

7. AGGREGATE PRIORITIES AND IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF PRIORITY ISSUES

Two (2) workshop sessions were held with the Representative Forum, where the findings of the Situational Analysis were discussed. The IDP Challenges, Key Priorities and Needs Identification are forthcoming from the Situational Analysis and these workshops.

7.1 SUMMARY OF MUNICIPALITY-WIDE PRIORITY ISSUES

The following key issues were identified per sector in terms of a SWOT Analysis (**S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats):

7.1.1 INSTITUTIONAL SECTOR

- ☞☞ Strong financial situation of the uMhlatuze Municipality.
- ☞☞ Strong human resource and skills base of the Municipality.
- ☞☞ Opportunity to extend and improve service delivery in the urban and rural areas.
- ☞☞ Strong overall institutional capacity in the municipality, although with the need for augmenting financial and human resources, equipment, information technology and productivity.
- ☞☞ Weak performance management and monitoring systems.
- ☞☞ Threat posed to revenue base by the potential loss of critical powers and functions, such as the provision of basic services, to the District Municipality.
- ☞☞ Opportunity to promote the status of the City of uMhlatuze as a metropolitan area.
- ☞☞ Weak definition of roles and responsibilities of the traditional leaders vs. the Municipality and weak co-operation between these authorities.

7.1.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC SECTOR

- ☞☞ Weakness in terms of lack of clarity and agreement on the actual population figure for the area with significant discrepancies between the census figures and the municipality's own figures.
- ☞☞ Weakness in terms of high levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas, in spite of the high employment levels and high Gross Geographic Product produced in the area.
- ☞☞ Threat posed by the severe impact of HIV/AIDS on the population and specifically economically active component of the population.
- ☞☞ Weakness in terms of low levels of socio-economic development in the rural areas, particularly in terms of literacy, education, primary health, early childhood development as well as adult basic education and training.

7.1.3 ENGINEERING INFRASTRUCTURE

- ☞☞ Threat of diseases and environmental problems posed by water and sanitation backlogs in the rural areas.
- ☞☞ Strength in terms of current high levels of engineering infrastructure in urban areas and high levels of access to basic services in urban areas.

- ☞☞ Weak basic services infrastructure in rural areas and informal settlements around urban areas with poor access to services.
- ☞☞ Threat posed to the capacity of infrastructure services by increasing residential densities in informal settlements around existing urban areas.
- ☞☞ Threat posed by the potential loss of powers and functions to the District Municipality.
- ☞☞ The persistent high need for affordable housing is indicative of weak affordability levels on the demand side and a weakness in the provision of affordable housing on the supply side.

7.1.4 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- ☞☞ Threat to the capacity of existing social services in Ngwelezane, Nseleni and Esikhawini posed by the increasing densification of rural settlements around these areas.
- ☞☞ Weakness posed by social service backlogs, particularly in rural areas.
- ☞☞ Opportunity for social development, by provision of additional facilities accessible to rural communities.
- ☞☞ Weak communication and cooperation systems between provincial departments and district/local municipalities, due to the fact that provincial service districts and regions do not correspond with local municipality boundaries.
- ☞☞ Weakness in the safety net due to the lack of shelters/places of safety for people in distress and permanent accommodation for orphans.
- ☞☞ Opportunity of providing Multi Purpose Community Centres in the densely populated rural areas, to provide people with crucial social services required on a frequent basis.
- ☞☞ Weakness due to the lack of sport and recreational facilities in the marginalized townships and rural areas to meet basic requirements.
- ☞☞ Opportunity to stimulate economic development through incentives such as the Industrial Development Zone, tourism projects and local economic development.

7.1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

☞☞ The Atmosphere

- ☞☞ Opportunity to locate future industry with low or no air pollution potential as a “buffer” between heavy industry and sensitive areas to protect sensitive areas.
- ☞☞ Opportunity to accommodate all industry types in Empangeni.
- ☞☞ Threat posed by fluoride emissions - unlikely that Richards Bay will cope with additional fluoride emissions.
- ☞☞ Weakness due to lack of information - health study required to understand the impacts of current air pollution on human health.

☞☞ Land

- ☞☞ Weakness - soil stability may limit sustainable development in parts of the area. The interior is more suitable for development.
- ☞☞ Opportunity as varied topography increases aesthetic appeal and provides opportunities for well-planned open space system. Rivers and streams aid open space planning.

Water Resources

- ✍✍ The use of inland lakes is becoming increasingly multi-purpose and can become threatened.
- ✍✍ Threats as surface water resources are limited.
- ✍✍ Threat - the impact of catastrophic events e.g. droughts and floods affect the sustainable supply of water.
- ✍✍ Weakness - borehole yields and borehole water quality place a limitation on groundwater resource usability.
- ✍✍ Opportunity - legal issues will have a major impact on the way industrial pollution is controlled and managed in the area.

Biodiversity

- ✍✍ Transformation of the terrestrial environment by development poses a threat.
- ✍✍ Alien plant invasion is a serious problem and poses a threat to the natural environment.
- ✍✍ Weakness - riparian vegetation has been impacted by cultivation right up to the stream banks.
- ✍✍ Opportunity of maintaining wetlands for conservation and biodiversity.
- ✍✍ Opportunity to encourage the use of indigenous vegetation for landscaping.

Waste Management

- ✍✍ Potential threat of waste disposal sites to pollute ground and surface water.
- ✍✍ Weakness as there is inadequate disposal capacity.
- ✍✍ Weakness – lack of a regional hazardous waste disposal site.
- ✍✍ Opportunity to upgrade existing facilities.
- ✍✍ Opportunity to establish new sites.
- ✍✍ Weaknesses and threats posed by maintaining the status quo.
- ✍✍ Opportunity for a full life cycle analysis, instituting recycling, re-use and reduction measures.
- ✍✍ Hierarchy of waste management.
- ✍✍ Weakness - need for H:h landfill.
- ✍✍ Threat posed by marine pipelines.

7.1.6 PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- ✍✍ Threat posed by the increasing population densities around Ngwelezane, Esikhawini and Nseleni.
- ✍✍ Weaknesses and threats due to poor living standards in rural areas, particularly in areas with high population concentrations.
- ✍✍ The poor nodal hierarchy in the City of uMhlathuze is a weakness.
- ✍✍ The opportunity exists to extend the MOSS to the entire City of uMhlathuze area to protect natural resources.
- ✍✍ Weakness due to lack of consistency in policies, strategies, by-laws and land use management procedures in the region.

- ✍✍ Opportunity for land reform.
- ✍✍ Threats posed by land claims and long time frame involved in settling these issues.
- ✍✍ Opportunities inherent to specific development initiatives, particularly the Industrial Development Zone and tourism projects.

7.2 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY-SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

The following needs were identified in terms of the IDP challenges:

IDP CHALLENGE 1: Community upliftment and empowerment of rural areas.	IDP CHALLENGE 2: Economic development and attraction of investment.
Settlement patterns and particularly the physical segregation of areas should be improved to make the area more economically viable.	Spin-offs from service delivery and development should be promoted.
Transportation in the region should be improved. Alternative transportation should be considered for the rural areas, such as the use of bicycles and more appropriate standards for the rural areas.	Input from the primary industry should be optimised – use local resources.
Optimal use of the rail system for public transport and cargo transport.	Attract investors on service sector side. Optimise positive attributes and retain an attractive environment.
Stimulating development in all settlements in the area.	A balance between hard and soft environments and open spaces should be created.
Water provision to farms and rural areas.	The port and other infrastructure should be optimally used.
Provision of agricultural centres.	Safety and security are essential to attract investment – a metropolitan police force was suggested.
	Economic spin-offs should also create social benefits.
	Opportunities associated with the coastal environment, lakes and natural features should be explored.
	Entrepreneurship should be encouraged among children.
	The opportunities and socio-economic benefits associated with sport and recreation should be explored.
	The threat of drugs and abusive substances should be addressed by appropriate structure.
	Continue to attract industrial investors.
	Facilities that attract people should be promoted, such as educational facilities to attract students.
IDP CHALLENGE 3: Maintenance of development standards in urban areas.	
Security in all its facets should be addressed – crime, tenure and personal.	The unique cultures in the area should be valued and encouraged to grow and develop.
A balance should be maintained at metropolitan level, while diversity is essential.	Public private cooperation is essential to achieve synergy.

A dedicated environmental management unit should be established in the municipality.	Implementation of by-laws and law enforcement is essential.
The focus should first be on improving the infrastructure in the city, then on replacing and then on upgrading.	Good inter-governmental relations should be encouraged.
Maintenance of green areas and vacant land is essential to combat crime. The MOSS should be protected.	The municipality requires skilled and motivated personnel to fulfil its function.
Fresh water lakes are an asset and should be protected.	Maintenance and upgrading of the beach is essential for tourism and recreation.
Provincial authorities should be encouraged to ensure that the standards of health and education facilities are maintained and approved.	Improving the quality of fresh water systems is very important, particularly with all the industries in the area.
Tertiary education facilities should be encouraged to locate in the city.	

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7.3 KEY PRIORITIES

The overall IDP Challenge and Key Issues can be stated as follows:

From the population profile and differentiations analysis it is clear that the communities residing in the rural areas have a lower income and are more severely affected by aspects such as poverty, than the urban community. Community upliftment and empowerment programmes should therefore be focused on the rural areas. Economic development, attraction of investment and maintenance of development standards in the urban areas are however essential to ensure the overall growth and development of the City of uMhlathuze.

The following fundamentals for development were identified and confirmed through public involvement:

- ☞ Recognise Empangeni and Richards Bay as the urban core of the City of uMhlathuze with a clear settlement hierarchy:
 - ☞ Regional Service Centre – Empangeni & Richards Bay;
 - ☞ Emerging Urban Settlements – Khoza and Madlebe;
 - ☞ Rural Settlements.
- ☞ Protect and promote public and private investment.
- ☞ Preserve and protect natural resources and sensitive environmental areas.
- ☞ Support the socio-economic growth and development of Empangeni and Richards Bay to the benefit of the entire City of uMhlathuze.
- ☞ Promote physical, social and economic integration within the City of uMhlathuze.
- ☞ Consistency in policies, strategies, land use management and by-laws.

7.4 ANALYSIS – NATURE OF PROBLEMS, CAUSE, IMPACT, CONTEXTS, DYNAMICS, PROBLEM-SOLVING POTENTIAL AND INITIATIVES

The City of uMhlathuze has a number of pertinent problems, mainly poverty and spatial distortion, which can be attributed to the legacy of apartheid and overall socio-economic conditions in the country. It has the potential, ability and necessary development impetus to address these problems through the upgrading of

infrastructure, provision of social facilities and attraction of investment. It is however essential to maintain the current healthy financial status of the Municipality to ensure that the critical issues are addressed. Resource opportunities and constraints have been identified, which should be used as a reference framework in considering new development and in attraction of investment.

8. SYNTHESIS

This report provides the Situational Analysis, which forms the first phase of the IDP. From the Situational Analysis and public participation process, key issues will be determined, leading to the formulation of objectives, strategies and project identification. This will be dealt with in terms of a separate report.