emalahleni (Witbank) sustain the economy of the Nkangala District to a large extent. The economy of these centres is mainly based on the steel industry with high reliance on the manufacturing sector which makes the region vulnerable to economic cycles.

- The south western region of the District is referred to as the Energy Mecca of South Africa, due to the large deposits of coal reserves and associated power stations.

- The mining, petrochemicals and steel sectors are dominated by a few global-level companies, with relatively few job opportunities being created due to their capital intensive nature.

- The NDM Industrial Development Strategy identified significant potential for manufacturing in the District in other centres like Victor Khanye, Emakhazeni, KwaMhlanga, Kwaggafontein and Siyabuswa but most of this potential is latent at this stage.

**Agriculture** is very important to the economy of the district. The southern regions of Nkangala are suitable to crop farming, specifically for fresh produce such as maize and vegetables. The northern regions are suitable for cattle farming and game farms.

- Agri-processing and export opportunities in view of the linkages to two harbours are not fully utilised while agricultural activity in Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka is at a very low (mainly subsistence) level.

- The Nkangala District offers considerable tourism potential. The economy of the eastern areas of the District is already growing due to the increasing popularity of tourist destinations in the Emakhazeni Municipality.

- The north western areas of the District also offer opportunities for tourism, through the consolidation of the various nature reserves and open spaces in Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani, but this potential is unexploited at this stage.

- The agriculture and tourism sectors have the potential to employ large numbers of relatively unskilled workers. Hence, these sectors should be targeted in order to use indigenous resources to create jobs.
These opportunities are, however, not recognised at present, possibly due to lack of skills, knowledge and buy-in by local municipalities.

Engineering Services
- The greatest challenge that the NDM faces is in terms of the availability of water resources, as well as the distribution and management of water services in the former homeland areas.
- Extremely high water losses are experienced in the region, especially in the jurisdiction of Dr JS Moroka, Emalahleni and Thembisile Hani LMs due to inadequate operation and maintenance.
- Thembisile and Dr JS Moroka have the lowest number of households that have access to piped water inside their dwelling/institution (16.3% and 14.2% respectively) and the highest percentage of households with no access to piped water within their yard (72.1% and 55.7% respectively). Compared with the other local municipalities, Dr JS Moroka has the highest number of households with no access to piped water (22.1%).
- The rural nature of Thembisile and Dr JS Moroka LMs is confirmed by their having the lowest number of households with access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system (6.9% and 13.3% respectively) and the highest number of households with access to a pit latrine without ventilation (65.3% and 56.8% respectively).
- Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka LM have very poor refuse removal services, with the majority of households in both local municipalities utilizing their own refuse dump (77.0% and 75.3% respectively).

2.3. Rural Vision
From the priority issues identified and briefly discussed above, it is evident that the Nkangala District faces an extensive range of challenges in its rural areas that need to be addressed as part of the District Rural Development Plan. These issues should also provide guidance in terms of features to be analysed in the District Situational Analysis to follow during Phase 3.

Eventually, the Rural Development Plans for the respective Rural Functional Areas should, amongst other, formulate proposals and strategies aimed at addressing these issues.

The Spatial Vision for the urban and rural parts of the Nkangala District as illustrated on Figure 4 also provides important directives towards the NDM Rural Development Plan as noted below:
- Enhancement of local, provincial and national corridors traversing the District, including the N4 (Maputo-Walvis Bay); N11 (Botswana-N3-Durban); and the Moloto Corridor between Thembisile Hani/Dr JS Moroka and City of Tshwane;
- Strengthening of local linkages between the District and surrounding regions e.g. Gert Sibande (electricity and coal mining); Ehlanzeni (tourism, export); Sekhukhune (agricultural production and downstream beneficiation from Dilokong Corridor), Waterberg District (agriculture) and Gauteng, including City of Tshwane and Ekurhuleni (manufacturing, services and trade);
• Consolidating human settlement (housing) and economic activity (industry and business) around the priority district nodal points;
• Creating functional linkages between the Dinokeng tourism initiative in the City of Tshwane and the Mpumalanga Escarpment and Lowveld tourism precincts along the northern ridge series in the District through the underutilised potential located in Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality;
• Promoting and optimising the mining and electricity generation capacity of the southern coalfields precinct with a view to eventually restore the agricultural potential of the land once coal reserves are depleted;
• To utilise the nodal and corridor structure of the district to guide and direct infrastructure investment and service delivery in the urban and rural parts of the District;
• To optimise the agricultural potential of all land in the District and to convert subsistence farming to sustainable commercial farming through processes of Agrarian Transformation in the two CRDP priority areas in the NDM. (Dr JS Maroka and Thembisile Hani)

3. DISTRICT CURRENT REALITY/ STATUS QUO OVERVIEW

3.1. INSTITUTIONAL

3.1.1. Wards

Figure 5 below illustrates the individual Wards within the local municipalities of the Nkangala District which are 143 in total. The number of Wards within the District increased by 12 after 2011, with the greatest shift being in Steve Tshwete LM.

3.1.2. Land Ownership

With regards to land ownership, a total of 496 546 Ha of the District land area is vested with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), comprising 29.6% of the NDM. As shown on Figure 6 the greatest concentration of DRDLR land is namely in the north-western parts of the District, in Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani LMs, while only small portions of government-owned land is found throughout the remainder of the District – especially in Steve Tshwete and Emakhazeni Local Municipalities.

3.1.3. Land Claims

According the Land Claims Report, there are 721 land claims registered in the Nkangala District (NDM IDP 2013/14). These claims are located on 271 properties. The largest number of claims submitted are in the Steve Tshwete Municipality (270), followed by Emakhazeni (159), and then Thembisile Hani (133).

The status of the various land claims is illustrated on Figure 7.
As can be seen from Figure 7 most of the land claims lodged in the Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka areas are on state owned land. It is also important to note that a large portion of the land claimed in the Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka areas form part of nature reserves.

3.1.4. Traditional Authorities

Traditional Authority areas are only located in the Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani Local Municipalities as shown on Figure 8. Details on these will be dealt with once the Rural Focus Areas have been identified.

3.2. DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

3.2.1. Population Profile

The total population within the Nkangala DM increased by 289,116 people from 1,018,832 in 2001 to 1,307,948 in 2011.

According to the 2016 Community Survey (CS) (refer to Diagram 1 overleaf), the total population of Nkangala recorded for 2016 is 1,445,624, with Emalahleni having the highest total population (approximately 455,228 people). It is interesting to note that the total population for the Dr JS Moroka LM declined by 3,689 people from 2011 to 2016.

3.2.2. Age Composition

Diagram 2 shows that the main shift in the Nkangala population age profile from 2001 to 2011 is in the younger population segment, with a decline in the age group 0-14 from 33.4% in 2001 to 28.5% in 2011, and a slight increase in the total number of matured population segment aged 50-64 from 7.9% in 2001 to 10.8% in 2011. The total economically active aged segment (aged 15 to 64) of Nkangala increased from 62.2% in 2001 to 66.5% in 2011.
## Nkangala District Municipality

### Rural Development Plan

#### Diagram 1: Total Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NDM SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE</th>
<th>% of Total Pop for NDM (2011)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr JS Moroka</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thembisile</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Khanye</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emalahleni</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Tshwete</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emakhzeni</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Pop per LM (2001 to 2011)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total Population Growth

- 2001: 250,000
- 2011: 300,000
- 2016: 350,000

- Total Population Distribution

- Dr JS Moroka: 19.1%
- Thembisile: 23.7%
- Victor Khanye: 5.8%
- Emalahleni: 30.2%
- Steve Tshwete: 17.6%
- Emakhzeni: 3.6%
3.2.3. Education Profile

The overall level of education improved from 2001 to 2011, as the total number of no schooling declined from 17.7% to 7.9%. The total number of secondary school learners (Grade 8-12) increased from 35.6% to 46.1%; and the total number of individuals with a higher education increased from 3.9% to 7.2%.

Evident from Diagram 3 the local municipalities in Nkangala District generally experienced a decline in no schooling and an increase in secondary (Grade 8-12) education levels for the period 2001 to 2011.

Furthermore, the Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete LMs experienced a significant increase in higher education levels – from 5.6% and 5.9% in 2001 to 10.7% and 10.7% in 2011 respectively.

A large proportion of individuals within the district (46.1%) and local municipalities have at least a secondary level of education (Grade 8-12). The Emalahleni LM (10.7%) and Steve Tshwete (10.7%) LM’s have the highest number of individuals with a higher education.

3.2.4. Employment Status

The Nkangala district experienced a large increase in levels of employment from 2001 (56.2%) to 2011 (70.0%). Unemployment declined from 43.8% in 2001 to 30.0% in 2011. This is a good indication of a positive local economy.
It is interesting to note that the economically active segment declined from 65.2% in 2001 to 61.2% in 2011.

All six local municipalities except Emakhezeni LM experienced at least a 10% increase in the total level of employment from 2001 to 2011.

Table 1 indicates the economically active (EAP) segment of Nkangala and the respective local municipalities.

In 2011 the NDM had an economically active population (EAP) segment of 65.2% of which 70.0% were employed. Dr JS Moroka LM had the highest EAP segment (76.6%) and the lowest employment levels (53.4%). In contrast, Steve Tshwete LM had the lowest EAP segment (54.9%) and the highest employment levels (80.3%).

As is evident from Diagram 4, Victor Khanye LM (71.8%), Emalahleni LM (72.7%), Steve Tshwete LM (80.3%) and Emakhezeni LM (74.1%) have employment level of above 70%. It is interesting to note that Dr JS Moroka has the highest economically active segment (80.3%), but the lowest employment levels for 2011 (53.4%).

### Table 1: Nkangala Economically Active Population Segment, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District / Local Municipality</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>EAP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nkangala DM</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Khanye LM</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
<td>59.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emalahleni LM</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Tshwete LM</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emakhezeni LM</td>
<td>74.1%</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thembisile LM</td>
<td>63.0%</td>
<td>73.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr JS Moroka LM</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>76.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2.5. Household Income

Diagram 5 indicates that 44.6% of households within Nkangala earn no income. There has however been a significant decline in this category – from 71.7% in 2001 to 44.6% in 2011. An increase in the total number of households earning an income between R1 and R400 per month is noted, from 4.6% to 19.5%, together with an increase in the number of households earning between R801 and R1600, which has increased from 4.4% to 12.0%.


Minimum living level (MLL) is estimated at R4 000 to R4 500 per month for 2014 (National Treasury). Table 2 indicates the Minimum Living Levels for the District and the respective local municipalities. (Note, the income brackets does not allow for an actual MLL calculation (income below R4 500 pm), therefore a minimum MLL is calculated (income below R3 200).

Although the average household income has increased from 2001 to 2011, the overall income levels within the NDM are still very low and well below the MLL. Approximately 86.1% of households within Nkangala earned a monthly income well below this level, with Thembisile Hani LM (94.8%)
and Dr JS Moroka LM (95.1%) having the highest percentage of households living below the MLL.

Table 2: Calculated Minimum Living Levels (R3 200 and below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District / Local Municipality</th>
<th>MLL 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nkangala DM</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Khanye LM</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emalahleni LM,</td>
<td>78.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Tshwete LM</td>
<td>75.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emakhazeni LM</td>
<td>87.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thembisile LM</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr JS Moroka LM</td>
<td>95.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With regards to the local municipal profiles as shown on Diagram 6, Dr JS Moroka LM has the highest number of households earning no income (74.3%). At 16.0% Steve Tshwete LM has the highest number of households earning a monthly income above R6 401.

The low income levels is concerning as it is indicative of high dependency levels on government grants and services.

Diagram 6: Nkangala DM Household Monthly Income Profile 2011

3.2.6. Telecommunication
From the 2011 Census, as indicated in Diagram 7 (overleaf), it is clear that the majority of people residing within the NDM has access to cell phones (92.3%) with only a limited number of people having access to a landline (7.3%). Dr JS Moroka has the largest number of people with no access to cell phones (11.3%), whilst Steve Tshwete has the highest number of people with access to a landline (12.8%).

In terms of internet access, it is noted that only 33.8% of people residing within the district have access to the internet. As indicated in Diagram 7, Emalahleni has the highest number of internet access (38.6%) with Dr JS Moroka with the lowest number of people with access to the internet (26.1%).

3.3. **TOPOGRAPHY, HYDROLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY**

3.3.1. **Topography**

The overall topography of the Nkangala District can be described as an undulating landscape, with the occurrence of revealed rocky outcrops along the Olifants and Wilge River and the mountainous areas in the north-west. These rocky outcrops stretch further in an east west direction along the northern boundary of the District (Dikwale/ Dithaba mountain range), separating the JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani Local Municipalities from one another (refer to Figure 9).
Diagram 7: Telecommunication

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NDM SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr JS Moroka</td>
<td>Thembisile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Khanye</td>
<td>Emalahleni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Tambwe</td>
<td>Emakhazeni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Access to Land Line and Cell Phones**

- **Access to Cell Phones (2011)**
  - No: 11.3% Yes: 88.7%
  - No: 7.2% Yes: 92.8%
  - No: 10.7% Yes: 89.3%
  - No: 0.6% Yes: 99.4%
  - No: 5.0% Yes: 95.0%
  - No: 8.2% Yes: 91.8%

- **Access to Land Lines (2011)**
  - No: 11.3% Yes: 88.7%
  - No: 7.2% Yes: 92.8%
  - No: 10.7% Yes: 89.3%
  - No: 0.6% Yes: 99.4%
  - No: 5.0% Yes: 95.0%
  - No: 8.2% Yes: 91.8%

**Access to Internet (2013)**

- 26.1%
- 31.2%
- 27.8%
- 36.6%
- 37.3%
- 33.2%
A second significant topographical landform is the Bothisberg to the north of Steve Tshwete LM which also holds the Loskop Dam.

The Steenkampsberg Plateau comprises a large component of the eastern part of the NDM. From the plateau the landscape slopes downward to the escarpment formed by the Drakensberg Mountains, towards the Lowveld in Ehlanzeni District and the Mozambique Coast.

3.3.2. Hydrology

The District falls within the Inkomati and the Upper Olifants Water Management Areas (WMAs). The Inkomati Water Management Area consists of the Komati West, Komati North, Crocodile and Sabie sub-water management areas. The Olifants Water Management Area comprises the Upper Olifants, Middle Olifants, Steelpoort and Lower Olifants sub-water management areas.

The Olifants River forms the main drainage system of the NDM, flowing in a northerly direction and bending gradually in an easterly direction to join the Limpopo River which flows into the Indian Ocean (see Figure 9). About 57% of the water in the Olifants WMA is used for irrigation. Notably, the Olifants River drains the entire Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni mining regions, with the Loskop Dam situated downstream along the northern border of Steve Tshwete LM. The areas to the north of Witbank and Middelburg Towns form part of a Strategic Water Source Area.

The western parts of the District (in Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani) are drained by the Elands River, which flows in an easterly direction to join the Olifants River. This system represents a Strategic Water Source Area.

The central extents of the District (the Steenkampsberg Plateau area in Emakhazeni) are drained by the Olifants and Steelpoort Rivers to the north, and the Komati River in the south-east.

Several major dams exist in the NDM area, namely:
- Emalahleni (Witbank) and Middelburg dams, which meet the urban and industrial demands of the Emalahleni and Middelburg centres;
- Rhenosterkop Dam which supply some water for domestic use to the WHR and for irrigation;
- Loskop Dam which is used primarily to supply irrigation water to the Loskop Irrigation Board. Some water is supplied to the WHR for domestic use.

3.3.3. Conservation Areas and Biodiversity

Several game and nature reserves are found within the District, covering about 3.8% of the total land area. They are listed and briefly described below (also refer to Figure 9):

The Mkhombo Nature Reserve (JS Moroka LM)
The Mkhombo Nature Reserve is located in the far north-western extents of the District, in Dr JS Moroka LM. It encompasses some 11 000 hectares (ha), inclusive of the Mkhombo Dam, and is unique among the numerous reserves and parks found in Mpumalanga in that it is home to a portion of the Springbokvlakte Thornveld biome.
The S.S. Skosana Nature Reserve (Dr JS Moroka LM)
The SS Skosana Nature Reserve is situated approximately 70 km north of Bronkhorstspruit in the Mathys Zyn Loop/ Kwaggafontein area. The Reserve comprises approximately 1 800 hectares, and is characterised by mountains and plains covered with Savannah vegetation.

The Mdala Nature Reserve (JS Moroka LM)
Incorporating approximately 8 000 hectares of sandy bushveld, and a chain of rocky outcrops, the Mdala Nature Reserve is situated within the former Kwandebele area (see Figure 9).

The Mabusa Nature Reserve (Thembisile LM)
This large 15 800 hectare reserve is situated on the edge of the highveld plateau, approximately 60km north of Bronkhorstspruit. The southern and central parts of the reserve are characterized by open grassland, whilst the northern part is characterised by valleys, gullies and kloofs.

The Loskop Dam Nature Reserve (Thembisile LM)
Situated approximately 55km north of Middelburg in the Olifants River Valley, the reserve covers some 22 850 hectares, of which approximately 2 350 hectares comprise the surface area of the Loskop Dam which the reserve surrounds. The reserve is extremely hilly with deeply carved drainage lines leading to the valley bottoms. A variety of woodland covers the hillsides.

The Witbank Dam/ Bankenveld Nature Reserve (Emalhleni LM)
The Witbank Dam is the largest municipal dam in the southern Hemisphere, with a catchment area of approximately 3 540 square kilometres.

The Verloren Valei Nature Reserve (Emakhazeni LM)
Situated 14km to the north of Dullstroom, the Verloren Valei Nature Reserve is a declared RAMSAR site, recognizing wetlands of international importance. The Reserve covers an area of approximately 5 891 hectares. Numerous flowering plants and a rich variety of rare birds make the reserve a biodiversity hotspot.

Additional reserves and conservancies include the Olifant’s Gorge Conservancy to the south of the Loskop Dam NR; Balule just to the south-east thereof; a small part of the Zemvelo Game Park to the south-west of Olifants Gorge Conservancy; the Elands Valley Conservancy starting at Emgwenya (Waterval-Boven) and continuing alongside the Elands River for approximately 60km; as well as a small portion of the Goedgelegen Nature Reserve.

Biodiversity
As shown on Figure 10 the majority part of the Emakhazeni LM and northern extents of Emalhleni and Steve Tshwere LMs have “Irreplaceable and/ or Optimal” biodiversity areas. In Emakhazeni about 4.8% of the municipal area is classified as “Irreplaceable”. The most critical areas within the Emakhazeni LM are namely:
Nkangala District Municipality

- The high altitude grasslands and wetlands of the Steenkampsberg Mountains between Verloren Valei NR and eMakhazeni (Belfast) (flora, mammals, birds);
- The Mistbelt grasslands of the mountains between Entokozweni (Machadodorp) and the southern boundary of the LM (flora, mammals, birds);
- The headwaters of the Elands and Crocodile Rivers (fishes); and
- The Montane grassland south-west of Stoffberg (butterflies).

In Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni/Thembisile LM’s, the most critical areas are:
- The Loskop Dam Nature Reserve; and
- The Grasslands along the Olifants River north of Middelburg and Witbank (Irreplaceable and/or Optimal).

Wetlands/ Freshwater Biodiversity
The greatest number of floodplain wetlands and seepage wetlands in the District occur within the Emakhazeni, Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni LMs; whereas endorheic pans are concentrated within Steve Tshwete, Emalahleni and Victor Khanye LMs (refer to Figure 11). Within the Emakhazeni LM, the Steenkampsberg Plateau between Emakhazeni Town and De Berg should be seen as a priority area for wetland conservation initiatives, as a fair number of pristine high-altitude wetlands persist there.

3.4. Soil Potential

Figure 12 gives an indication of the local soil potential in the study area. This information was provided as a broad guideline giving an overview of the quality of soil which could be encountered in certain areas in the NDM. The information was obtained by utilizing various methods such as e.g. modelling techniques (map algebra tool), index values, remote sensing and high level satellite imagery, soil form association information, clay contents, soil depth and slope percentages. It does not, however, take into account topographical restrictions such as elevation.

The GIS information must be verified by means of a detail soil survey, seeing as various soils which falls in the high or low category could be farmed successfully depending on market related trends, climate, type of farming techniques or type of commodities.

Medium and high potential soil is mostly found in the central and western extents of the NDM (Steve Tshwete, Emalahleni and Victor Khanye LMs) as well as a portion of Dr JS Moroka LM in the north-west and the central portion of Emakhazeni LM. Only a small part of Thembisile Hani LM comprises high potential soil.

3.5. Spatial Structure and Movement Network
The Nkangala District has a dispersed settlement pattern with significant disparities in terms of population distribution and densities (Figure 13). It is predominantly a rural area consisting of extensive farming, with farming communities distributed throughout the area. Some towns like GaNala
established due to the availability of coal deposits and the development of the Kriel and Matla power stations, while the settlements in the far-north-western parts of the NDM established under traditional authorities in terms of the former Homeland Policy during the Apartheid era (KwaNdebele).

Middelburg and Emalahleni (Witbank) are the highest order settlements in the Nkangala District. These towns offer a full spectrum of activities and services, including business, retail, industrial uses, social services and residential uses. The physical structure of these towns is typical of settlements developed during the apartheid era, with physical segregation between the town and former township areas still evident. Both towns have incidences of informal settlements located around the periphery of the urban areas.

The second highest concentration of people in the District is found in the north-west, in the urban complexes of the Dr. JS Maroka and Thembisile Hani Local Municipalities. These areas consist of conglomerations of settlements which developed in a linear pattern along the Moloto Road in Thembisile and the main roads in the Dr. JS Moroka LM. The settlements were established during the Apartheid era to serve as labour pools for the City of Tshwane (CoT). The settlements are mainly dormitory residential areas, with the provision of community services and development of businesses lagging behind the housing developments. The highest order nodes in these parts include KwaMhlanga, Kwaggafontein and Siyabuswa. These urban complexes are therefore highly reliant on larger urban centres, specifically the City of Tshwane, for employment opportunities, social and economic services. There are thus strong functional ties with the CoT with more than 35 000 people commuting from this area daily.

Other second order settlements and towns in the NDM are namely Delmas and eMakhazeni (Belfast) – prominent both in terms of population size and their function. These two centres provide services to the surrounding rural farming and to residents from some of the smaller towns in the Victor Khanye and Emakhazeni municipalities respectively.

A number of small towns and settlements which primarily fulfil a local function are distributed throughout the district area. These include Ogies, Ga Nala (Kriel), Hendrina, Stoffberg, Dullstroom, eNtokozweni (Machadodorp) and Emgwenya (Waterval-Boven). Dullstroom and Emgwenya are experiencing rapid growth due to the tourism opportunities in the eastern parts of the District.

There are also several small residential clusters (collieries) which were developed to accommodate workers at mines and power stations in the southern parts of the NDM. Typical examples in this regard are Komati, Arnot, Bank, Douglas, Blinkpan etc.

Finally, numerous rural settlements are scattered on farms throughout the area. These settlements usually consist of the homestead and farm workers’ accommodation. The number of farm workers’ units range between one to twenty units per farm. Some of the rural settlements like Doornkop in the Steve Tshwete Municipality are developing into large communities, partly due to the eviction of farm workers from surrounding areas.
The main transport feature in the District is namely the N4 freeway which traverses the District from west to east (see Figure 13). The N4 and the N12 freeways converge at Emalahleni and connect Gauteng Province with Nelspruit, the capital city of Mpumalanga Province as well as with the international harbour in Maputo. These freeways transverse the Nkangala District from west to east and connects some of the major settlements, specifically Delmas, Witbank, Middelburg and eMakshateni to one another. The N12 which meets the N4 to the east of Emalahleni CBD, connects the region with Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni in the south-west while the N4 is a direct link to the City of Tshwane.

There are three important roads which provide regional linkages from the N4 freeway, namely:

- The R540 (P81-1) which runs from eMakshateni in a northern direction through Dullstroom. This road provides a link with some of the most popular tourist attractions situated in the Mpumalanga Lowveld, specifically Lydenburg, Pilgrim’s Rest, Graskop and Hoedspruit. There is also a railway line running parallel to this road up to Lydenburg.
- The N11 which runs from Middelburg in a southern direction. The N11 connects the region via Steve Tshwete with the regions in the south (Ermelo, Volksrus, and Piet Retief, Free State) and with the regions in the north (Groblerstadal, Marble Hall, Polokwane, Limpopo and further on towards Zimbabwe and Bostwana). It also provides a link with tourism attractions in KwaZulu-Natal and the Richards Bay harbour.
- The R541 from eMakshateni which provides regional linkages towards Swaziland via the Oshoek Border Post to the south-east.

Following is a summary of the main proposals/ development principles for the NDM and each of the six Local Municipalities as contained in their respective Spatial Development Frameworks. (Refer to Figures 14.1 to 14.7).

### Nkangala District SDF: Salient Features

- The identified primary activity nodes in the Nkangala District are namely Middelburg in Steve Tshwete LM and Emalahleni City (formerly Witbank) in Emalahleni LM (see Figure 14.1).
- In support of the primary activity nodes, second order activity nodes were identified, namely Siyabuswa in Dr J.S. Moroka LM, Kwamhlanga in Thembisile-Hani LM, Delmas in Victor Khanye LM, and eMakshateni (formerly Belfast) in Emalahleni LM. Third order centres were identified at Ogies, Ga Nala, eNtokozweni, Emgwenya and Dullstroom.
- To further refine the network of service centres in the District, a number of rural nodes proposed locations for Multi-purpose Community Centres (MPCCs)/ Thusong Centres were identified e.g. Doornkop, Stoffberg, Wonderfontein and several nodes in Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani.
- The N4 freeway traverses the District from east to west and was earmarked as a Major Development Corridor as it links the Gauteng Province with Maputo in Mozambique. The N11 freeway traverses the District from north to south, eventually linking into the N3 freeway to Durban.
- The southern parts of the District were earmarked for mining and agriculture, and comprise a number of the country’s large power stations.
- The rural north-western parts of Nkangala were earmarked for Small Scale Farming and CRDP.
- The eastern parts of the District are very scenic and were primarily earmarked for tourism/ eco-tourism activities, as well as forestry.
- A continuous tourism belt should be developed for Dr JS Moroka and Dinokeng in the west right up to eMakshateni in the east.
- The SDF emphasises the importance of focused infrastructure spending at
identified activity nodes (primary, secondary, tertiary, and rural service centres).
Nkangala District Municipality

Rural Development Plan
Siyabuswa was identified as the primary activity node in the Municipality. It is supported by a network of Thusong Centres/ rural service centres.

The rural western and northern extents of the municipal area were earmarked as a Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) focus area, while the eastern extents were earmarked for agriculture.

The area to the south – including Mkhombo Nature Reserve and Vaalbank Dam – forms part of the regional open space system and an ecological corridor that traverses the Nkangala District and also forms part of the Tourism Corridor of the NDM.

The SDF furthermore proposed that the urban fabric of existing settlements be consolidated by means of infill development and densification, rather than allowing further low density sprawl as this is not conducive to efficient service delivery.
The majority of urban settlement in the Thembisile Hani area of jurisdiction is consolidated along route R573 (Moloto Road).

KwaMhlanga and Kwaggafontein were identified as the Municipality’s primary activity nodes, supported by Moloto, Enkeldoornoog and Mathys Zyn Loop as secondary activity nodes. (These nodes should promote development of TOD Stations/Thusong Centres in future).

A number of Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) were delineated for future expansion of the settlements.

The eastern and south-eastern extents of the municipal area comprise a number of nature reserves, which are connected to the regional open spaces system via a proposed ecological corridor. These areas should be developed as tourism anchors as part of the NDM Tourism Belt.

A number of land pockets in the southern parts of the LM were earmarked for extensive agricultural activities.
The primary activity node Emalahleni (formerly Witbank) is supported by the secondary nodes of Ogies and Ga-Nala (formerly Kriel).

The SDF furthermore proposed a number of smaller settlements as Multi Purpose Service Delivery Centres to serve the day-to-day needs of the local communities.

The SDF proposed a number of Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) where future residential development should preferably be consolidated.

Industrial activity is to be consolidated around route N4 while tourism activities are to be promoted along the Olifants River drainage system.

No rural development nodes have been identified.
Middelburg and Hendrina towns were earmarked as the Local Municipality's primary and secondary activity nodes respectively.

Middelburg is a regional industrial node and is located along route R104, just north of the N4 national freeway/Maputo Development Corridor.

Hendrina is located along the N11 freeway that leads to Ermelo to the south and eventually links into the N3 national freeway to Durban.

The southern extents of the municipal area are rich in coal reserves, and comprise a number of mines and power stations.

A number of informal settlements are located in close proximity to the mines and power stations, to gain easy access to related job opportunities.

Doornkop, Kwamakalane and Mafube were identified as potential rural nodes.

The north-western parts of the Municipality comprise a number of conservation areas, and were earmarked for eco-tourism activities.
The central extents of the municipal area was delineated as the activity core, and includes the capital – Delmas town – as well as the Botleng area.
Furthermore, the core area includes the Rietkol, Springs, Sundra, and Sundale Agricultural Holding areas.
Though it does not pass through Delmas, the N12 freeway traverses the Municipality, connecting to Gauteng’s East Rand and to Emalahleni (Witbank) to the west and east respectively. A number of regional roads converge in Delmas and the proposed Nkangala International Airport is located at the N12-R42 interchange.
With regards to economic activity, the north-eastern extents of the LM was identified as mining areas. There are two industrial activity nodes to the north-east and north-west of Delmas respectively. A tourism precinct was delineated in the south-eastern parts of the LM (Brakfontein), bordering on Gert Sibande District.
The remainder of the Municipality comprises commercial farms with the Kusile Power Station to the north-east.
The SDF proposed that the bulk of future residential development should be consolidated in the activity core.
Emakhazeni Local Municipality SDF: Salient Features: Figure 14.7

- eMakhazeni (formerly Belfast) is the primary activity node in the Local Municipality, and Dullstroom, eNtokozweni (formerly Machadodorp) and Emgwenya (formerly Waterval Boven) are the secondary activity nodes.

- The area between Dullstroom, eMakhazeni, eNtokozweni and Emgwenya is known as the Trout Triangle and a well-known tourism destination in the District.

- The area immediately surrounding the Trout Triangle was earmarked for eco-tourism and agriculture, while the broader area was earmarked for extensive agricultural activities.

- The tertiary activity nodes/third order centres in the Municipality area include Stoffberg, Ongezien, Wonderfontein, Bambi, Airlie and Slaaihoek.

- The general recommendation from the SDF was that urban development should be consolidated within and around the identified activity nodes, in order to strengthen the nodes.
Agriculture is the dominant economic activity in the Nkangala District Municipality in terms of spatial extent (also refer to Figure 15). The largest parts of the Victor Khanye and Emalahleni Municipalities and southern part of the Steve Tshwete Municipality are suitable for extensive agriculture, specifically crop farming, supplemented by game farming and cattle farming. The north-western parts of the District in the JS Moroka and Thembisile Municipalities are characterised by extensive subsistence agriculture, with the land primarily suitable for cattle farming and supplemented with game and crops.

The northern parts of the District around Steve Tshwete and Emakhazeni are also suitable for cattle and game farming, while more intensive crop farming, such as tulip farms occur around Emakhazeni, as well as forestry. From Emakhazeni eastwards the most suitable farming activity is forestry, supplemented by cattle and fruit/vegetables.

In these eastern parts of the District, tourism is becoming increasingly popular, specifically fly-fishing in the trout dams on farms. This has led to the development of tourist resorts on farms, with a mix of farming and tourism activities.

Fruit farming (especially citrus) is also suitable in the Schoemanskloof area in the vicinity of Bambi, and on the escarpment from Emgwenya eastwards.

From the Nkangala Agri Park initiative the following has been identified as a preliminary list of priority commodities within Nkangala:

- Maize
- Sunflower
- Vegetables
- Soya beans
- Sorghum
- Tobacco
- Pig production
- Livestock
- Cotton
- Poultry
- Wheat
- Canola

The 12 commodities listed above were all ranked according to a set of criteria and the top 5 commodities are based on the selection criteria are listed in Table 3 below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Beef cattle</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>Excellent extensive beef production potential, especially in combination with optimal supplementary feeding. Most suitable breeds include Bonsmara, Beefmaster and indigenous breeds. Also excellent opportunities for intensive production in feedlots due to proximity to both feedstock and markets and a favourable climate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Maize</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>Good potential for rain fed maize production.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Vegetables 88% High vegetable production potential for a large variety of vegetables, especially towards the east where conditions at places may be so favourable that relative low quantities of water for supplementary irrigation is needed. Highly competitive for potatoes, carrot, cabbage, phaseolusbean and Peas (especially varieties for dry pea production). Other vegetables with high commercial potential include beetroot, cucumber, green mealie, lettuce and pumpkin.

4. Dry beans 85% Very suitable for the Delmas and Middelburg areas. Although South African dry bean varieties are not in demand in export markets, local demand are very strong and it is a very important food security crop with important value adding opportunities.

5. Pigs 83% Excellent pig production potential due to proximity to both feedstock and markets, as well as a favourable climate and environmental conditions for piggeries.

As shown on Figure 15.1 the proposed Nkangala Agri Park will be located at Siyabuswa and it will be supported by the following Farmer Production Support Units:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Location of FPSU</th>
<th>Main Commodities</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr JS Moroka LM</td>
<td>Marapjane</td>
<td>Vegetables, Beef</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magareng</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thembisile Hani LM</td>
<td>Kwaggafontein</td>
<td>Vegetables, Beef, Maize</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kameelpoortnek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Tshwete LM</td>
<td>Middelburg</td>
<td>Vegetables, Beef, Maize</td>
<td>Phase 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hendrina</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emalahleni LM</td>
<td>Emalahleni</td>
<td>Vegetables, Beef, Maize</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victor Khanye LM</td>
<td>Delmas</td>
<td>Vegetables, Beef</td>
<td>Phase 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emakhazeni LM</td>
<td>Emakhazeni</td>
<td>Vegetables, Beef</td>
<td>Phase 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Farmer Production Support Units (Prioritisation)

The Rural Urban Market Centre is located in Middelburg Town and the Agri Hub in the vicinity of Siyabuswa in Dr JS Moroka Municipality.

3.6.2. Mining

Figure 16 illustrates the spatial distribution of applications for mining and prospecting licenses in the NDM area. From this the following needs to be noted:
The entire area between Delmas, GaNala/Kriel, Hendrina, Middelburg and Witbank is covered by mining license applications;

A second cluster starts developing in the area between Middelburg and eMakhazeni;

Applications to the north of eMakhazeni towards Dullstroom and Emgwenya are a major concern as these intrude into the tourism triangle of the NDM.

Also shown on Figure 16 is the footprint of existing mining activity in the District. It is clear that the spatial extent of mining activity is significantly less than the area covered by the license applications.

Note that a number of the coal mines in the western parts of Emalahleni LM are currently dormant. Furthermore, active mines in the Thembisile Hani area include Boekenhoutskloofdrift, Roodepoort, Loopspruit, Nooitgedacht and Blesbokfontein.

3.6.3. Power Stations

The south western region of the Nkangala District Municipality is known as the Energy Mecca of South Africa due to its rich deposits of coal reserves and associated power stations. The 8 power stations in the NDM include Matla, Duvha, Komati, Arnot, Kendal, Hendrina and Kriel (see Figure 16). Construction of the Kusile power station in the Victor Khanye municipal area is far advanced and will add significantly to the amount of electricity generated from the Nkangala District.

3.6.4. Tourism

The importance of the tourism sector in the regional economy of the Nkangala District is ever increasing. The eastern regions of the District around eMakhazeni, Dullstroom, eMthonzeni and Emgwenya in particular are becoming increasingly popular tourist destinations, due to the scenic qualities and rural character of these areas. The growing popularity of fly-fishing has contributed greatly to the opening-up of the tourism potential of this area. Several applications have recently been lodged for Golf Estates in this area.

In recognition of the Province’s tourism potential, and in order to exploit it in an equitable and sustainable manner, the Mpumalanga Tourism Authority (MTA) had divided the Province into seven different tourism regions that are geographically diverse, and offer tourists very different experiences. Significantly, the Nkangala District hosts three of the seven regions, namely “Cosmos Country” around Delmas, “Cultural Heartland” around Dr JS Moroka, Thembisile Hani and Emalahleni/ Steve Tshwete, and the “Highlands Meander” around Emakhazeni.

Figure 17 depicts the spatial extent of tourism infrastructure and facilities in the NDM area. Notable in this regard is the potential between Dinokeng and Loskop Dam, along the Olifants River northwards towards Loskop Dam from Middelburg and Witbank, and the significant cluster of facilities in eMakhazeni.
3.6.5. Business

The business activities in the Nkangala District Municipality are closely related to the hierarchy of settlements. There are business activities occurring in all of the towns and villages throughout the District. Middelburg and eMalahleni (Witbank) have the highest order Central Business Districts and the diversity of business activities include retail, wholesale trade, financial services and offices. Both towns approved decentralised regional shopping centres over the past decade and both these facilities were established closer to the N4 development corridor where it passes through the towns. Delmas town and eMakhzeni also offer a variety of retail, trade and financial services, with very limited office components. The small towns in the District, such as Hendrina, Kriel (GaNala), Ogies and eNtokozweni/Machadodorp only host limited retail facilities.

The retail uses and hospitality industry (restaurants, tourist accommodation) in Dullstroom are growing rapidly due to the growth of the tourism sector. Small business activities have also established along the N4 freeway, at the turnoffs to eMakhzeni and eNtokozweni. These businesses capitalise on the tourists and through traffic passing by on the N4, although to the detriment of the town centres of eMakhzeni and eNtokozweni.

Business activities in the Thembisile and Dr. JS Moroka Municipalities are more informal and dispersed in nature. The economic activity around the R568 and R573 intersection in the vicinity of KwaMhlanga represents the highest order activity node in the Thembisile Hani area. This is probably the most strategic intersection in the entire municipal area, and it is surrounded with a fairly large number of residents. The result is a fairly high concentration of economic activity with a variety of shopping facilities (formal and informal) and community facilities.

The second most significant activity node in the Thembisile Hani area is found at Kwaggafontein B at the intersection between route R573 and the link road between Kwaggafontein and Verena where a large shopping centre (Kwagga Centre) exists. This is also the node where the Thembisile Hani Municipality has its municipal offices.

In Dr JS Moroka Municipality the bulk of business activity is consolidated around Siyabuswa (refer to Figure 14).

3.6.6. Industry

From Figure 18 this it is evident that the major clusters of industrial activity are located along the east-west oriented N4 and the N12 Corridors respectively at eMalahleni Town and Steve Tshwete (Middelburg).

The Nkangala District Municipality holds a total of about 1694 erven comprising a total of approximately 4191 ha of industrial land. Incremental demand by 2032 in the Nkangala District is estimated about 1538 ha.

In the Nkangala District Municipality the Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete municipalities are dominant in terms of the number of industrial erven, both
developed and vacant as clearly illustrated on Diagram 8. Emalahleni municipality holds a total of about 591 developed and 279 vacant industrial erven, while the Steve Tshwete municipality has a total estimated number of 444 developed erven and 121 vacant erven. The Thembisile Hani and Victor Khanye municipalities both hold in the order of about 100 industrial erven with the Victor Khanye municipality having 33 vacant erven and the Thembisile Hani municipality an estimated 49 vacant industrial erven, mainly at KwaMhlanga and Kwaggafontein). In the Emakhazeni municipality about 29 of the 49 industrial erven are still vacant.

Diagram 8: NDM Number of Developed/ Undeveloped Industrial Erven

As far as projected future incremental demand is concerned, Diagram 9 shows that the bulk of projected future demand for industrial land (1002 ha) is located in and around Emalahleni. At present the supply of vacant land in Emalahleni only stands at 124 ha which indicate a deficit to the order of about 875 ha of industrial land in this municipal area by 2032.

In Steve Tshwete the projected future demand stands at about 366 ha, but it should be noted that there is a current supply of vacant land to the order of about 584 ha of industrial/commercial land mainly due to the recent developments along the N4 freeway.

Diagram 9: NDM Size of Developed/ Undeveloped Industrial Erven (hectares)
The Victor Khanye municipality also hold some prominent incremental demand estimated at about 89 ha which is about three times the size of the current supply of vacant land which stands at 28 ha of land.

Dr JS Moroka is also expected to show significant increase in demand for industrial land (54 ha) with only 3 ha vacant at present, while Thembisile Hani will require an additional 10 ha of land in its area of jurisdiction.

A feasibility study has been conducted to establish a Light and Heavy Industry Hub in Emakhazeni, Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka. Details will be discussed once Rural Focus Areas have been identified.

3.6.7. Forestry

As noted earlier, forestry occurs along the far-eastern escarpment of the NDM, although there is no forestry related industrial hub established in the NDM – like at Sabie, Ngodwana or Mkhondo. eMakhazeni might have some potential in this regard.

3.6.8. Conclusive Summary

Table 5 below summarises the sectoral competitive advantages of Nkangala district municipality. These are based on availability of natural resources, and/or current trends in terms of production processes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5: Districts Competitive Advantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nkangala District Municipality</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Industrial Complex – Middelburg/Witbank (Steel and Stainless Steel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Power Stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mines – Victor Khanye/Middelburg/Witbank (coal, vanadium and platinum predominantly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extensive Agriculture – deciduous fruits, summer grain, vegetables, abattoirs, flowers, game and cattle, poultry (Entire District)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 below summarises the sectoral comparative advantages of each of the municipalities in Nkangala District as defined in the Mpumalanga Spatial Development Framework (2012).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6: Comparative Advantages per Municipality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Victor Khanye</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Manufacturing, Transport and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emalahleni</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining, Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Steve Tshwete</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing, Utilities, Construction, Transport and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emakhazeni</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Manufacturing, Trade, Transport and Communication, Finance and Business services, Community, Social and Personal Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thembisile Hani</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction, Trade, Transport and Communication, Finance and Business Services, Community, Social and Personal Services, General Government Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr JS Moroka</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport and Communication, Finance and Business Services, Community, Social and Personal Services, General Government Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following represents the most significant potential economic development projects/initiatives that can be implemented based on the available resources in the Nkangala District:

**Manufacturing and beneficiation:**
- A ferrochrome smelter for ferro-alloy complex
- Industrial parks
- Mining supplier park

**Agriculture:**
- Milling and processing of summer and winter cereals
- Extraction of edible oils
- Processing of: maize, beans and deciduous fruit into juices, concentrate, jams and canned fruits.

**Wood and Forestry:**
- Paper and pulp
- Sawn timber
- Furniture
- Construction timber
- Chipboard
- Veneer boards
- Ultra boards
- Transmission poles
- Mining timber
- Pulp wood
- Community forestry
- Charcoal production
- Afforestation
- Industrial forestry
- Multiple use forestry
- Forest protection

3.7. **LED Anchor Projects**
Supplementary to the above, the NDM LED Strategy identified several Targeted Anchor Projects that are linked to the pillars of the economy in the District as listed in Table 7 (overleaf).

3.8. **Housing**

Figure 19 depicts the formal towns, informal settlement areas and traditional housing areas in Nkangala according to Census 2011 GIS data.

From this it is evident that most incidences of informal settlement occur around Witbank town, Middelburg, and in Thembisile Hani Municipalities.

Table 8 on Figure 19 provides a more elaborate overview on the distribution of formal and informal housing throughout the Nkangala District (per municipality), as well as the projected demand per municipality.

From this it is evident that the largest concentration of informal settlement is located around Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (mostly mining related).

Thembisile Hani also experiences a huge influx of people who reside here (especially at Moloto and KwaMhlanga) and seek to find jobs in the City of Tshwane.
Figure 20 illustrates all the land parcels identified in local SDF’s as Priority Housing Development Areas (Strategic Development Areas) which should be focus areas for human settlement in the NDM in future. Most of the areas identified are located around the priority nodes in the District.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Anchor Project</th>
<th>Project Summary</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>No. of Jobs to be created</th>
<th>Required Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Establishment of Glass Recycling Plant</td>
<td>A Glass recycling plant is planned for DR JS Moroka, where cooperatives are already involved in collecting waste glass and effectively supplying to Console Glass.</td>
<td>Dr JS Moroka</td>
<td>50 direct jobs and 500 indirect jobs</td>
<td>R1.7 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Establishment of Catalytic Converter Plant</td>
<td>This project would involve manufacture of catalytic converters. South Africa supplies 10% of catalytic converters and has further potential for up to 30% global market share.</td>
<td>Steve Tshwete</td>
<td>2000 direct and indirect jobs</td>
<td>R103 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Establishment of a Bio-Diesel Plant</td>
<td>A bio diesel plant has been considered as feasible in DR JS Moroka, given the agricultural potential for the area to produce bio-diesel raw materials which include soybeans and vegetable fat.</td>
<td>Dr JS Moroka</td>
<td>20 direct jobs and 150 indirect jobs</td>
<td>R39.5 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Establishment of Steel and Metal Fabrication Hub</td>
<td>This project aims to improve the performance of the manufacturing industry in the District by creating locational opportunities for manufacturers who currently operate in household.</td>
<td>Steve Tshwete</td>
<td>20 direct jobs and 1000 trainees per year</td>
<td>R87 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Establishment of Fly Ash Beneficiation Plant</td>
<td>The Fly ash project is proposed for Emalahleni. Critical stakeholders such as Eskom and Sasol have bought into the project, and the project would make a significant contribution towards addressing poverty.</td>
<td>Emalahleni</td>
<td>20 direct jobs and 200 indirect jobs</td>
<td>R9.3 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Establishment of a Mining Museum and Convention centre</td>
<td>The museum initiative is expected to contain visual displays as well as facts about coal, and other mining products in the province. Also, Emalahleni means place of coal and has a rich mining history going back to 1896. The museum will be able to add new, diversifying component to the tourism products of the town and the region as well as promote historical and educational value.</td>
<td>Emalahleni</td>
<td>20 jobs</td>
<td>R256 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Establishment of Shopping Complex in Entokozweni</td>
<td>The shopping complex would provide retail market for local producers, but also provide an opportunity for a retail store along the N4.</td>
<td>Emakhzeni</td>
<td>490 jobs</td>
<td>R100 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Construction of High Altitude Sports centre</td>
<td>This is a provincial project, aimed at promoting employment and recreational activities for the youth in the province.</td>
<td>Emakhzeni</td>
<td>45 jobs</td>
<td>R5.3 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Establishment of the Nkangala International Airport</td>
<td>A feasibility study suggests that there is sufficient market for an international airport in Nkangala. The airport is awaiting Cabinet approval, and will act as a gateway to the province.</td>
<td>Victor Khanye</td>
<td>150 jobs</td>
<td>R4.5 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Resuscitation of the sawmill project</td>
<td>This is an existing project which is on sale, and has been operational (and profit making) for three decades. This project has potential for job creation and skills development among the youth.</td>
<td>Emakhzeni</td>
<td>30 direct jobs and 150 indirect jobs</td>
<td>R27 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Establishment of a Business</td>
<td>Planned for Emalahleni, the Business Convention centre will meet</td>
<td>Emalahleni</td>
<td>188 direct jobs and</td>
<td>R910 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Sub-Location</td>
<td>Estimated Employment Impact</td>
<td>Investment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention centre current demand of a conferencing facility in the region. This initiative has been considered feasible based on a scientific study.</td>
<td>Emakhazi</td>
<td>700 indirect jobs</td>
<td>R850 Million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland Gates and Estate Development - This private development of a Golf and Trout Estates within Emakhazi local municipality aims to enhance Dullstroom as a tourist destination. Besides the establishment of a new golf course the project will include a housing estate, a wellness centre, a lodge and a conference centre.</td>
<td>Emakhazi</td>
<td>15 jobs and 250 indirect jobs</td>
<td>R850 Million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loskop and Rust De Venter Tourism Belt - This initiative seeks to utilise the current nature reserves for tourist attraction, and market them as a tourism belt. The reserves include Mdala, Mkhombo, SS Skhosana, Mabusa, Loskop nature reserves, as well Rust De Winter, some parts of Moloto, KwaMhlanga, Klipfotein, Loding Almansdrift, Mdala Nature Reserve, Mkhombo/Rhensterkop Dam, Rooikoppen Dam, Rust De Winter Dam including some major tourist sites like General Smuts House in the Rust de Winter area.</td>
<td>Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile</td>
<td>60 jobs</td>
<td>R100 Million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rust de Winter Theme Park - The Rust De Winter development should be understood in the broader context of tourism development in the region taking into consideration the proposed investment at Loskop/Zithabiseni. The business plan proposes a theme park as a game changer for the tourism sector in the region. The proximity of the identified development further puts the project at an advantage both in terms of accessibility but most importantly a key strategy for diversifying tourism experience in the area covering existing Dinokeng Game Reserve as well as Rust De Winter Reserve. Using global and national industry trends, the proposed park is likely to create 2500 direct employment opportunities and 1250 indirect employment opportunities.</td>
<td></td>
<td>28000 direct and indirect jobs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of SME Hub - The SME hub will provide incubation services for small businesses. This initiative will seek to move SMEs up the value chain and effectively create jobs.</td>
<td>Victor Khanye</td>
<td>15 direct jobs and 200 Trainees a year</td>
<td>25 Million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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3.9. **ENGINEERING SERVICES**

In terms of water provision and sewerage systems, Municipalities are scored according to the incentive based regulated Blue and Green Drop Systems.

The **Blue Drop Certification Programme** allows for proactive management and regulation of drinking water quality management based upon legislated norms and standards, as well as international best practice. This involves auditing of municipal water supply systems based on defined assessment criteria per audit cycle. The assessment criteria include drinking water quality compliance as prescribed through SANS 241, water safety planning which focuses on risk management amongst others.

The **Green Drop Process** measures and compares the results of the performance of Water Service Authorities and their Providers, and subsequently rewards (or penalises) the municipality upon evidence of their excellence (or failures) according to the minimum standards or requirements that has been defined in regards to municipal wastewater management.

The Mpumalanga province has eighteen (18) Water Services Authorities (WSA) providing water through 100 water supply systems. Six of the 18 WSAs contracted Water Service Providers to manage 34 of the systems. Water Service Providers include Bushbuckridge Water operational in 13 systems, Rand Water in 5 systems, Sembcorp-Silulumanzi in 5 systems, City of Tshwane in 4 systems, Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka local municipalities in 1 system each, Eskom in 4 systems and Optimum Coal Holdings in 1 system.

Substantial improvements have been observed in the Province with the average Blue Drop (BD) scores increasing from 60.9% in 2012 to 69.9 in 2014 by 9%. Steve Tshwete LM achieved an overall BD score of 97% and is the best performer in the Province with 5 systems attaining Blue Drop (BD) certification status. Even though the BD score decreased for Dr JS Moroka compared to 2012, it is the second best performer with an overall score of 89.2% followed by Mbombela on third position with a BD score of 88.8%. Table 10 provides a list of systems attaining BD certification status.

Fifty one systems receive score below 50% while 25% systems were in the high category. Impressive improvements compared to 2012 were also noticed in three municipalities; Chief Albert Luthuli (35%), Nkomazi (34%) and Bushbuckridge (33%) as these municipalities were in critical category in 2012.

Overall, Mpumalanga showed an 8% improvement compared to 2012 with an overall BD score of 69% (2014). Although, Mpumalanga’s Green Drop status digressed significantly from 56% to 44% over the 2 year period (2011 – 2013).

Following is an overview of water and sewerage systems, lighting, drainage, road and transportation facilities, and waste disposal sites within the NDM area of jurisdiction.
SOURCE OF WATER

Diagram 10 reflects the most salient features pertaining to the source of water of households in the District and respective Local Municipalities.

From Diagram 10, it is evident that the majority of households within the District (83.2%) receive water from a regional water scheme (operated by the NDM or other water service provider). Households within Victor Khanye (16.8%), Emakhazeni (9.4%) and Dr JS Moroka (18.8%) are the most dependent on boreholes of the local municipalities.

For the period 2001 to 2011, Victor Khanye, Emalahleni, Steve Tshwete and Emakhazeni LM experienced a significant increase in the total number of households utilizing a borehole as source of water and a decline in the other sources of water:

- Victor Khanye increased from 41.3% in 2001 to 84.5% in 2011;
- Emalahleni increased from 18.0% in 2001 to 54.2% in 2011;
- Steve Tshwete increased from 31.6% in 2001 to 75.4% in 2011;
- Emakhazeni increased from 21.8% in 2001 to 55.5% in 2011.

The rural municipalities of Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka both experienced an increase in the total number of households utilizing water tankers as source of water. Thembisile Hani experienced a slight increase in the total number of households utilizing boreholes (from 21.4% in 2001 to 35.9% in 2011), while Dr JS Moroka experienced a decline in borehole usage, from 85.9% to 73.3%.

Diagram 10: Source of Water, 2011
PIPED WATER

Diagram 11 illustrates that Thembisile and Dr JS Moroka has the lowest number of households that have access to piped water inside their dwelling/institution (16.3% and 14.2% respectively) and the highest percentage of households with access to piped water within their yard (72.1% and 55.7% respectively). Compared with the other local municipalities, Dr JS Moroka has the highest number of households with no access to piped water (22.1%).

SANITATION

Diagram 12 (overleaf) indicates the sanitation profile of Nkangala. Within the NDM only 49.4% of households had access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system in 2011, with a significant number of households (32.7%) only having access to a pit latrine without ventilation.

The rural nature of Thembisile and Dr JS Moroka LMs is confirmed by their having the lowest number of households with access to a flush toilet connected to a sewerage system (6.9% and 13.3% respectively) and the highest number of households with access to a pit latrine without ventilation (65.3% and 56.8% respectively).
The 2011 energy profile for the District, as indicated in Diagram 13, indicates that most of the households within Nkangala (85.7%) had access to electricity as primary form of energy or fuel for lighting.
Emalahleni LM has the highest number of households that utilize candles (23.3%) as form of energy or fuel for lighting and Dr JS Moroka the lowest (2.8%).

Diagram 13: Energy or Fuel for Lighting, 2011

Diagram 14: Refuse Disposal, 2011

REFUSE REMOVAL

Refuse from approximately 48.6% of households within the Nkangala DM was removed by the local authority at least once a week (refer to Diagram 14) 40.1% of households utilized their own refuse dump.
Nkangala District Municipality

Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka LM have very poor refuse removal services, with the majority of households in both local municipalities utilizing their own refuse dump (77.0% and 75.3% respectively).

Of the local municipalities, Emakhazeni LM experienced the most significant increase in the number of households that have access to refuse removal by the local authority at least once a week.

4. FUNCTIONAL REGIONS: DEMARCATION AND ASSESSMENT

4.1. CONCEPT OF A FUNCTIONAL REGION

The Guidelines for Development of Rural Development Plans published by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform states that “The RDP should be focused on homogeneous functional areas identified according to factors such as unique environmental and climatic conditions, land ownership profile (communal land areas), and rural areas of high population concentration or unique settlement functions and spatial distribution”. Furthermore, the RDP is seen as a “regional spatial development framework”, and therefore the plan is not compiled for the entire district municipality, but rather for such functional regions within the district.

4.2. IDENTIFICATION AND DELINEATION OF THE NDM FUNCTIONAL REGIONS

In demarcating the functional areas within the Nkangala District Municipality, the following aspects were taken into account:

The Location of Pockets of Poverty

- The rural development plan aims to formulate a comprehensive plan of action for rural communities living in extreme poverty. It therefore makes sense to spatially identify where poor communities are located within the Nkangala District Municipality.
- In identifying the relevant poverty pockets within the Nkangala DM, the 2011 census sub places from StatsSA as well as the individual monthly income dataset was used to map income, thereby identifying poverty pockets. For the sake of simplicity, all sub-places with an average individual monthly income of less than R400 were categorised as below the “food poverty line” – indicated in red on Figure 21. All

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1 StatsSA's poverty lines are based on a cost-of-basic-needs approach, including both food and non-food items. The poverty lines are based on calculations which determine the minimum amount of money one needs to survive. Those who fall below the MLL lines are then considered as living in poverty. StatsSA uses the following three lines indicating poverty levels:
- Food poverty line (FPL) – Less than R400 p/m,
- Lower bound poverty line (LBPL) - Less than R544 p/i/m and
- Upper bound poverty line (UBPL) - Less than R753 p/i/m.

The FPL sets the rand value below which you can't purchase enough food to meet a minimum energy intake, about 2,100 kilo-calories a day. The next two categories take into account other needs. Those below the LBPL line don't have enough money to purchase both adequate food items and non-food items, so they have to sacrifice food to pay for things like transport and airtime. The UBPL group are still considered in poverty, but can generally purchase both food and non-food items.
communities with an income of below R800 were categorised as below the “relative poverty line” – the orange areas on the adjacent map. For the purposes of the RDP, R800 per person per month will be used as the Minimum Living Level.

- From the Situational Analysis and Poverty Pockets MLL Analysis it became evident that the largest uniform pockets of poverty in the Nkangala District are located in the Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka municipalities, primarily coinciding with the traditional authority areas. A significant poverty pocket is identified within the Emalahleni LM at Van Dyks Drift. In addition, there are several smaller clusters of poverty located in informal settlements in other parts of the District, but these are mostly around existing towns and mining villages.

**Topography and Hydrology**

- The unique topography of the Nkangala District defines the Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka as a separate area, as well as the far-eastern parts of Emakhzeni (Bambi) along the Drakensberg escarpment.
- The remainder central part of the NDM represents the Highveld area. See Figure 22.

**Climate**

- The climate of the area also differs in various parts of the District. The Dr JS Moroka and Tembisile Hani area as well as the northern parts of Emalahleni and Steve Tshwete are characterised by a typical Bushveld climate while the central and southern parts experience Highveld climate conditions with thunderstorms and lightning during summer and cold winters with frequent frost. The Lowveld part of Emakhzeni (Schoemanskloof) has a moderate climate with no winter frost, while the eastern escarpment frequently experience misty conditions.

**Homogenous Land Use and Key Economic Drivers.**

- As indicated in the situational analysis, certain land uses (which can be linked to key economic drivers) manifest spatially in different parts in the district and include the following (See Figure 23):
  - Trout farming is clustered in the central parts of the Emakhzeni municipality with some horticulture and fruit farming located along the escarpment.
  - Forestry activities can be found in a band running from the Dullstroom area in the north towards eNtokozweni and Emgwenya to the south and further southwards toward Chief Albert Luthuli.
  - Maize farming and livestock (cattle, sheep and poultry) are dominant in the central and southern (Highveld) parts of the NDM while game and cattle farming intensifies further northwards and towards Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka.
  - Extensive mining activity and electricity generation are located in the central-southern parts of the NDM – gradually expanding east- and westwards.
- Subsistence farming and small scale farming (livestock and crops) mainly occur in the north-western parts of the District.
- Tourism plays a very important role in this region. The NDM includes a number of game reserves, and towns such as Dullstroom, Emakhazeni and Emgwenya and are well known in South Africa as fly fishing, sports and adventure tourism destinations.

Identification of Functional Regions

Based on the above criteria and the information obtained from the Situational Analysis, a functional demarcation of the Nkangala District was determined as follow (refer to Figure 23):

- **Functional Region 1**: The Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani poverty pockets characterised by extensive subsistence farming and latent tourism potential. The bulk of the population resides in areas under the management of traditional authorities.
- **Functional Region 2**: The NDM Highveld area characterised by coal mining, electricity generation and maize and livestock farming. Game farming occurs in the northern parts.
- **Functional Region 3**: The eastern escarpment which holds extensive potential for forestry, tourism and limited fruit farming.

The next phase of the project was based on this demarcation. Each of the three Rural Functional Areas were analysed in greater detail in terms of resources available and potential Rural Intervention Areas were identified. This was done in close consultation with local stakeholders (including Traditional Leaders where relevant) which were consulted over a period of two months.

The detailed reports for each of the three Functional Regions are included in Annexure A, B and C of this report.

The following section (Chapter 5) comprises a district summary of information obtained and proposals formulated from the three Functional Region Reports.

5. **DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

5.1. **RURAL INTERVENTION AREAS**

Diagram 15 below illustrates the anticipated/ proposed CRDP workflow process as defined by Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Important to note from Diagram 15 is the fact that the District Rural Development Plan leads to the identification of wards/ farms for which Community Based Plans need to be compiled in future. Such planning process will bring about proposals pertaining to community/ social organisation and a Business Plan for the area comprising a number of projects earmarked for implementation.

Because of the scale of the Nkangala District the NDM Rural Development Plan did not identify specific wards/ farms for Community Based Plans. Instead, it identified a number of Rural Intervention Areas through a
process of consultation with communities from each of the three Rural Functional Areas as demarcated on Figure 23.

Diagram 15: Virtuous Cycle

Figure 24 shows the location and spatial extent of the twelve Rural Intervention Areas identified in the Nkangala District. These are briefly summarised as follow:

North-Western Region
- **RIA 1.1:** Representing the northern extents of the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality this area comprises a number of rural villages under traditional leadership. The main focus is subsistence farming.

- **RIA 1.2:** This area represents the functional tourism link between Rust der Winter in Limpopo, Dinokeng in Gauteng, and the Loskop Dam tourism precinct in Mpumalanga. It consists of four nature reserves located in Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani municipalities. These reserves have extensive tourism potential which is totally underutilised at present.

- **RIA 1.3:** This is an area with high potential agricultural land (crop and livestock) which is ideal for the establishment of emerging commercial farmers in the north-western rural parts of the District.

Highveld Region
- **RIA 2.1:** Represents rural areas surrounding Delmas Town (to the north and south-east). This is one of the most intensively utilised agricultural areas in Mpumalanga with a diversity of commodities produced and a wide range of associated agro industries established in/ around Delmas Town.

- **RIA 2.2:** It includes rural communities around Ga Nala/ Kriel town in the southern extents of Emalahleni Local Municipality. Agricultural activity in the area is intense but open cast coal mining pose a severe threat to sustainability of agricultural production in this area.

- **RIA 2.3:** This is a small rural cluster to the west of Witbank town and south of N4 freeway. It represents communities between Phola, Wilge and the new Kusile power station.

- **RIA 2.4:** Several rural communities are located along route R544 to the north-west of Witbank en-route to Verena which is located in Thembisile Hani LM.
Nkangala District Municipality

- **RIA 2.5**: This broadly refers to the Doornkop community located to the north of Middelburg town along route N11 towards Groblersdal. This intervention area could be extended eastwards to also include Kwamakalane and Mafube which represent two small rural communities in a high potential agricultural area in the north-eastern parts of Steve Tshwete municipality.

**Eastern Escarpment Region**
- **RIA 3.1**: This represents the existing Wonderfontein rural node and the surrounding communities which hold enormous potential for intensified agricultural activity. This area also borders onto the N4 development corridor.
- **RIA 3.2**: Represents rural communities in far-north-western parts of Emakhazeni LM with Stoffberg being the nodal point. The area is intensively cultivated – mainly maize and soya along the Spekboom river.
- **RIA 3.3**: Rural communities between Dullstroom and Tonteldoos, and Dullstroom and Mashishing form part of this intervention area. Historically, intensive fruit farming occurred in this area.
- **RIA 3.4**: This intervention area represents the rural communities in the south-eastern parts of Emakhazeni municipality which functionally links to rural communities in Chief Albert Luthuli municipality adjacent to the south (Manzana/Badplaas, Tjakastad, Elukwatini etc.). To the east it also includes all the rural communities between Emgwenya (Waterval Boven) and Ngodwana along route N4.

**Figure 25** shows that there are extensive Land Reform related initiatives currently underway in most of these proposed Rural Intervention Areas.

**Figure 26** illustrates the extent of mining license applications in the NDM area, and more specifically how it could potentially impact on the various Rural Intervention Areas identified.

It is evident that Rural Intervention Areas 2.2 (Ga Nala) and 2.3 (Wilge/Phola) will be severely impacted upon by mining. Even more concerning is the spatial extent of mining applications in Victor Khanye (RIA 2.1) and RIA 3.1 (Wonderfontein) which both represent significant agricultural potential in the Region.

Care needs to be taken that areas where government has invested on land reform and agriculture initiatives be protected from future mining activity and/or the approval of mining license applications.

According to **Figure 27** extensive agricultural activity/infrastructure exists in most of the intervention areas. Notable in this regard is the strong cluster around Delmas (RIA 2.1) and significant aquaculture (trout farming) and horticulture in RIA 3.3 and 3.4 in Emakhazeni. It is also important to note that the intensity and diversity of agricultural activity and infrastructure in RIA 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 in Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani municipalities are significantly lower than in other parts of the district.

**Figure 28** illustrates the respective Rural Intervention Areas in relation to the location of the proposed Farmer Production Support Units in the...
Nkangala District Municipality area. It seems that most of the Rural Intervention Areas are located in close proximity to one or more of the proposed Farmer Production Support Units. It should however be noted that around Stoffberg and Wonderfontein there is certainly potential to establish two more FPSU’s in order to serve the surrounding communities. Such facilities will also be able to serve the Kwamakalane and Mafube communities which are located midway between Middelburg, Doornkop, Stoffberg and Wonderfontein.

Similarly, as the Doornkop rural node develops over time it might be possible to also establish a FPSU in this area serving the northern extents of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

The establishment of an additional FPSU (feedlot) in RIA 2.4 on the border between Emalahleni and Thembisile Hani is also under consideration at present.

For the remaining part of the District the proposed location and distribution of FPSU’s seem to be in support of rural development in general.

Table 9 overleaf summarises the potential Value Chains for each of the Rural Intervention Areas in the respective functional areas of Nkangala District Municipality. There is significant potential in all of the Rural Intervention Areas to link onto a number of value chains and to ensure that local communities derive the optimum benefit from economic resources available within each of the areas.
### Table 9: Value Chains

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5.2. **RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY/ APPROACH**

Diagram 16 represents a proposed model/approach towards rural development in the Nkangala District, and more specifically the various Rural Intervention Areas identified in the preceding sections of the document.

A Rural Intervention Area can comprise of rural informal settlements, rural villages under traditional leadership and/or clusters of farm workers either displaced or working on farms in the area. The first important step towards enhancing rural development in the Rural Intervention Area is then to compile a Community Based Rural Precinct Plan for the area. This plan needs to be compiled in close consultation with all local stakeholders and beneficiaries, including relevant Traditional Leaders and the relevant municipal officials as all these parties need to take co-ownership of the plan once it is completed, and ensure development which is consistent with the proposals contained in the plan.

This approach will also ensure alignment and cooperation between the Traditional Leaders and the relevant Local Municipality.

It is important that such Rural Precinct Plan be compiled at an appropriate level of detail to ensure that there is clarity as to exactly what needs to happen on each cadastral entity in the area.

In cases where Land Reform initiatives are underway in such area, special attention also needs to be paid to the way in which beneficiaries are to be accommodated/incorporated into the area. Beneficiaries may be individuals e.g. emerging commercial farmers having been allocated land to farm on, or it may be larger communities that need to be established in a sustainable manner.

In the case of individual farmers, the Rural Precinct Plan needs to indicate how/where these farmers will fit into the broader area and how their farming activities can/should be aligned with surrounding, well established commercial farmers.

Diagram 17 is an example of the level of detail to be indicated on such plan with emerging farmers being integrated seamlessly with existing commercial farmers and activities surrounding. Such approach immediately provides the emerging farmer the best possible chance of being successful – especially if he is supported with advice etc. from surrounding commercial farmers.

In cases where beneficiaries comprise larger communities that need to be established in a specific area, two different approaches could be considered:

**Option 1:** The land available to the community is evenly distributed among all the beneficiaries, or
Option 2: The beneficiary/community utilises a small portion of the land for residential purposes (rural or agri village) and the remainder of the land is collectively utilised for production purposes.
Diagram 16: Comprehensive Rural Development Model

**Diagram Description:**

- **Comprehensive Rural Development Model**
  - **Farm Workers**
  - **Rural Villages**
  - **Rural Informal Settlements**
  - **Land Reform Areas**
    - Land Tenure
    - Redistribution
    - Restitution
    - Strategic Land Reform
  - **Rural Intervention Areas**
    - **Communities**
      - Rural Villages
      - Agri Villages
      - CPA’s
      - Emerging Farmers
      - tHh / 1Ha
    - **Individuals**
  - **Inter Governmental Alignment / Targeted Investment**
  - **Sustainable Human Settlement**
    - Housing
    - Public Amenities
    - Education / Health / Welfare
    - Service Delivery Points
    - Local Economic Development
  - **Engineering Infrastructure**
    - Water
    - Electricity
    - Roads
    - Sanitation
    - ICT
  - **Resource Based Economic Activity**
    - Agriculture *
    - (Agro) Industry *
    - Forestry *
    - Tourism
    - Mining
  - **Economic Infrastructure: Production / Storage / Processing**
    - **Education and Skills Development** *
    - **Advisory Support / Mentorship** *
    - **Financial Management Support** *
  - **Organised Business**
    - Mining
    - Forestry
    - Industry
    - Tourism
  - **Mainstream Rural and Urban Economy**

* Agri Park Elements
Diagram 17: Emerging Farmers Establishment and Seamless Alignment with Commercial Farmers

Diagram 18 graphically illustrates the Option 1 approach where a farm of 500 ha is equally divided among 100 beneficiaries with each beneficiary receiving a 5 ha plot. The 5 ha plot can only carry 1 head of cattle (cow) or 6 head of sheep, or vegetable garden/crop field of 5 ha. Hence, none of these individuals will be able to make a proper living of the 5 ha of land as the annual yield from such a small pocket is very limited and will seldomly improve their livelihood beyond subsistence.

Furthermore, infrastructure cost of such model is very high as fencing required for example would total about 40.5 kilometre. Similarly, piped water and road access to each plot would also be very costly.

Diagram 18: Rural Plots Concept

The second approach (Diagram 19) would be to reduce the size of plots and cluster the residential units into 100 x 2000m² erven in one central location (the agri village concept) with the remaining part of the land being made available for extensive communal farming.
This approach makes available approximately 447 ha of land for farming activity which is now suitable to sustain 100 head of cattle, 40 head of sheep, 15 ha of vegetables gardens and 6.7 ha for animal enclosures and animal handling facilities – which is much more sustainable.

Furthermore, the cluster approach makes the provision of engineering infrastructure much more affordable, and the “critical mass” created by clustering the houses and facilities at a nodal point can also act as catalyst to Local Economic Development.

Rural Development Plan
Note: It should be noted that the above concepts are based on the assumption that it is a greenfield environment and communities are established on the land in a structured manner.

In cases where communities are already established on the land (brownfields), the current settlements structure needs to be assessed in terms of suitability. If necessary, the existing settlement structure can then be adjusted over time by way of structured infill development and densification, or selective relocation of certain households in order to achieve the desired spatial pattern.

The status quo will, however, determine the approach to be followed and should be done in close consultation with local stakeholders (including the relevant Traditional Leaders).

As shown on Diagram 16 this provides the platform for inter-governmental alignment and associated targeted investment by various government departments in pursuance of facilitating and enhancing rural development in the Rural Focus Areas.

The demarcation of Rural Intervention Areas provide spatial focus in terms of where resources should be directed to. The Community Based Rural Precinct Plan defines the detail in terms of what needs to happen in each of these areas, and who the responsible stakeholders are.

Diagram 16 next indicates that development in Rural Intervention Areas should focus on three main objectives:

- The establishment of sustainable human settlements in rural areas through investment in social infrastructure;
- The provision of engineering infrastructure/services to meet the basic needs of communities/residents and to unlock the economic development potential of rural areas; and
- The optimum utilisation of economic potential of the area based on local resources available.

As far as sustainable human settlement is concerned the provision of proper housing and public amenities/community facilities like schools, clinics, police stations, libraries etc. is paramount. These need to be clustered in line with the national Thusong Centre concept which could act as catalyst to local economic development.

Over time this settlement should develop into a functional Rural Node in the context of the broader District nodal hierarchy, serving the basic needs of surrounding rural communities.

Engineering infrastructure is firstly required to meet the basic domestic needs of residents in the settlement. Secondly, engineering infrastructure should unlock the economic development potential of the rural area which is key to the long term sustainability of the area.
The next objective is to ensure that all economic potential related to agriculture, industry, forestry, tourism or mining is identified and a strategy be devised to optimise the benefits to be derived from these for the community. Amongst others, the strategy needs to address the following:

- Provision of sufficient economic infrastructure to facilitate production, storage and processing of commodities relevant to the area.
- Education and skills development, advisory support and mentorship, as well as financial management support to local stakeholders.
- To ensure that markets are locally available and accessible: Urban Rural Market Centres/ FPSU’s etc.

Apart from government involvement in the above three aspects, the private sector, including commercial farmers and/ or organised business (mining, forestry, industrial and tourism companies etc.) could also play a significant support role to the emerging entrepreneurs in Rural Intervention Areas.

Through successful implementation of the above approach a sustainable livelihood is ensured to all communities in Rural Intervention Areas and they become part of the mainstream rural and urban economy of the region.

**Table 10** below summarises the minimum scope of work and methodology proposed for the compilation of a Community Based Rural Precinct Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 10: Proposed Scope and Methodology: Community Based Rural Precinct Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Confirm primary and secondary study area</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Compile cadastral base map</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Confirm legal status and land use rights on all properties in primary study area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Determine Development Vision of Stakeholders/ Beneficiaries - Spatial: Land Use Distribution, Infrastructure etc. - Institutional: Internal Organisational Structure and Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Analyse spatial structure and land use composition of study area</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Identify all resources available: Natural/ Man made</td>
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<td>7. Define development opportunities/ constraints - Legal - Social - Institutional - Physical - Economic</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Compare development opportunities/ constraints to stakeholder Development Vision (alignment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Formulate alternative Development Concepts/ Scenarios</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Community Select preferred Development Concept/ Scenario</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Compile Development Framework/Map (Precinct Plan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Formulate Development Strategy</td>
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<td>13. Compile Implementation Programme/ Business Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Community Approval (Including Traditional Leaders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. Municipal Approval of Rural Precinct Plan in terms of SPLUMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Incorporate into Municipal IDP and Budgeting Process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is a summary of issues/ features to be considered and/ or addressed as part of the more detailed planning for each of the respective Rural Intervention Areas. Issues that could be addressed as an ad hoc project are marked in bold with an asterisk (*).
### SUMMARY: FUNCTIONAL REGION FEATURES/ ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

#### Functional Region 1: Rural North-West

**Agriculture**

- Distinguish between the three functional agricultural areas and establish emerging commercial crop farmers in the precinct south of Moloto Road. The central (livestock) and northern (subsistence) farming areas will comprise various forms of communal farming as these areas are under Traditional Leadership.

- Optimally utilise downstream agro processing opportunities associated with the dominant value chains in the area and which could include the following: maize, vegetable, cotton, beef, feedlot, port, poultry, tourism.

- *Formulate a regional water harvesting strategy and associated capacity building programme. Provide associated infrastructure required towards implementation.*

- *Refurbish the existing maize mill at Sybrandskraal close to Moloto and bakery facilities in Verena (Lekuntu), and Kwaggafontein (Lukuniti).*

- *Investigate the possibility of establishing an auction facility in both local municipalities (Thembisile Hani LM and Dr JS Moroka LM), and the potential for associated feedlots in the central intervention area (RIA 2).*

- *Refurbish the abattoir facilities in KwaMhlanga and Leeuwfontein.*

- *Establish functional linkages with Pienaarsrivier, Settlers, Marble Hall and Groblersdal farming communities in Limpopo Province.*

- *Development of Kameelrivier Agri-hub to support the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market and associated Agri-Parks (MEGA)*

- *Investigate the possibility of re-opening the Marapyane Agricultural College.*

#### Tourism

- Establish and brand a continuous tourism-route between the Dinokeng Nature Reserve and the Loskop Dam Nature Reserves.

- Investment in infrastructure: Zithabiseni Game Lodge and Conference Centre should be prioritised for renovations as an instrument for unlocking business tourism and leisure tourism.

- Diversification of wildlife: Currently the belt consist of three of the big five animals. The Belt should diversify its product offering by providing alternative to up-market as well as budget travellers.

- Overcoming land claims: A co-Management Agreement model should be pursued in the light of multiple land claims on the belt.

- Destination Marketing: The branding and marketing of the destination is essential to the success of the Tourism Belt.

- Consolidating the operations of the belt into a joint effort: The five facilities along the belt must coordinate their activities into one well-coordinated operational structure. Each facility will specialise in unique tourism services which will ensure that visitors can extract maximum value from visiting the belt. This eliminates competition among the facilities which amounts to a “race to the bottom”.

- The broad tourism development concept for the two reserves revolves around concentrating high impact, high volume facilities in the more accessible areas of the reserves, near the dam wall on the MKNR, near the Main Gate on the MDNR, and near the Mkholwane Gate on the MDNR.


- *A beading and sewing workshop to be established for the...*
The community of KwaMhlanga. The workshop could be linked to tourism areas or alternatively informal trading structures could be erected at strategic points.
### Functional Region 2: Highveld North

**General**

- * Review the Doornkop Development Framework and Business Plan in view of broader Rural Intervention Area 2.5
- Consider establishment of additional FPSU's at Rural Intervention Areas 2.4 and 2.5
- * Determine if additional rural nodes/ agri-villages are to be developed in Kwamakalane and Mafube
- Determine ways and means for Rural Intervention Areas 2.4 and 2.5 to be incorporated into District Tourism Belt
- Optimally utilise downstream agro processing opportunities associated with the dominant value chains in each of the five areas and which include the following: Maize, beef, feedlot, port, poultry, fruit and citrus (Delmas, Witbank, Middelburg)
- Production infrastructure in the Intervention Areas
- Tourism and Mining Value Chains could also be considered in northern and southern Rural Intervention Areas respectively

### Rural Intervention Area 1: Wonderfontein

- * Establishment of Agri-Village for beneficiaries at Wonderfontein
- Wonderfontein to become Farmer Production Support Unit – also serving Mafube and Kwamakalane in the Steve Tshwete area to the west
- * Establish more agro-processing facilities e.g. mill, abattoir in Wonderfontein
- * Consider trout farming and tourism for communities south of N4
- * Strengthening of cherry farming in the Wonderfontein area

### Rural Intervention Area 2: Stoffberg

- * Establishment of an Agri-Village for beneficiary communities at Stoffberg
- Stoffberg to become Farmer Production Support Unit
- * Possible establishment of biofuel plant based on soya bean production on farms south of Stoffberg

### Rural Intervention Area 3:

- Promote Fruit Farming: Peaches, cherries, apples, blueberries
- * Dried fruit industry to be re-established around Dullstroom
- Promote tourism along secondary routes toward Tonteldoos etc.
- Forestry and associated mushroom farming in Komatiland Forest

### Rural Intervention Area 4:

- * Establish new rural node along route R541 to serve local communities (Agri-Village?) to link with communities at Badplaas in Chief Albert Luthuli
- Main focus: Livestock, tourism, trout farming, forestry, mushrooms
- Strengthen horticulture along N4 towards Ngodwana to benefit local rural communities
- * Possible Project
5.3. **DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The following is a list of actions, initiatives and projects to be implemented as part of the Nkangala District Rural Development Plan.

**Action 1: Approval and integration of RDP into District and Local SDFs**

The Nkangala District Rural Development Plan needs to be adopted by the Nkangala District Municipality whereafter it needs to be incorporated and refined as the rural component of the District and Local Municipality Spatial Development Frameworks.

The periodic review and update of municipal Spatial Development Frameworks provide an ideal opportunity for refinement of proposals for the respective Rural Intervention Areas identified in each of the local municipalities.

The municipalities could also take the lead in commissioning the compilation of even more detailed Precinct Plans for the individual Rural Intervention Plans as contemplated in section 21(l)(i) of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act. (It is fairly common practice for municipalities to identify special precincts for detailed plans to be compiled as part of their municipal SDFs.)

In this manner the municipality would take co-ownership of these rural areas and all projects and proposals emanating from these Rural Precinct Plans would be incorporated into the Municipal SDF from where it feeds into the municipal Integrated Development Plan and the Budgeting Process of the municipality. From the Municipal IDP projects can also feed into the budgeting processes of relevant provincial and national departments.

The Steering Committee for such Rural Precinct Plans could also comprise representatives from relevant provincial and national departments as part of a holistic approach.

**Diagram 21:**

[Diagram showing the integration of rural development plans into municipal and national budgets]
The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform could also fund some of these Precinct Plans for Rural Intervention Areas subject to the condition that these plans be incorporated into the municipal SDF during the annual IDP Review process.

The very nature of SDF and IDP processes require extensive consultation with local stakeholders, traditional leaders etc. and obtaining their contribution, buy-in and approval of such priority to Council Approval. This makes it an ideal way of creating credible Community Based Precinct Plans which will be supported by all stakeholders during the Implementation Phase.

**Action 2: Institutional Arrangements: Planning and Implementation**

It is imperative that government takes the lead in managing the continuous planning and implementation of projects in the respective Functional Regions and/ or Rural Intervention Areas identified in the Nkangala District Municipality as depicted on **Diagram 22**. Municipalities contribute to, and facilitate rural development but it is not a primary function of the third tier of government. Hence, the management and coordination function should be performed by provincial government, and more specifically the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

**Diagram 23** graphically illustrates the proposed institutional arrangements towards the implementation of the NDM Rural Development Plan in the respective Rural Intervention Areas identified.

It is proposed that a DRDLR Advisory Committee (headed by the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management (SPLUM) unit of the Department), be established to facilitate this process and lead the way.
Representatives from all relevant national and provincial government departments (regional offices) as well as district and local municipalities, public, private and parastatal stakeholders and local communities will serve on this committee – providing inputs on issues/ problems, proposals and projects/ initiatives to be implemented. Line functions to be included on such committee includes Rural Development, Land Reform, Agriculture, Human Settlement, Roads and Transport, Infrastructure, Health, Education, Safety and Security, Welfare, LED and Tourism.

Similarly, the other three units within the DRDLR will sit on this Advisory Committee i.e. Land Reform and Administration (LRA); Rural Enterprise and Industrial Development (REID); and Rural Infrastructure Development (RID).

This Advisory Committee will perform the following functions:

- Regular engagement with the relevant stakeholders (public and private) as well as Traditional Leaders. Private stakeholders could include commercial farmers, farmers’ associations, forestry companies, agro-industries etc.;
- Facilitating the inclusion of NDM RDP objectives, concepts and proposals in plans that have an impact on rural development in the district i.e. the District and Local SDFs, Precinct Plans and Integrated Development Plans;
- Aligning proposed plans, strategies and budget allocations in the DRDLR with those of other sector departments in different spheres of government;
- Populating and regularly updating the departmental GIS-database with all relevant information, notably around projects and programmes planned and completed in the respective Rural Intervention Areas;
- Managing the compilation of a Community Based Precinct Plan for each of the identified Rural Intervention Areas (in conjunction with District/ Local Municipalities);
- Overseeing the implementation, monitoring and review of projects/ strategies/ plans in each of the areas.
Action 3: Land Conservation and Reform

One of the key requirements to sustainable rural development in the Nkangala District is the protection and conservation of high potential agricultural land. From the situational analysis in this report it became evident that the continuous encroachment of mining activities on high potential agricultural land poses a serious threat to long term food security and the empowerment of rural communities through agriculture.

Legal processes pertaining to the issuing of mining/ exploration licenses is a serious concern not only in the Nkangala District, but the entire Mpumalanga Province. Municipalities complain that local Spatial Development Frameworks are not considered in the evaluation of such applications, while conservation and agricultural authorities claim that environmentally sensitive areas and high potential agricultural land are also not sufficiently protected from expanding mining activity.

This matter needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency at provincial level and involving all relevant stakeholders e.g. Department of Mineral Resources, DARDLEA, COGTA, Human Settlement and Mpumalanga Parks and Tourism Agency.

It is suggested that COGTA arrange a Land and Mining Indaba for Mpumalanga Province with the primary aim to formulate an inclusive, participative and transparent policy and procedure towards the assessment and approval of mining licenses in the province.

Action 4: Fast Tracking Land Reform in Rural Intervention Areas

Apart from conserving and preserving all high potential agricultural land in the province (especially land located on underground water sources and/or land under irrigation), a special effort should also be made towards fast-tracking processes giving people access to land as a resource/ means towards a sustainable livelihood.

Hence, all Land Reform initiatives located within Rural Intervention Areas should be prioritised in terms of settlement.

Action 5: Skills Training and Mentorship

Apart from programmes generally aimed at providing technical equipment and infrastructure, stakeholders in the Nkangala District highlighted specific needs towards more programmes aimed at the following:

- Training and Skills Development specific to the most suitable commodities in each RIA;
- Continuous Mentorship and Advice on Production, Harvesting and Marketing;
- Skills Development on Maintenance of Equipment;

Rural Development Plan
Action 6: Implementation/ Finalisation of Projects

The following is a list of projects identified and/or underway in each of the three Functional Regions in the NDM. Where possible, the projects were spatially plotted (based on farm names) on maps indicating the land claims areas in the NDM (refer to Figure 29 for Functional Region 1, Figure 30 for Functional Region 2 and Figure 31 for Functional Region 3).

The projects as contained in the tables are listed under the following headings (based on information received from various stakeholder departments):

1. **Land Acquisition**
   - 1.1 Land Acquisition Recently Acquired (February 2017)
   - 1.2 Pro Active Land Acquisition (PLAS): DARDLEA
   - 1.3 Pro Active Land Acquisition (PLAS): DRDLR

2. **Recap and Development Programme (RADP)**
   - 2.1 Recap and Development Programme (RADP): DARDLEA
   - 2.2 Recap and Development Programme (RADP): DRDLR

3. **Rural Enterprise Infrastructure Development (REID)**
   - 3.1 Rural Enterprise Infrastructure Development (REID): DARDLEA
   - 3.2 Rural Enterprise Infrastructure Development (REID): DRDLR

4. **Rural Infrastructure Development (RID)**
   - 4.1 Rural Infrastructure Development (RID): February 2017/DARDLEA
   - 4.2 Rural Infrastructure Development (RID): February 2017/DRDLR
   - 4.3 Rural Infrastructure Development (RID): DARDLEA/DRDLR
   - 4.4 Rural Infrastructure Development (RID): DARDLEA
   - 4.5 Rural Infrastructure Development (RID): DRDLR

5. **Masibulele Emasimine**

6. **Fortune Forty**

7. **1 Ha/ 1 Household**

8. **Agri Parks/ Agri Hubs**

9. **Land Claims**
   - 9.1 Commissioners Revised Version
   - 9.2 RLCC Claims (MP)

10. **Infrastructure Projects**
    - 10.1 Education Capital Projects
    - 10.2 Health Infrastructure
    - 10.3 Culture, Sport and Recreation Infrastructure
    - 10.4 Education Infrastructure