PHASE 2: POLICY CONTEXT AND VISION DIRECTIVES REPORT

Review of the Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) for Dipaleseng Local Municipality within a Period of 12 Months

30 May 2019
Restrictions

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Contents

1 Introduction .............................................................................. 4  

1.1 Purpose of the Dipaleseng Spatial Development Framework Review 4  

1.2 Introduction to Dipaleseng Local Municipality ......................... 5  

2 The South Africa Legislative Context ........................................ 8  

2.1 South African Constitution .................................................... 8  

2.2 Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) ....... 9  

3 National Spatial Plans, Policies and Directives ............................. 11  

3.1 National Development Plan 2030 ........................................... 11  


3.3 Medium Term Strategic Framework ..................................... 15  

3.4 National Infrastructure Plan ................................................. 16  

3.5 Industrial Policy Action Plan ............................................... 17  

3.6 The Regional Industrial Development Strategy ....................... 18  

3.7 Agricultural Policy Action Plan .......................................... 22  

3.8 National Transport Master Plan (NATMAP), 2050 ................... 22  

3.9 Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) .................. 23  

3.10 National Strategy of Sustainable Development ..................... 24  


4 Provincial Spatial Plans, Policies and Directives ........................... 26  

4.1 Mpumalanga Vision, 2030 ................................................... 26  

4.2 Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path, 2011 (MEGDP) ................................................................. 30  

4.3 Mpumalanga Spatial Development Framework, Draft (2019) ....... 31  

4.4 Mpumalanga Infrastructure Master Plan ................................ 36  

4.5 Mpumalanga Sustainable Human Settlement Master Plan, (2013) ... 36  


4.7 Provincial Comprehensive Rural Development Programme .......... 40  

4.8 Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, (2014) ...................... 41  

4.9 Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan ............................. 43  

5 District Spatial Plans, Policies and Directives ................................ 45  

5.1 Gert Sibande Spatial Development Framework (GS SDF), 2010 .... 45  

5.2 Gert Sibande Integrated Development Plan (GS IDP) ............... 46
5.3 Gert Sibande Rural Development Plan (GS RDP) ...................... 47
5.4 Gert Sibande District Municipality Integrated Transport Plan, 2014 (Review) ............................................................ 48
5.5 Gert Sibande Local Economic Development Strategy, 2014 ........ 49

6 LOCAL SPATIAL PLANS, POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES .............. 51

6.1 Dipaleseng Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan (DLM IDP) 51
6.2 Dipaleseng Local Municipality Spatial Development Framework .... 52
6.3 Dipaleseng Local Economic Development Strategy, 2011 .......... 53

7 DRAFT SPATIAL VISION AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES .......... 55

7.1 Development Objectives .................................................. 55
7.2 Spatial Goals ................................................................. 55
7.3 DRAFT SPATIAL VISION .................................................. 55
7.4 SPATIAL VISION ............................................................. 56

List of Figures

Figure 1: The NDPs Proposed National Schema for Spatial Targeting ....13
Figure 2 Five frames to achieve our desired future spatial pattern .........14
Figure 3: RIDS Core Regions and Spatial Economic Linkages ............ 20
Figure 4: RIDS Specific Districts with Significant Inherent Economic Potential ... 21
Figure 5: Core Elements of the IUDF (Source: Integrated Urban Development Framework) ................................................................. 24
Figure 6: Organising structure of the MP Vision 2030 .......................... 27
Figure 7: Human Settlement Priority Nodal Areas .......................... 38
Figure 8: Consolidated Housing Programme .................................. 38

List of Maps

Map 1: Dipaleseng LM Overview ............................................. 6
Map 2: District Municipality Overview of Dipaleseng .......................... 7
Map 3: Mpumalanga Provincial Spatial Development Framework 1 ....... 34
Map 4: Mpumalanga Provincial Spatial Development Framework 2 ....... 35
Map 5: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan .................................. 42
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Dipaleseng Spatial Development Framework Review

An SDF is a document that promotes a pragmatic approach to future developmental opportunities and challenges. Which is guided by a realistic set of goals that will be contextualised in a broader understanding of the vision for the Dipaleseng Local Municipality (DLM).

The DLM is reviewing the existing municipal spatial development framework (MSDF) in order to compile a credible updated Municipal SDF aligned with the provisions set out in the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA). The objectives of SPLUMA are to develop a Municipal Spatial Development Framework that:

- provide spatial goals and supporting policies to achieve positive changes in the spatial organization of Municipal areas to better ensure a sustainable development future;
- promote the sound planning principles according to the relevant legislation;
- promote the general well-being of its inhabitants, thereby ensuring that the most effective and orderly planning is achieved for an area whereby changes, needs and growth in the area can be managed to the benefit of its inhabitants;
- provide direction for strategic developments, infrastructure investments, taking cognizance of environmental management mechanisms; and
- Represent the municipal spatial development vision statement through integration and implementation of all relevant sector policies and plans.

The Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) shall serve the purpose of; spatial justice, spatial sustainability, efficiency, spatial resilience and good administration. The MSDF should also serve the purpose of integrating necessary functionalities and linkages within local government, delivering a multitude of services linked to an integrated development approach in the municipal area. The MSDF must indicate the desired spatial growth and development pattern and it must integrate and sufficiently provide for an economically and socially balanced development between rural and urban areas in the municipality. The MSDF should also aim to reduce the spatial fragmentation which poses major developmental challenges in-spite of the existence of several initiatives and programmes.

The objectives of the MSDF is to: provide spatial expression of the coordination, alignment and integration of sectorial development policies, strategies and objectives of all municipal departments; prioritise land use development patterns; translate developmental needs; unpack spatial directives and objectives for implementation; provide investment guidance and the mechanisms for implementation; provide guidance on sectoral development needs, investments and programme implementation.

SPLUMA further acknowledges the status of the MSDF whereby that no land development decision may be taken if inconsistent with the MSDF. Where the MSDF
is inconsistent with the PSDF the Premier should take necessary steps to ensure that a revision of the MSDF is done in order to be consistent with the PSDF. Hence further emphasising the need of the DLM SDF review, not only to be aligned with SPLUMA Principle but also to be consistent with the 2019 Mpumalanga PSDF.

1.2 Introduction to Dipaleseng Local Municipality

Dipaleseng Municipality is situated in the south western part of the Gert Sibande district municipality and it is the smallest of seven local municipalities in the district. Dipaleseng Local Municipality is situated in the south western part of Gert Sibande district municipality. Dipaleseng is located south east of the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve, just off the R23 that leaves the N3 north of Heidelberg and heads into the province of Mpumalanga. Dipaleseng is bordered by the Free State Province to the south, Gauteng Province to the north west, Govan Mbeki Municipality to the north east and Lekwa Municipality to the south east.

The Dipaleseng municipal area comprises a geographic area of 2,644 km². Balfour is the seat of the municipality and is its major town. It is situated approximately 80km south-east of Johannesburg. It is a small coal mining and it is mostly a maize farming town. The three major urban nodes in the area are Balfour/Siyathemba, Greylingstad/Nthorwane and Grootvlei.

The major roads that transverse the municipal area are the N3, which runs from Johannesburg to Durban, and the R23 from Pretoria to Volksrust. The Johannesburg—KwaZulu-Natal railway system runs through the municipal area. The total population of the DLM to 42 390 people. This marks a net population increase of 0.87% per annum between 2001 and 2011. Dipaleseng accounts for 12% of the district population. 20% of the municipality’s population resides in Siyathemba while only 7% is found in Nthorwane.

The area is predominantly rural with Agriculture and Mining being the main economic sectors. Dipaleseng Municipality has a generally low income population with a large number of people (R15 196) living in abject poverty as they do not have a reliable source of income. There is a high dependence on grants funding such as welfare grants and pension in the municipal area.
Map 1: Dipaleseng LM Overview
Map 2: District Municipality Overview of Dipaleseng
2 THE SOUTH AFRICA LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

2.1 South African Constitution

The Constitution of South Africa, contained in Act 108 of 1996, is the supreme law of South Africa. Amongst other things, it prescribes different functions to different tiers of government to ensure the equitable and functional distribution of roles, responsibilities and duties. In accordance, it has assigned specific functions to the national, provincial and local government.

Contained in Schedule 4B is the concurrent local government matters to the extent set out in section 155(6) (a) and (7). Chapter 7 of the Constitution states that it is the responsibility of local government to “encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in the matter of local government”. Local government must also promote and enforce the Bill of Rights, which reflects the nation’s values about human dignity, equality and freedom, and uphold the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Section 152 of the Constitution clearly mandates that it is the responsibility of Local Government:

- To provide democratic and accountable government for local communities
- To ensure provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner,
- To promote social and economic development
- To promote a safe and healthy environment , and
- To encourage the involvement of communities and community organizations in the matters of local government.

Section 153 also states that a municipality must:

- Structure and manage its administration, and budgeting and planning process to give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social & economic development of the municipality;
- Participate in national & provincial development programmes.

Chapter 3 of the Constitution is dedicated towards ‘Co-operative Government’, which concerns the involvement, participation and sharing of information across the different tiers of government. It recognises that all levels of government are important and play a critical role in taking the country forward. Therefore, there should be a free-flow of information between all spheres of the government.

In summary, it is a requirement of the South African Constitution that the Dipaleseng Local Municipality undertake local planning for its municipal area, and to achieve co-operative governance, this plan should guide planning between different sector departments at the local level. In doing so, it encourages spatial planning for the community which involves the community while creating safe and healthy environments.
2.2 Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA)

The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013 (SPLUMA) is a national law that was passed by Parliament in 2013. SPLUMA aims to develop a new framework to govern planning permissions and approvals, sets parameters for new developments and provides for different lawful land uses in South Africa. SPLUMA also provides clarity on how planning law interacts with other laws, frameworks and policies.

SPLUMA aims to redress fragmented and historical spatial imbalances of the past and promote integration of principals of sustainable development. Section 3 of SPLUMA therefore states that the Act aims to develop a ‘uniform, effective and comprehensive system’ of planning that ‘promotes social and economic inclusion’.

The role of local government in spatial planning has therefore been re-energized through the introduction of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA). The intention of this national legislation is to introduce the norms and standards for spatial planning; to specify the relationship between spatial planning, land use management and land development; provide for the sustainable and effective use of land; redress spatial imbalances of the past and ensure that there is equity, uniformity and consistency in the application of spatial development planning and land use management systems.

Chapter 2 of the SPLUMA outlines a host of development principles that should apply in the preparation of the MSDF for spatial planning, land use management and land development in the municipal area. These are:

a) The principle of Spatial Justice:
   - Deal with spatial imbalances and include areas that were previously excluded.
   - Redress access to land for the previously disadvantaged/ excluded areas
   - Plan for incremental upgrading and secure tenure
   - Incorporate land use management systems for previously disadvantaged/ excluded area
   - Ensures equitable distribution and increase access to social infrastructure and addresses the injustices of the past.

b) The principle of Spatial Sustainability:
   - Promote land development that is within the fiscal, institutional and administrative means of the country
   - Protect prime agricultural land and environmental resources
   - Promote consistency of land use measures in accordance to environmental management systems
   - Promote and stimulate the effective and equitable functioning of land markets
   - Carefully consider social and infrastructural costs of land development
   - Promote development in sustainable locations and limit urban sprawl
   - Establish viable communities;
c) The principle of **Spatial Efficiency**:
- Land Development optimise efficient use of resources and infrastructure
- Minimise negative financial, social, economic or environmental impacts
- Efficient and streamlined development application procedures and timelines

d) The principle of **Spatial Resilience**:
- Promote flexibility in spatial plans, policies and land use management systems are accommodated to ensure sustainable livelihoods in communities most likely to suffer the impacts of economic and environmental shocks


e) The principle of **Good Governance**:
- An integrated approach to land use and land development guided by spatial planning and land use management systems
- Free-flow of information plans and policies between and within tiers of government
- All land use and land development requirements met timeously
- Empowering citizens

The Act further states that municipal spatial development frameworks should integrate and be aligned with various plans and policies from both national and provincial sector departments that have a spatial implication or significance on the municipal area.
3 NATIONAL SPATIAL PLANS, POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES

3.1 National Development Plan 2030

The National Planning Commission (NPC) has developed the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 (NDP) for South Africa. It integrates previous strategic policies with new approaches to make the country’s economy work better for all. The National Development Plan (NDP) offers a long-term perspective. It defines a desired destination and identifies the role different sectors of society need to play in reaching that goal.

The NDP aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality by 2030. According to the plan, South Africa can realise these goals by drawing on the energies of its people, growing an inclusive economy, building capabilities, enhancing the capacity of the state, and promoting leadership and partnerships throughout society. The plan focuses on addressing three core challenges which are: (a) reducing poverty, (b) inequality and (c) unemployment. In reaction to these fundamental challenges, the NDP outlines the key development areas which require focus. These are:

- Creating jobs and livelihoods;
- Expanding infrastructure;
- Transition to a low-carbon economy;
- Transform urban and rural spaces;
- Improving education and training;
- Providing quality health care;
- Building a capable state;
- Fighting corruption and enhancing accountability;
- Transforming society and uniting the nation.

The NDP reports that in urban areas in-migration, especially by the young and poor, increases pressure on services and transport, complicated by apartheid fragmented geography. Economic growth has been slower than the demand for employment. In particular accommodation faces challenges, including financing for lower end housing and its incorporation into the market, and slow progress on rental accommodation (CRU and Social Housing) and upgrading of informal settlements. In urban areas, key NDP recommendations include:

- Upgrading all informal settlements on suitable, well-located land by 2030;
- Increased urban densities to reduce sprawl and costs;
- Investments to shift jobs and investment to the urban townships on the peripheries;
- Substantial investments in safe, reliable and affordable public transport and better coordination among the various modes;
- A comprehensive review of the grant and subsidy regime for housing to ensure diversity in product and finance options and spatial mix;
- A focused strategy on the housing gap market, involving banks, subsidies and employer housing schemes;
- The development of spatial compacts.

In the rural areas, the National Development Plan reports that general productivity has been declining and out-migration to cities and towns has been accelerating. The rural landscape is characterised by rural 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 conflict with other imperatives such as mining or preserving biodiversity. This situation is unsustainable and requires timeous intervention.

The NDP suggests that rural interventions will differentiate less dense marginal areas primarily needing appropriate service provision from more viable and denser areas with transport and market access, including:

- Innovative, targeted and better-coordinated provision of infrastructure (including ICTs) and services provision supported by the spatial consolidation of rural settlements to enhance densities and associated service delivery;
- Prioritising agricultural and rural development along mobility corridors, to build local economies and contribute to national food security;
- Identification of non-agricultural opportunities such as tourism and mining, especially with a “green” focus’;
- Promoting small-town development as nodes/core areas of rural development;
- Implementing mechanisms to make land markets work more effectively for the poor, especially women.

The NDP provides for spatial development proposals as part of the national spatial development interventions referenced schematically in Figure 2

- **Primary Transnational Development Corridors** and cross border infrastructure connections.
- Gauteng as a national **Node of Competitiveness** which strongly associates with the nearby economic activity nodes in proximity to Gauteng, which relates to eMalahleni, Middelburg, Secunda and Nelspruit as part of the Maputo Development Corridor.
- The **National Competitiveness Corridor** building on the Durban-Gauteng Freight Corridor, providing for logistics hubs, road, rail and fuel transportation.
- **Rural Restructuring Zones**: These zones include the more densely occupied parts of the previous homelands where there are sufficient numbers of people to provide the basis for viable markets through the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP). The rural restructuring zones within Mpumalanga as part of the provincial CRDP programme.
- **Resource critical zones**: These have valued mineral resources, and are areas of great importance to biodiversity and critical water production. The
sustainability of these areas is crucial and needs specific policies to protect them.

Figure 1: The NDPs Proposed National Schema for Spatial Targeting
(Source: National Development Plan, 2030)

3.2 National Spatial Development Framework (2018)

The National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) seeks to make a bold and decisive contribution to bringing about the peaceful, prosperous and a truly transformed South Africa, as articulated in the Freedom Charter, the Reconstruction and Development Programme and the National Development Plan.

The appointment of the National Planning Commission in 2010, and the subsequent preparation and adoption of the 2030- National Development Plan in 2012. It was especially Chapter 8 of the NDP – Transforming Human Settlement and the National Space Economy – that made specific reference to the need for a “national spatial development framework”. Such a framework, it held, must optimise, integrate and coordinate the energies and economic impacts of the strategic interventions in national space. This was recognised as important, given the core significance of space and access to land in bringing about transformation, and ensuring that people and places benefit from this intervention. The chapter also included a “proposed national schema for spatial targeting” and set out a series of directives for such a framework but stopped short from providing it.

The NSDF must accelerate the spatial transformation and ensure that equitable outcomes are achieved. It must do so in full recognition of (1) the need for urgency to act on redressing the apartheid spatial legacy, and (2) the scale of what the redress requires in terms of approach, resource use, and state capability. It needs to ensure that segregated development is reversed, and fundamentally improve the
spatial quality, liveability vibrancy and productive capacity of places in which Black families live. The NSDF must provide guidance on the minimum amenities, functions and services that different types of settlements in the country must have or provide.

The NSDF must ensure that the ecological base on which all livelihoods and economic growth depend is protected and harnessed. As such, it must provide for (1) the development of sustainable human settlements in the national space with the long-term future in mind, and (2) the wise effective and inclusive use and enjoyment of the country’s land, water and energy resources.

The Spatial Development Vision and Mission that is proposed for the country, based on these drivers, builds on the overarching goal of equity, unity and connectedness, and reads as follows:

NSDF Vision Statement:

“All Our People Living in Shared and Transformed Places in an Integrated, Sustainable and Competitive National Space Economy”

NSDF Mission Statement:

“Making our Common Desired Spatial Future Together Through Better Planning, Investment, Delivery and Monitoring”

Guided by the normative principles contained in SPLUMA and the NDP directives as set out in the previous section, as well as the fourteen strategic outcomes of the Medium Term Strategic Framework, the vision will be realised by achieving the following set of mutually reinforcing high-level spatial frames as indicated in Figure 2

Figure 2 Five frames to achieve our desired future spatial pattern
(Source: National Spatial Development Framework, 2018)
The high-level frames of the NSDF will therefore be incorporated into the Dipaleseng SDF review thereby establishing the vertical linkage to the national spatial development plan (NSDF)

### 3.3 Medium Term Strategic Framework

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

The introduction of a long-term plan is intended to bring greater coherence and continuity to the planning system; thus the MTSF is intended to become a five-year building block towards the achievement of the vision and goals of the country’s long-term plan. It further allows new programmes, legislation and regulations to be assessed against long-term goals and priorities. Within the NDP vision, key policy instruments developed in the previous term will, together with the MTSF, continue to drive the government’s policy agenda. These include the New Growth Path, which sets the trajectory of economic development, the National Infrastructure Plan, which guides the rollout of infrastructure to improve people’s lives and enable economic growth, and the Industrial Policy Action Plan, which focuses on promoting investment and competitiveness in leading sectors and industries.

In its focus on the 2014-2019 electoral mandate/manifesto and its elaboration into fourteen key outcomes and associated activities and targets, the MTSF has two overarching pillars i.e.– radical economic transformation and improving service delivery.

Government’s programme of radical economic transformation is about placing the economy on a qualitatively different path that ensures more rapid, sustainable growth, higher investment, increased employment, reduced inequality and de-racialisation of the economy. The MTSF lists the main pillars for achieving radical economic transformation through rapid and inclusive growth by:

- Productive investment crowded in through the infrastructure build programme
- Competitiveness enhancement in productive sectors of the economy (notably agriculture and mining)
- Addressing spatial imbalances in economic opportunities
- Elimination of unnecessary regulatory burdens
- Workers’ education and skills development to meet economic needs
- A macroeconomic and financial framework to support employment-creating growth
- Workplace conflict reduction and improved cooperation between government organised business and organised labour
- Expanded opportunities for historically excluded and vulnerable groups, small businesses and cooperatives
• Public employment schemes to provide relief for the unemployed and build community solidarity

With regards to service delivery, the MTSF notes that Government is committed to improving access to housing and basic services, including the provision of approximately 1.495 million housing opportunities, the upgrading of informal settlements, and the expansion of access to water, sanitation and electricity.

To give effect to the two key pillars of the MTSF, it is structured around fourteen (14) Priority Outcomes which includes:

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

Fourteen appendices to the MTSF contain detailed plans for the 2014-2019 period for each of the Outcome areas. They set out the core objectives, the major challenges that have been identified and programmes and actions to be implemented during that period. Each outcome is broken down into sub-outcomes containing a set of actions together with indicators for measuring progress, targets and timeframes.

3.4 National Infrastructure Plan

The South African Government adopted a National Infrastructure Plan in 2012. The aim is to transform our economic landscape while simultaneously creating significant numbers of new jobs, and strengthen the delivery of basic services. The plan also supports the integration of African economies.

The government intends to invest in building new and upgrading existing infrastructure. These investments would improve access by South Africans to healthcare facilities, schools, water, sanitation, housing and electrification. Investment in the construction of ports, roads, railway systems, electricity plants, hospitals, schools and dams would contribute to faster economic growth.
The New Growth Path set a goal of 5 million new jobs by 2020; identified structural problems in the economy to be overcome; and pointed to opportunities in specific sectors and markets or “jobs drivers”. Notably, the first jobs driver was infrastructure. Yet, it was noted that weak capacity, poor coordination and weak integration currently limit the development impact of infrastructure in the country. In response, Cabinet established the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC) to:

- coordinate, integrate and accelerate implementation;
- develop a single common National Infrastructure Plan that will be monitored and centrally driven (summarised below);
- identify who is responsible and hold them to account; and
- Develop a 20-year planning framework beyond one administration to avoid a stop-start pattern to the infrastructure roll-out.

The National Infrastructure Plan (NIP) seeks to promote:

- re-industrialisation through manufacturing of inputs, components and machinery;
- skills development aimed at critical categories;
- greening the economy; and
- Empowerment.

The NIP comprises 18 identified Strategic Integrated Projects (SIPs) which integrate more than 150 municipal infrastructure plans into a coherent package. The proposed SIPs entail both social and economic infrastructure across all nine provinces, but with an emphasis on lagging regions. They comprise catalytic projects that can fast-track development and growth. Note that many of the components within the SIPs have a national footprint such as the infrastructure programmes for school building, healthcare facilities and expanding access to broadband. However, the SIPs that impacts on Dipaleseng Local Municipality are:

- SIP 2: Durban- Free State- Gauteng Logistics and Industrial Corridor
- SIP 9: Electricity generation to support socio-economic development
- SIP 11: Increased investment in Agri-logistics and rural infrastructure (high impact catalytic and differentiated service).
- SIP 18: Water and sanitation infrastructure in the form of addressing water backlogs and the provision of a sustainable supply of water and sanitation services to meet social needs and support economic growth.

### 3.5 Industrial Policy Action Plan

The Industrial Policy Action Plan 2017/18 (IPAP 1) 2019/20 (IPAP2) is in its ninth annual iteration based on the National Industry Policy Framework and its objectives. IPAP1 placed emphasis on job creation with a continuously strengthening focus on labour intensity, especially in labour intensive sectors that link to the productive sectors of the economy, across integrated value chains. IPAP1 seeks to achieve a higher impact in a difficult economic circumstance. It recognised that key domestic constraints constitute a considerable break on industrialisation. IPAP 1 therefore
recommended continued support for a constructive and solution-based approach to key challenges which has been adopted by the economic cluster.

The major weakness identified in South Africa’s long-term industrialisation process is that the decline in the share of employment in the traditional tradable sectors, particularly mining and agriculture has not been offset by a sufficiently large increase in the share of relatively labour-intensive employment in non-traditional tradable goods and services, particularly manufacturing. Consequently, the objectives of the IPAP2 are:

- To facilitate a shift away from reliance on traditional commodities and non-tradable services and promote value-added goods and services that compete in export markets (against imports).
- To intensify the industrialisation process and move towards a knowledge rich economy.
- To promote a more labour-absorbing industrialisation path, with particular emphasis on tradable labour-absorbing goods and services and economic linkages that enhance employment creation.
- To promote a broader-based industrialisation path characterised by increased participation of historically disadvantaged people and marginalised regions in the mainstream of the industrial economy.

3.6 The Regional Industrial Development Strategy

The Department of Trade and Industry formulated a Regional Industrial Development Strategy (RIDS) in 2006. The aim was to promote regions based on their economic comparative advantages and to design support measures appropriate to each region to:

- Respond to persistent inequalities between the first and second economies;
- Encourage regions to seize current and potential opportunities presented by both the national and the international market economies; and
- Encourage the country’s most successful economic regions to consolidate and improve on their current economic potential.

Notably, since the late-1990s, there has been a resurgence of interest internationally in the notion of regional industrial development as a spatial economic mechanism to assist regions to achieve their economic potential within the context of a market economy. Key features of ‘new’ regional support include:

- A focus on enhancing physical and social infrastructure;
- A multi-sectorial approach to development which moves beyond an exclusive manufacturing focus, to a focus on knowledge-based development, tourism and improvement of human capital;
- A reliance on partnership formation and the driving of development from the ‘bottom-up’ through regional agencies/ partnerships, able to galvanise local development and tap into private and state resources and capacities;
- A focus on unique programmes for each region based on local strengths and opportunities i.e. local comparative advantages;
- A focus on cluster development; and
- Support for business retention and expansion programmes.

In view of the fact that the South African economy is a resource-based economy, the purpose of RIDS is to respond in broad terms to issues of spatial differentiation in economic welfare levels. A key challenge is both to simultaneously support lagging regions and to assist leading regions to capitalise on their inherent strengths and potential.

Usefully, in respect of potential economic regions and clusters, the RIDS provides a spatially referenced development perspective schematically indicated in Figure 3. A key feature of the national space economy is the economic dominance of the three primary economic cores of Gauteng, greater Cape Town and eThekweni-uMsunduzi. By classifying regions according to their level of development, it is possible to identify several additional prominent economic regions. Outside the three primary economic cores there are at least 16 other prominent economic regions, based primarily on gross value added and key mineral, energy and manufacturing linkages.

These regions have clear comparative and competitive advantages which, to a large extent, are based on the strength of the dominant economic activities and industrial concentration nodes within them. Clustering of related economic activities is clearly a key regional competitive advantage in these areas. Appropriate support to enhance the competitive edge of these regions would clearly be of national and regional significance.

Regarding regions, the RIDS identifies large parts of the GSDM area being part of the Witbank-Middelburg-Secunda “Diversified Mining Region” with mining and manufacturing being the main economic activities and supplemented by the infrastructure and services/tourism sectors and limited agriculture.

Furthermore, as shown in Figure 4, Dipaleseng’s critical advantage is its agricultural and mining and energy complexes. In a nutshell, it has a well-developed primary sector which is its national advantage over other and in particular the adjoining municipalities. In addition strategic and functional linkages with Gauteng, Durban and Free State via the N3 corridor are important directives.
Figure 3: RIDS Core Regions and Spatial Economic Linkages
Figure 4: RIDS Specific Districts with Significant Inherent Economic Potential
3.7 Agricultural Policy Action Plan

The Agriculture Policy Action Plan (APAP) seeks to assist in the achievement of Outcome 4 (Decent Employment through Inclusive Growth), Outcome 7 (Comprehensive Rural Development and Food Security) and Outcome 10 (environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced) of the MTSF (2014-2019) and aligns itself to the New Growth Path (NGP) and the National Development Plan (NDP).

APAP focuses on a discrete number of value chains identified as strategic in meeting the objectives of the NGP, NDP and IPAP and these are:

- Contribution to food security;
- Job creation;
- Value of production;
- Growth potential; and
- Potential contribution to trade balance (including via export expansion and import substitution).

APAP recognises agriculture as a sector with significant job creation potential and with strategic links to beneficiation opportunities. When exploring the different models of rural development, there seems to be coherent global evidence that agriculture presents the best opportunities for the advancement of rural development agenda. Agriculture plays a strategic role in respect of food security, agrarian transformation and rural development.

As a recommendation, the impact of APAP could also be intensified by exploring opportunities in the sectors outside of rural development and land reform. For example, Dipaleseng could mobilise for development schools offering Agriculture as an assessed subject and support those schools. In this way, the Municipality is in a position to make a social capital investment for the advancement of APAP.

3.8 National Transport Master Plan (NATMAP), 2050

NATMAP (2050) was approved by the South African Government in 2011. The focus of the project is to ensure that by 2050 transportation development will meet the needs of freight and passenger customers; to ensure accessible, affordable, safe, frequent, high quality, reliable, efficient and seamless transport operations and infrastructure provision and development.

The project makes provision for a process of continued upgrading, innovative, flexible, economically and environmentally sustainable transportation that will support and enable government strategies, growth, development, redistribution, employment and social integration within the national spatial system. The project endeavours to address this distorted land use and transportation situation provincially and nationally.

The core directives or paradigm shifts emanating from the Master Plan are to:

- Place greater emphasis on developing rail as a transportation medium,
- Ensure greater integration between land use development and transportation planning; and
• Put more emphasis on enhancing the development of several priority national transport corridors.

Figure 6 conceptually depicts the major corridors identified in South Africa as part of the NATMAP. With respect to Dipaleseng Local Municipality, the following should be noted:

• Freight rail infrastructure expansion from Lephalale via Rustenburg to Pretoria and Johannesburg to transport the coal reserves to other areas of the country – also the power stations in Mpumalanga (Eskom Station in Grootvlei);
• Combined Road and Passenger rail infrastructure development from Mpumalanga to facilitate daily passenger mobility. (Moloto Corridor and Phalaborwa-Mbombela Corridor).

3.9 Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF)

The Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF) is a policy initiative of the South African government, coordinated by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA). The IUDF seeks to foster a shared understanding across government and society about how best to manage urbanisation and achieve the goals of economic development, job creation and improved living conditions in South African cities.

It is government’s policy position to guide the future growth and management of urban areas. In the economic history of humanity, urbanisation has always been an accelerator of growth and development, bringing about enormous changes in the spatial distribution of people and resources, and in the use and consumption of land. Supporting policies and frameworks are therefore needed that can leverage the urbanisation process for increased development gains and sustainability. The IUDF responds to the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular to Goal 11: Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It also builds on various chapters of the National Development Plan (NDP) and extends Chapter 8 ‘Transforming human settlements and the national space economy underpinned by four strategic goals:

• Spatial integration: To forge new spatial forms in a settlement, transport, social and economic areas.
• Inclusion and access: To ensure people have access to social and economic services, opportunities and choices.
• Growth: To harness urban dynamism for inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development.
• Governance: To enhance the capacity of the state and its citizens to work together to achieve spatial and social integration.

By 2030 South Africa should observe meaningful and measurable progress in reviving rural areas and in creating more functionally integrated, balanced and vibrant urban settlements.

For this to happen the country must:

• Clarify and relentlessly pursue a national vision for spatial development;
The IUDF’s overall outcome – spatial transformation – marks a New Deal for South African cities and towns, the strategic goals indicated above inform the priority objectives of the nine policy levers, which are premised on:

- Integrated urban planning as the basis for achieving integrated urban development, which follows a specific sequence of urban policy actions
- Integrated transport
- Targeted investments into integrated human settlements
- Integrated infrastructure network systems
- Efficient land governance, which altogether can trigger
- Economic diversification and inclusion
- Empowered communities
- Effective governance and financial reform

Figure 5: Core Elements of the IUDF (Source: Integrated Urban Development Framework)

3.10 National Strategy of Sustainable Development

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development, alternatively referred to as Breaking New Ground (2004), is a comprehensive plan for the development of sustainable human settlements. Commissioned by the Department of Human Settlement, the plan promotes the creation of a non-racial, integrated society through the development of sustainable human settlements and quality housing.

This is a proactive strategy that regards sustainable development as a long-term commitment, which combines environmental protection, social equity and economic efficiency with the vision and values of the country. The NSSD marks the continuation of a national partnership for sustainable development. It is a milestone in an ongoing process of developing support, initiating and upscaling actions to achieve sustainable development in South Africa.

The following five strategic objectives are identified in the NSSD:

- Accelerate housing delivery;
- Improve the quality of housing products and environments;
• Ensure asset creation;
• Ensure a single, efficient formal housing market; and
• Restructure and integrate human settlements.

The plan envisages a multi-dimensional approach to housing delivery. Instead of having a one-set formula for the production of the houses, the plan should encompass the flexibility required to carry out project specific solutions to the unique barriers faced in each separate undertaking. The dominant production of single houses on single plots in distant locations with initially weak socio-economic infrastructure is inflexible to local dynamics and changes in demand. The new human settlements plan moves away from the current focus of housing delivery towards more responsive mechanisms which address the multidimensional needs of sustainable human settlements.

Unsustainable and dysfunctional settlements are a major issue in the Local Municipality. Changing the settlement pattern is and will continue to be a major challenge for government, but “breaking new ground” should provide much needed policy support to change the way housing has been delivered in the past. Most critical will be institutional and financial reform to achieve physical reform.


Section 24 of the Constitution provides the right to every person for a non-harmful environment and simultaneously mandates the government to protect the environment. The framework to enforce Section 24 of the Constitution is the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

NEMA is a progressive environmental management legislation in South Africa and globally. It has provided the framework for decision-making for individuals, institutions, and government. The NEMA’s key principles are aimed at promoting co-operative governance and ensuring that the rights of people are upheld, while at the same time recognising the importance of economic development. The predecessor to the NEMA, the Environmental Conservation Act, was largely unsuccessful or inadequate to deal with enforcement, administration, governance and so forth. The NEMA was developed to succeed in these aspects and more.
4 PROVINCIAL SPATIAL PLANS, POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES

4.1 Mpumalanga Vision, 2030

The Mpumalanga Vision, 2030 is a strategic implementation framework that was developed as a direct implementation response to the NDP whilst reflecting the spatial and socio-economic needs of the province. The framework describes the Province’s approach to realizing the objectives of the NDP in the provincial context and seeks to achieve the MPG’s Provincial Strategic Objectives (PSO’s). Mpumalanga Vision, 2030 provides a provincial expression of the key priorities, objectives and targets that enumerated in the NDP and expressed within the policy. The Vision, 2030 seeks to affirm the provincial approach towards realising the national vision.

The intent of the Implementation Framework is to inform past and present sectorial/related planning intervention in the province. The Vision 2030 Implementation Framework provides a basis for prioritisation during medium-term and annual planning cycles. The focus of the Mpumalanga Vision 2030 is to provide a summary overview of the facilitation of decision-making and the prioritisation of rolling back poverty, and inequality by raising living standards to an acceptable minimum, which entails a combination of interventions directed at increasing employment, improving the quality of education, productive growth, a social wage and good quality public services.

Whereas, the objective of the implementation framework is to overcome a disjointed planning approach in the province by ensuring that all stakeholders approach the implementation of Vision 2030 through commonly agreed strategies and programmatic interventions and thus providing a strategic overview in order to set high level provincial targets, inform choices and trade-offs and to locate strategies, programmes and projects within a focused spatial landscape.

In addition to and prior to this framework, the Mpumalanga Government already had a number of plans and strategies in place which were used as a starting point for the Implementation Framework. Each of these plans has identified challenges and actions that have been incorporated within the broad framework of the National Development Plan which translates into the Mpumalanga Vision 2030. The key element in this approach was to ensure that the plan incorporates a focused spatial representation of the content and intention. The implementation framework, therefore, informed the development of several existing sectoral plans and initiatives in Mpumalanga such as the:

- Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP),
- Mpumalanga Infrastructure Development Master Plan (MIDP),
- Biodiversity Master Plan,
- Human Settlements Master Plans,
- Industrial Development Plan, and
The Implementation Framework is structured on the basis of three interrelated impact areas. This approach is based on the NPC conclusion that the Government and other stakeholders should be willing to prioritise and focus most of their resources on a few strategic priorities. Figure 6 depicts the overall organising structure of the implementation framework.

**Figure 6: Organising structure of the MP Vision 2030**

The approach that the plan takes is that, in order to achieve the desired socio-economic outcomes, key mechanisms must be put in place to facilitate the achievement of these goals. In turn, these mechanisms need to build on strong foundations and conditions. Unless the conditions are in place, it will not be possible to drive development and create jobs through infrastructure development.

In line with the principles of the NDP, the Vision 2030 highlights the following socio-economic outcomes as priorities:

- Employment & Economic Growth
- Education and Training
- Health Care for all
- Social Protection

These priorities do not imply that the all other plans and policies in place should be deferred, but should however aim to focus the activities and decisions of the Province on few key areas, leveraging high impact for improved and sustainable long term socio-economic development in Mpumalanga. The achievement of these priorities is further dependent on the critical success factors described as “mechanisms” and “conditions”.

Mpumalanga Vision 2030 includes key targets for the Province that are in line with those expressed in the NDP. These targets have been developed with due consideration given to the specific demographic, institutional, spatial and socio-economic advantages and challenges of the Province. These targets include:

- Economy and Unemployment Targets;
- Education, Training and Innovation Targets;
- Health Care Targets; and
- Social Protection Targets.

The Vision 2030 has identified key drivers to formulate a spatial rationale for the province based on the nine Key Drivers. Key Drivers 1 to 6 is focused towards promoting economic development and job creation according to the space
economy of Mpumalanga province from which priority nodes/areas for economic development have been identified.

Key Drivers 7 and 8 are focused on human settlement in and around these priority nodes/areas identified.

Key Driver 9 is focused on the conservation and sustainable management of the natural environment.

**Key Driver 1: Nodal Development**
- Corridors investment within the province is proposed to be channelled through the Maputo- N4, N17- N2 and the N11.
- The five primary nodes where developments are to be concentrated in the province are Witbank/ Emalahleni, Middleburg, Mbombela/ Nelspruit, Secunda and Ermelo.

**Key Driver 2: Business, Commercial and Industrial Development**
- This driver focuses on the development of business and commercial sectors on the primary, secondary and rural nodes in Mpumalanga as these activities can generate a significant number of job opportunities. In terms of industrial development, the bulk of industrial investment in Mpumalanga Province should be clustered around the existing industrial strongholds, in Witbank and Middelburg (Steel Industry), Secunda (Petrochemical Industry) and Nelspruit/Mbombela (Mixed Industries)\(^1\).
- The plan also emphasises on the opportunity to enhance industrial activity in Mashishing/Lydenburg which represents the southern end of the Dilokong Platinum Corridor located between Polokwane in Limpopo Province and Mashising in Mpumalanga Province. Along the Dilokong Corridor, Mashishing is the urban centre closest to the export harbours of Maputo and Richards Bay.
- Expansion of Commercial and Business areas in the five primary nodes

**Key Driver 3: Tourism Development**
- Tourism-related investment in Mpumalanga should be channelled into five main functional areas/precincts namely:
  - The well-established Sabie, Graskop, Mbombela, and Kruger National Park (Kruger 2 Canyon) area is generally referred to as the Mpumalanga Lowveld;
  - The Belfast-Machadodorp-Dullstroom “Trout-Triangle” area along the Mpumalanga Escarpment which also represents the tourism gateway from Gauteng Province to the Mpumalanga Lowveld;
  - The relatively undeveloped Loskopdam-Dinokeng tourism belt which extends from the Loskop Dam, through the Thembisile-Hani and JS Moroka Municipalities in the western extents of the Province, right up to the Dinokeng Nature Reserve in Gauteng Province;

\(^1\) Mpumalanga Vision 2030, (2013-2030)
The Somgimvelo-Malolotja Transfrontier Conservation Area around Barberton;
The Mpumalanga Lake District, Heyshope Dam and Wakkerstroom Biosphere Reserve in the Gert Sibande District.

Key Driver 4: Forestry Development

- Investment aimed at enhancing the contribution of forestry to the economy of Mpumalanga should be directed to the two main forestry precincts in the province: the northern forestry precinct around Mashising, Graskop and Sabie, with Sabie being the main centre for forestry related industries; and the southern forestry precinct in the area between Barberton and eMkhondo, with eMkhondo being the main centre for forestry related industries.

Key Driver 5: Agricultural Development

- Agriculture related investment should focus on:
  - Supporting and maintaining existing commercial farming activities in the Province (referring to the Mpumalanga Highveld and a small strip of land from Komatipoort to Mbombela, White River and up to Hazyview in the Lowveld); and
  - Enhancing agrarian transformation in the deep rural areas in line with the objectives of the CRDP.
- The CRDP pilot areas are located in Bushbuckridge, Nkomazi, Albert Luthuli, and Mkhondo, Pixley ka Seme, Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka Municipalities.

Key Driver 6: Mining and Energy Related Development

- Infrastructure investment aimed at enhancing the mining and electricity industry should be consolidated in the western Highveld of Mpumalanga where the vast majority of coal mines and power stations are located. In areas such as eMalahleni, Steve Tshwete, Standerton and Secunda.

Key Driver 7: Urban Development

- The main strategic priorities with regard to urban development and accommodating urbanisation in Mpumalanga include the following:
  - Integration of urban settlement structures.
  - Containment of urban sprawl.
  - The provision of high densities of mixed land uses within close proximity of economic activity nodes and transportation systems.
  - The provision of a system of activity corridors, nodes, spines and streets supporting sustainable transportation and road systems.
  - Efficient engineering infrastructure and roads.
  - The provision of sustainable housing.
  - Community facilities taking into consideration the regional, sub-regional, district and local needs of the communities

Key Driver 8: Rural Development

- Vision 2030 places particular emphasis on building the economy in rural areas, and more specifically through the following approach which is embedded into the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)
The proposed approach towards rural development in Mpumalanga Province centres around the following three principles:

- Establishment of Thusong Centres;
- Rural Settlement Consolidation; and
- Agrarian Transformation.

**Key Driver 9: Environmental Management and Conservation**

- The rural hinterland should also be utilised to promote conservation of environmentally sensitive areas in Mpumalanga.
- As far as mining is concerned, it is important to establish proper environmental management systems during the operational phase of the mines to prevent large scale water and air pollution.

### 4.2 Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path, 2011 (MEGDP)

The Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path (MEGDP) is informed by the National Economic Growth Path. The Mpumalanga Province is committed to increasing local economic development and job creation in the agricultural, industrial, manufacturing, green economy, tourism and mining sectors. The MEGDP provides a detailed framework for the realisation of these objectives. The focal point of the Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Path is the creation of appropriate labour absorbing jobs which will have a positive direct, indirect and induced effect on the provincial economy and the living standards of its people.

The primary objective of the MEGDP is to grow the economy of the province; balance growth and development in order to create jobs, reduce poverty and inequality and improve the socio-economic conditions of the province. The growth plan is anchored on a few factors which include sector development, inclusive & shared growth, spatial distribution, regional integration, sustainable human development and environmental sustainability with clearly defined strategic targets over a medium to long term period.

The MEGDP key targets to achieve the desired growth within the province are as follows:

1. Reduce the unemployment rate to 15% by 2020, therefore, creating 720,000 new jobs
   - Move from 890 000 employed in 2010 to 1.6 million employed in 2020
2. Reduce inequality by enhancing the skill set of the labour force, fixed capital investment and improvements in education.
   - Reducing the Gini-coefficient from 0.65 to 0.55
3. Reduce the poverty rate from the 2009 level of 47.8% to 25% by 2020.
   - The focus will be on job creation through public works programmes, employment guarantee schemes, education and skills attainment

The Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Programme is centred on the following Pillars:

- Job creation
- Inclusive and shared growth of a diversified economy
- Spatial distribution
- Integration of regional economies
- Sustainable human development
- Environmental sustainability

The following job drivers will be utilised to realise the objectives of the MEGDP and to secure strong and sustainable growth for the next decade.

- **Infrastructure for Employment & Development**
- **Job Creation in Economic Sectors such as:**
  - Agriculture and forestry
  - Mining and energy
  - Manufacturing and beneficiation
  - Tourism and cultural industries
- **Seizing the Potential for New Economies in:**
  - Green Industries
  - Information and Communication Technology
- **Investing in Social Capital & the Public Service**
- **Spatial Development**
  - Rural Development
  - Regional and International Co-operation

The last section of the MEGDP focuses on specific strategic interventions which aim at unlocking and supporting the realisation of the initiatives noted in Mpumalanga’s Economic Growth and Development Path. The following interventions provide guidance on mechanisms that will contribute to unlocking the economic growth and employment potential inherent in key sectors as follows:

- Effective and efficient BDBBEEE which empowers previously disadvantaged to positively contribute to the economy;
- Skills development and capacity which is linked to the identified growth trajectories;
- Reducing the cost of doing business in MP and barriers to entry;
- Increasing MP's competitive advantages and creating appropriate investment incentives;
- Support for Cooperatives and SMMEs to ensure sustained development;
- Project financing; and
- Provision of conducive Infrastructure for economic growth and development (land claims, water licences, communications, etc.).

### 4.3 Mpumalanga Spatial Development Framework, Draft (2019)

The Mpumalanga Provincial Spatial Development Framework was developed as one of the requirements mandated by SPLUMA. The objectives of the Mpumalanga PSDF is to cover the following aspects at provincial level: integration of development policies, strategies and objectives at various levels; prioritize land use development patterns; translate developmental needs; unpack spatial directives and objectives for implementation; provide investment guidance and the mechanisms for implementation; provide guidance on sectoral development needs, investments, integration and programme implementation.
The Mpumalanga PSDF seeks to redress spatial imbalances in previously disadvantaged/former homelands areas; improve the effectiveness of the provision of public services to its communities; conserve and sustainably utilise the natural environment, ensure economic development in both urban and rural areas of the province and the transformation of rural areas into productive rural regions, improve the effectiveness of the provision of public services to its communities; conserve and sustainably utilise the natural environment.

The Mpumalanga PSDF has identified five strategic spatial development objectives to be carried out in order to achieve the overall development vision of the province and will have an influence on the spatial patterns and overall growth of Mpumalanga:

1. **Connectivity and Corridor Functionality:**
   - The intent of this objective is to ensure connectivity between nodes and connectivity from surrounding areas (lower nodes, and major industrial concentrations) with areas of concentration, which implies a hierarchy of movement routes. Therefore, accommodating connectivity through provincial roads to connect marginalized areas with main corridors.

2. **Sustainable Concentration and Agglomeration:**
   - The intent of this objective, is to create the agglomeration of economies that will encourage people and decentralization of economic activities and industrial clusters to locate near large populations groups and settlements. Assuming, that sustainable development is vital to essence to development, allocation of these activities at strategic places and preserve land for agriculture and essential services.

3. **Conservation and Resource utilisation**
   - This intent of this objective is to focus on maximising the use of scarce natural resources through recycling. The transformation of existing consumption patterns and the promotion of the use of zero-emission transportation systems in order to aid in the reduction of waste. The aim is also to protect high-potential agricultural land to ensure future food security. Future development proposals should also therefore not impact on this valuable and irreplaceable.

4. **Livability and Sense of Place:**
   - This intent of this objective is to address the spatial imbalances and fragmentation of former homelands, informal settlements and townships and the overwhelming tendency to locate government-funded housing projects on the periphery through spatial integration and development of housing on well-located land parcels. In order to include spatial, social and environmental characteristics and qualities that uniquely contribute to people’s sense of personal and collective wellbeing and to their sense of satisfaction in being the residents of a settlement.

5. **Rural Diversity and transformation:**
This intent of this objective is to introduce the development of various types of environments that are linked to the spatial characteristics and the recognition of the rural concept and developmental initiatives through the RDPs. The aim is to create Urban-Rural anchors which shall assist in the facilitation of well-established nodes in rural areas.
4.4 Mpumalanga Infrastructure Master Plan

The Mpumalanga Infrastructure Master Plan intends to guide and provide directive for infrastructure development as well as a programme of action with a detailed list of projects in the Province. The MIMP aims to set out a vision of the provincial infrastructure that will strive to be resilient, coordinated and contributes to economic growth and increased quality of life by 2020. The main purpose of the MIMP is to guide the provision and maintenance of infrastructure, thus serving as a facilitator to further economic growth in the main industry sectors of the province.

The MIMP proposes that the following development principles be paramount in terms of guiding and directing decisions regarding infrastructure investment in the Province:

**Principle 1: Balance economic growth and social upliftment**

Following a balanced investment approach which focuses on both infrastructure investment to promote economic growth, and investment to enhance social upliftment.

**Principle 2: Respond to regional differences in development potential**

Infrastructure Investment to respond to the locational factors and economic drivers of the province and take into consideration regional differences in terms of development potential.

**Principle 3: Recognise roles and responsibilities of stakeholders**

Recognising the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and facilitating the functional integration and alignment of infrastructure investment between these.

**Principle 4: Build on existing initiatives**

Building on existing initiatives as a priority to support the successful implementation thereof.

**Principle 5: Preserve existing assets**

Sufficiently allocating funding towards maintenance and preservation of existing assets (infrastructure) as part of a broader infrastructure life-cycle approach.

**Principle 6: Align investment with available resources**

Aligning infrastructure investment in Mpumalanga Province with the availability of resources in the Province.

**Principle 7: Build a heritage**

Promoting investment in image building assets for the Province.

4.5 Mpumalanga Sustainable Human Settlement Master Plan, (2013)

The Mpumalanga province aims to eradicate current housing backlogs through the development of the Sustainable Human Settlement Master Plan (SHSMP). The intent is assist in providing guidance in prioritising housing projects for urban, rural and agri-villages. Thus, one of the fundamental role of the SHSMP is guide the provincial government through the preparation and maintenance of strategic housing plans.
which targets housing challenges and delivery schedules therefore these plans need to be in line with the National Housing Policy.

The Mpumalanga SHSMP comprises of 15 Strategic Objectives as listed below:

- **Strategic Objective 1**: Ensure that all Human Settlement related planning and implementation activities are aligned with the objectives, guidelines and directives as defined in National and Provincial Policies and Legislation.
- **Strategic Objective 2**: Promote Sustainable Human Settlements within Mpumalanga by Focusing on Mixed Land Use, -Typology, -Income and – Tenure Developments in the Province.
- **Strategic Objective 3**: Encourage sustainable resource use by exploring alternative technologies, designs, layouts, topography, etc. in order to achieve the most energy- and cost-effective development.
- **Strategic Objective 4**: Implement Annual IDP Housing Chapter Compilation/Review Procedure.
- **Strategic Objective 5**: Establish a comprehensive Mpumalanga Human Settlement Demand Monitoring Database and GIS System to Inform Decisions Pertaining to Location, Scale and Priority of Human Settlement Projects.
- **Strategic Objective 6**: Local and Provincial Housing Needs Register (Demand Database) to Become Official Source of Information for Housing Demand and Waiting Lists.
- **Strategic Objective 7**: Enhance alignment between Mpumalanga Human Settlement Projects and Provincial, District and Local Spatial Development Frameworks by only considering land located in Strategic Development Areas.
- **Strategic Objective 8**: Facilitate Technically Informed Land and Building Acquisition Based on Results of Comprehensive Feasibility Assessment Processes.
- **Strategic Objective 9**: Establish a Human Settlements Delivery Planning Unit to Manage and Maintain the Provincial Database and Monitoring System, and to Facilitate and Inform the Formulation of the Annual Departmental Business Plan in Conjunction with District and Local Municipalities, and other Provincial Departments.
- **Strategic Objective 10**: Ensure that Town Planning/ Township Establishment processes are Comprehensive and Technically Sound in order to grant beneficiaries sufficient Security of Tenure.
- **Strategic Objective 11**: Initiate Processes Which Will Ensure the Installation of Appropriate Engineering Services as part of every Human Settlement Project in Mpumalanga.
- **Strategic Objective 12**: Facilitate the Provision of a Sufficient Number of Community Facilities parallel to the Construction of Housing (top structures) in every Human Settlement Project in Mpumalanga.
- **Strategic Objective 13**: Expanding Community Participation and Consumer Education Programmes through Community Outreach Initiatives.
- **Strategic Objective 14**: To actively enhance Rural Development by aligning Human Settlement Projects and Programmes to the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme of the Province.
Strategic Objective 15: Align Provincial Tenure Upgrading Programme with Human Settlement Programmes.

The SHSMP also endorsed various human settlement programmes/strategies and guidelines in order to facilitate and enhance special focus of rural and informal development through the provision of sustainable housing and formalisation of such areas. The goal is to promote mixed use, mixed density housing projects which offer a variety of tenure alternatives and providing economic and social integration. Figure 7 indicates the focus areas (priority nodal areas) in the Province for future housing provision, while Figure 8 illustrates conceptually the proposed spatial distribution of various housing programmes over the next 10 years.

Figure 7: Human Settlement Priority Nodal Areas

Figure 8: Consolidated Housing Programme

Source: Mpumalanga Human Settlement Master Plan, 2013

The aim of the Mpumalanga Tourism Strategy is to elaborate a framework that will guide tourism initiatives and development in the Province. The ultimate objective is to attain sustainable benefits for the people of Mpumalanga by creating additional economic activity. The strategy’s objectives are in line with national tourism objectives as well as those indicated in other provincial and local tourism policies. These objectives are:

- Develop the tourism sector as a driver of economic activity
- Product expansion & diversification
- Implement responsible & sustainable tourism practices
- Enhance the general competitiveness of the province
- Structure of effective institutional relationship
- Grow domestic tourism for a sustainable economy

Therefore the implementation of the above listed objectives is expected to increase spending in the province through international and domestic tourist thus creating new job opportunities within this sector. The provincial tourism sector is so diversified, hence the objectives/ guidelines that support the economic growth, procedures and transformation within the sector have somewhat influenced the vision statement. Realising the objectives of the tourism strategy, a few key strategies need to be developed and prioritised in order to improve the tourism sector, below are the key strategies identified:

1. **Marketing and Promotion**

   Destination management ought to adapt to the advancement of technology and the new ICT systems being implemented to coordinate tourism-related process. Marketing management should keep adopting new and innovative ways in which the destinations can be presented and packaged for the rest of the world. Tourist attraction is dependent on the competence to market the destination broadly by the use of distribution channels that can produce the best results.

2. **Destination Accessibility**

   There are many ways a destination can better handle the support needs of its visitors. Destination managers also have an important role to play in making visitors destinations accessible to all. Ease of access also relates to how easy it is to reach the destination (transport/roads) and, when at the destination- how easy is it to navigate your way to and from attractions and activities (gateways, infrastructure). In order for the tourism sector to address accessibility requirements, it needs a much more detailed understanding of consumer needs. Along with a wider accessibility strategy, good access to information can make a destination more competitive.

3. **Visitor Experience**

   It’s all about the exceptional experience which is affected by the destination attributes, the quality of the products and services, the variety and scope of attractions and activities and impacts the general repeat visitation rates. Giving visitors a better experience increases visits enhances the perception and value of the destination.

4. **Product innovation**

   It is the products that ultimately lure tourists to a destination, and for this reason, they should be refreshed often, keep up with the times and be innovative in marketing
and development approaches. Access to these products, general infrastructure and continuous evaluation will keep it relevant and interesting.

5. **Destination Management**
This section outlines ways in which destinations can be managed to successfully increase visit and revenue to the places. This section looks at different themes such as marketing, accessibility, infrastructure development and maintenance, and providing training and skills development to the workforce all contribute to the success and sustainability of a tourism destination.

6. **Transformation and Development of SMMEs**
For the sector to be transformed, the youth, women and previously disadvantaged should be granted the opportunity to operate their own businesses and be equipped to further develop and manage their businesses successfully. People should be informed on and be aware of tourism development in the area so that they can also get involved and participate in tourism. However, one of the greatest obstacles to visible transformation and restructuring of the SMME is the unfamiliar and irritatingly long and complex series of procedures and actions confronting financial aid seekers.20 there are various support structures in place to facilitate access to business opportunities and to assist these aspiring entrepreneurs in their business ventures. Assistance with marketing is a key component to these programmes to help SMMEs with finding suitable markets and to create competitive advantages that will ensure the long-term survival of SMMEs.

4.7 **Provincial Comprehensive Rural Development Programme**

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) is third planned priority for rural development within the government’s current Medium Term Strategic Framework which was drafted for 2014-2019. The strategic design of the programme is established on experiences from pilot sites designated through socio-economic profiling, community participatory processes and intergovernmental co-operation. The CRDP is based on a positive participatory community-based planning approach rather than an interventionist approach to rural development.

The CRDP aims to be an effective response to poverty alleviation and food insecurity by maximizing the use and management of natural resources to create “vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities. The vision of the CRDP is to be achieved through a three-pronged strategy based on:

- A coordinated and integrated broad-based Agrarian Transformation;
- Strategically increasing Rural Development through infrastructure investment; and
- An improved Land Reform Programme.

**Outcome 7**
Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all will be achieved through the following outputs:

Following are the Projects and Provincial output of CRDP:

- **Output 1**: Sustainable agrarian reform with a thriving small and large farming sector services to support livelihoods
- **Output 2**: Improved access to affordable and diverse food
- **Output 3**: Improved rural services to support livelihoods
- **Output 4**: Improved employment opportunities and economic livelihoods
- **Output 5**: Enabling institutional environment for sustainable and inclusive growth

Four municipalities in Gert Sibande District form part of the Mpumalanga CRDP Pilot initiative. These include Mkhondo, Chief Albert Luthuli, Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme and Dipaleseng.

### 4.8 Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, (2014)

The Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan (MBSP) is a guideline (maps) that informs permissible land-uses that upkeep biodiversity patterns and ecological processes therefore allowing for species to adapt to climate change. The plan is specifically used to support land-use decisions in order to reduce ecological loss, prioritise management intervention such as wetland rehabilitation and alien plant control.

The purpose of the MBSP is to inform land use planning, environmental assessment, land and water authorisations as well as natural resource management. The MBSP is therefore, the official reference for biodiversity priorities to be taken into account in land-use planning and decision-making by all sectors. The objective of the MBSP is to identify the minimum spatial requirements by identifying an efficient set of CBAs that are required to meet biodiversity management objectives. In a spatial configuration that conflicts as little as possible with other land use activities. Its specific objectives are to:

- Serve as the primary source of biodiversity information for all land-use planning and decision-making in Mpumalanga, to be used in conjunction with information from other sectors.
- Ensure that Mpumalanga’s ecological infrastructure is maintained, ecosystem fragmentation and loss is avoided, and the resilience of ecosystems and human communities to the impacts of climate change is strengthened.
- Provide a spatial framework for environmentally sustainable development and resource-use.
- Inform municipalities and other land-use planners and regulators about spatial biodiversity priorities in order to promote the wise management of biodiversity, and to streamline and monitor land-use decision-making.
- Focus on-the-ground conservation and restoration action in biodiversity priority areas, thus supporting the MTPA in implementing its biodiversity mandate, including working with landowners to consolidate and expand the provincial protected area network.
- Mainstream biodiversity conservation into the day-to-day activities of a range of development and production sectors whose primary business is not biodiversity conservation, thus promoting greater synergy between biodiversity conservation and development through implementation of the MBSP.
Map 5: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan

Source: Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, MPTA
4.9 Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan

The Mpumalanga Industrial Plan (MIDP) as an integrative strategy that aims to build robust partnerships between government, industry sector and interested stakeholders to alter the structure and distribution of the industrial activity to promote economic growth, development together with job creation. Therefore the provincial Industrial Development Strategy provides a framework for state-led plans and intervention areas thus building productive capability to place the province on a more reasonable and labour absorptive growth path.

The plan aims to achieve its short and long-term inter-related goals through the listed below objectives:

- Developing an integrated and diversified industrial base in the Province;
- Developing and expansion medium to high technology labour intensive manufacturing industries;
- Developing inter-sectoral linkages that will localise the supply chains within the Province, especially with major companies in the mining and energy sectors;
- Enhancing value addition through the upgrade and development of local suppliers to enter the supply chains of major industries in the Province;
- Planned efforts to distribute development investments over a range of industries so as to prioritise job creation;
- Expanding sustainable and value adding employment opportunities; and
- Planned infrastructure investment so as to maximise the potential of major industry sectors, both in the short and long term.

The MIDP has therefore further identified Industrial Centres of Competence that establish innovative platforms required for supporting sustainable industrial development in the targeted sectors, which shall form a central hub to be effectively marketed, promoted and coordinated. Such promising centres have been identified as follows:

- **Mining and Metals Technology Park**- A comprehensive facility for promoting industrial development within the mining and metals manufacturing sectors. This should be logistically well-positioned, adjacent to the N4 between eMalahleni and Middleburg. The preferred size of this park is 600 hectares.
- **Forestry Technology Park**- It will provide a platform for inter-firm cooperation, and lead to specialisation and improvement in quality standards for exports out of the Province. The park will be based at Sabie.
- **International Fresh Produce Market**- A site has been identified on the Sabie/Mashishing Road close to Nelspruit and the Riverside Park mixed-use regional node.
- **Petrochemicals Technology Park**- One of the major industrialisation initiatives in the Province, aimed at stimulating economic growth and job creation, both through Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprise (SMME) incubation and large-scale production. This park is based at Secunda. Land for the development of the proposed Technology Park has already been allocated by the Local Municipality.
- **Agro-processing Technology Park**- The Park has been proposed within the Nkomazi SEZ. The proposed Technology Park will serve as a hub for the development of other rural nodes, such as the proposed agro-processing hub in Bushbuckridge.
The MIDP advocates for the industrialisation of rural nodes to promote holistic socio-economic development in the province. The importance of developing priority rural nodes in order enable business flows, technology transfer and capacity development.

In addition to intensification of industrial activities within the Industrial Centres of Competence, the MIDP advocates for the industrialisation of rural nodes to promote holistic socio-economic development in the province. To promote rural industrialisation, the plan proposes to develop activity links between the priority rural nodes (see Table 1) with the Industrial Centres of Competence to enable business flows, technology transfer and capacity development.

**Table 1: The Industrial Centres of Competence and Links to Priority Rural and CRDP Nodes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Centre of Competence</th>
<th>Industrial Centre of Competence</th>
<th>Central hub/s</th>
<th>Links to Priority Rural and CRDP Nodes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eMalahleni</td>
<td>Mining and Metals Centre of Competence</td>
<td>Mining and Metals Industrial Centre of Competence</td>
<td>Mining and Metals Technology Park</td>
<td>Thembisile Hani (KwaMhlanga)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. JS Moroka (Siyabuswa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middelburg</td>
<td>Metals Manufacturing Centre of Competence</td>
<td>Petrochemicals Industrial Centre of Competence</td>
<td>Petrochemicals Industrial Supplier Park</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secunda</td>
<td>Petrochemicals Centre of Competence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mbombela</td>
<td>Agriculture Technology Centre of Competence</td>
<td>Agriculture and Forestry Industrial Centre of Competence</td>
<td>Forestry Technology Park International Fresh Produce Market</td>
<td>Bushbuckridge Chief Albert Luthuli (Elukwatini) Nkomazi KaNyamazane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabie</td>
<td>Forestry Centre of Competence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Komatipoort</td>
<td>Agro-Processing Centre of Competence</td>
<td>Nkomazi Special Economic Zone</td>
<td>Agro-Processing Technology Park</td>
<td>Nkomazi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Mpumalanga Industrial Development Plan, 2015*
5 DISTRICT SPATIAL PLANS, POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES

5.1 Gert Sibande Spatial Development Framework (GS SDF), 2010

In 2010 the Gert Sibande Municipality undertook the review of the District SDF. The main objective of the SDF review is to revise the than existing Gert Sibande District SDF in order to bring it up to date with those of its seven Local Municipalities. Through the process the District Municipality also aimed to ensure that the new revised SDF is well aligned with its Integrated Development Plan and all Provincial and National policy directives and sector plans in Mpumalanga Province,

The Gert Sibande SDF aims to address integration and alignment between spatial, engineering, environmental and socio-economic issues confronting the district and local municipalities; and facilitate implementation of the IDP and all related government intentions to reduce poverty and facilitate urban and rural development in the GSDM area. Apart from the above, the Gert Sibande Municipality also aims to achieve the following objectives:

To provide strategic, indicative and flexible forward planning instrument to guide decisions on land development;

- To provide a set of policies, principles and directives for spatial development;
- To provide a clear and logical framework for private and public sector investment;
- To promote sustainable development in terms of natural and built environment conservation;
- To facilitate the social, economic and environmental sustainability;
- To provide a framework for dealing with key issues such as natural resource management, land reform, and land use management;
- To facilitate the development of aesthetical urban and rural landscape;
- To refine the current SDF document in order to comply with legal requirements and also be conversant with the development trends within the region;
- To conduct an assessment of other National, Provincial and district-wide sectoral documentation/ policies, and incorporate relevant information from these sources into the SDF;
- To ensure consistency in level of detail, general contents, development philosophy, as well as horizontal and vertical integration between the Local SDF’s, and the District SDF;
- To conduct a District Land Audit which will cover among the following:
  - Status Quo Database on all land claims registered per municipality in the District;
  - Current status (progress report) on each of these;
  - Spatial distribution and extent (location) of each of these claims plotted on a District map;
  - Compilation of a District map indicating all the State Owned Land in the District, and per Local Municipality;
- District and municipal maps indicating all land earmarked/suitable for the following land use purposes: high potential agricultural land, residential use, light industrial, and heavy industrial use.

The Gert Sibande District SDF vision is as follows

“STRIVING TO EXCEL IN GOOD GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE”

The Gert Sibande District SDF also outlines 12 development principles which are to be achieved in order to realise the district’s vision. The principles are:

- Development Principle 1: Environment
- Development Principle 2: Transportation
- Development Principle 3: Nodal Hierarchy
- Development Principle 4: Thusong Centre Development
- Development Principle 5: Strategic Development Areas
- Development Principle 6: Incremental Service Upgrading Priority Areas
- Development Principle 7: Tourism
- Development Principle 8: Forestry
- Development Principle 9: Agriculture
- Development Principle 10: Mining
- Development Principle 11: Industry
- Development Principle 12: Business Areas

5.2 Gert Sibande Integrated Development Plan (GS IDP)

The District Integrated Development Plan was formulated and adopted to serve as a guide to all of the local municipalities within the GSDM area, in the preparation of their respective Review Process. The IDP outlines clear objectives and strategies which serve to guide the allocation and management of resources thus improving coordination and integration of planning, budgeting and development within the district.

The Gert Sibande IDP proposes the following vision and mission of the District area:

**GSDM IDP Vision**

“A community driven district of excellence and development”

**GSDM IDP Mission**

“To support and coordinate our local municipalities to provide excellent services and development”

The Gert Sibande District IDP has adopted the following strategic goals in order to assist in realising the vision of the District. The Strategic goals of the District are:

- Provide equitable, consistent and sustainable services to the community
- Improve Socio-economic Growth
- Achieve and Sustain Financial Viability within all 8 Municipalities
- Strengthen Municipal capability

The above translates into six Key Performance Areas for the District as listed below:

- KPA 1: Municipal Transformation and Organizational Development
- KPA 2: Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development
- KPA3: Local Economic Development
The priority Development Objectives emanating from the IDP are as follow:

- To accelerate the provision of, and to ensure that all communities have access to clean water and decent sanitation infrastructure;
- To accelerate the provision of, and to ensure that all communities have access to electricity services;
- To accelerate the provision of, and to ensure that all communities have access to better roads and storm water infrastructure;
- To provide infrastructure that will create an environment that is conducive to economic growth and development;
- To provide infrastructure via using the approach of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), so as to halve unemployment;
- To accelerate the provision of quality health services that is affordable and accessible to all communities;
- To support the provision of comprehensive community facilities and services that is affordable and accessible to all communities where such facilities are needed by communities;
- To ensure that housing developments are located closer to places of work / economic opportunity;
- To provide comprehensive and effective disaster management, fire and emergency services to all communities;
- To ensure comprehensive transport planning in support of economic growth and development;
- To promote tourist attraction areas, and to increase the participation and beneficiation of the previously marginalised communities;
- To ensure protection of the environment.

5.3 Gert Sibande Rural Development Plan (GS RDP)

The Gert Sibande Rural Development Plan is a plan seeking to achieve enhanced rural production and productivity, greater socio-economic equity, and aspiration, balance in social and economic development. The Rural Development Plan aims to also improve the impact of intensified and targeted government and private investments in rural areas through an assessment of current developmental realities and potential in these areas. The main objective of GSDM Rural Development Plan (RDP) is to addresses the needs of people who live in extreme poverty and who are subjected to underdevelopment in the rural areas of the District.

The RDP further addresses the rural context of Gert Sibande to ensure sustainable livelihoods for those households residing in the rural areas. Broadly the plan addressed the following objectives:

- Improve foods security and household income for rural families.
  - Implement measures to ensure households migrate from subsistence agriculture to that of a commercial kind.
  - Improvement in ecological situation
  - Develop sustainable food quality
  - Improve Households income
Develop rural business and community organizations
- Harness the power of BIG Business to incubate business acumen as part of the agri-park concept
- Develop a number of business in each local municipality every year
- Assist increasing self-sustaining small business up to 5 members per entity
- Attract youths and agricultural graduates to setup rural business
- Develop operational and self-sustaining cooperatives
- Expand business through incubating at least 20 new ventures per annum

Provide flexible training and education
- Public/Private partnerships to provide training in the agricultural and tourism sectors
- Create entrepreneurial skills development by group practical exercises every month.

Provide cost effective infrastructure without sacrificing quality of services
- Prioritise spending on capital projects that will enable some of the projects in this plan
- Assist in providing rural infrastructure in every local municipality
- Create cost-effective and excellent working environment
- Deliver quality construction at local cost within budget limits

Economic sector development to create jobs for especially youths, women and people with disabilities.
- Create temporal and permanent jobs for artisan workers
- To empower youths to appreciate and implement agricultural related projects.
- Integration of development and social cohesion focusing on integrating rural communities with economic nodes through various development corridors.
- Environmental protection and conservation recognises the principle that for rural development to thrive there is a need to protect the natural environment and agricultural potential land.

The District RDP has also been prepared to ease integration of the Agri-Park Initiative and the implementation of DRDRLR projects into the various Local Municipalities of the District. They also intended to assist the LMs, GSDM and other sector departments and the private sector to invest and enable the development and functioning of Agri-Parks. The Gert Sibande Agri-Parks Business Plan identifies eMkhondo (Piet Retief) as the most suitable site for the establishment of an Agri Hub within the district. Ermelo town is allocated to perform the function of a Rural Urban Market Centre in the district. The Gert Sibande Agri-Parks Business Plan also outlines that the proposed Agri-Hub in eMkhondo is to be supported by 28 FPSU’s. 3 of the identified FPSU’s in the District are situated in Dipaleseng LM, in Balfour, Greylingstad and Grootsvlei. Dipaleseng is also classified as priority 1 intervention for Rural Intervention Areas.

5.4 Gert Sibande District Municipality Integrated Transport Plan, 2014 (Review)

The Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) aims to integrate transport planning with land development planning and provides for a 5 year implementation programme for transport infrastructure and services. The purpose of the plan is to solve transport
issues and problems in line with Gert Sibande District Municipality goals and objectives, and to effectively communicate how transport will be arranged, executed and operated in a manner that is transparent and accountable to enhance the transport system for the benefit of all its citizens.

The ITP is required to: (1) pay due attention to the development of rural areas; (2) be aligned with other planning initiatives and must indicate how it is to be integrated into the Municipal Development Plans, the Land Development Objectives and the Municipal Budgeting processes; (3) include consultation and participation of interested and affected parties.

The Gert Sibande ITP transport goals for the GSDM are to:

- Co-ordinate, facilitate and provide efficient and effective transport infrastructure for all private, public passenger and freight transport.
- Ensure a sustainable financial allocation for the transport function.
- Ensure that transport is managed within a sound institutional framework.
- Ensure that municipal transport planning and coordination is maintained across all spheres of Government.
- Co-ordinate, implement, monitor and regulate efficient and effective public transport services.
- Ensure that transport is regulated in line with legislative requirements.
- Improve traffic management and safety through co-ordinated planning, maintenance, and education and law enforcement actions.

Freight transport, specifically coal haulage, was identified as the major transportation issue in the district. The reliance of on road based coal transport and its negative effect on the existing road infrastructure is recognized. Therefore the plan calls for programmes and projects that will assist in the decongestion of these routes and the upgrade of all road infrastructure in the District.

5.5 Gert Sibande Local Economic Development Strategy, 2014

The Gert Sibande Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy offers local government, the private and local communities the opportunity to work together to improve the local economy. It is prepared as a sector plan of GSDM Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The purpose of this strategy is to build up the economic capacity of a local area and enhance its economic future and improve the quality of life for all.

LED focuses on improving competitiveness, increasing sustainable growth and ensuring that growth in the District is inclusive. The LED encompasses a range of disciplines including physical planning, economics and marketing. It also incorporates public and private sector functions including environmental planning, business development, infrastructure provision, real estate development and finance as a means in the improvement of the districts economy.

The following are strategic development goals identified in the GSDM LED Strategy:

- Ensuring that the local investment climate is functional for local businesses;
- Supporting small and medium sized enterprises;
- Encouraging the formation of new enterprises;
- Attracting external investment (nationally and internationally);
- Investing in physical (hard) infrastructure;
- Investing in soft infrastructure (educational and workforce development, institutional support systems and regulatory issues);
- Supporting the growth of particular clusters of businesses;
- Targeting particular parts of the city for regeneration or growth (areas based initiatives);
- Supporting informal and newly emerging businesses;
- Targeting certain disadvantaged groups.
6 LOCAL SPATIAL PLANS, POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES

6.1 Dipaleseng Local Municipality Integrated Development Plan (DLM IDP)

The Dipaleseng LM IDP was compiled following consultation with stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector. The IDP outlines clear objectives and strategies which serve to guide the allocation and management of resources thus improving coordination and integration of planning, budgeting and development within the municipal area.

The Dipaleseng IDP proposes the following vision, mission and corporate values of the municipality:

IDP VISION:

The vision of the Dipaleseng Local Municipality is to be “a centre of quality, affordable, good governance and sustainable economic opportunities”

IDP MISSION:

The Dipaleseng SDF mission “is to provide sustainable services to communities and ensure that they are served by accountable and effective Municipality.”

The Municipal Corporate Values are captured as:

A customer centered approach shapes the values of the DLM. The DLM subscribes to the following corporate values:

- Transparency
- Community Centeredness
- Performance Excellence
- Honesty and Integrity
- Co-operative Governance

DLM Priorities:

- Enhancement of revenue collection
- Basic Service Delivery (Water, sanitation, electricity & refuse removal)
- LED and Job Creation
- Attraction of investors
- Public Participation and Good Governance
- Institutional Development
- Social Services (Education, Health, HIV/AIDS, Crime and Drugs Prevention)

Dipaleseng’s development plans are mostly geared towards infrastructure upgrades and economic growth. In particular, housing, water and sanitation are key focus areas. Given the dependence on non-employment income, many households cannot afford services (infrastructure or social), the IDP has therefore Identify 4 KPA in order to address this challenge in the municipality. The KPA’s are:

- KPA 1: MUNICIPAL TRANSFORMATION AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- KPA 2: SERVICE DELIVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
- KPA 3: LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- KPA 4: MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND MANAGEMENT
6.2 Dipaleseng Local Municipality Spatial Development Framework

The Dipaleseng LM Spatial Development Framework (SDF) provides broad terms of reference for all government decision making pertaining to future developments in the municipality. The spatial development of Dipaleseng LM should take into account the impact of mining, electricity generation, manufacturing and agricultural activities. The planning for the maximization of profits by these sectors should be environmentally sustainable for both physical and economic health of the residents of Dipaleseng.

The aim of the Dipaleseng SDF is to address the spatial, environmental and socio-economic issues confronting Dipaleseng Municipality.

The development objectives derived from the municipalities’ spatial vision include:

- To exploit economic opportunities in a sustainable manner;
- To create sustainable human settlements; and
- To protect the natural environment and resources from inappropriate and opportunistic development;

The spatial strategies indicate how the spatial objectives shall be achieved through a series of interventions that are designed to address the opportunities within the Dipaleseng LM. The spatial strategies are:

Table 2: Spatial Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exploit Economic Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Enhance regional accessibility through improved road and rail linkage to unlock the economic potential of the municipality (R23, R51, N3 and railway).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify tourism opportunities to develop possible tourism strategy albeit limited in Dipaleseng.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify land suitable for arable cultivation and beneficiation of agricultural products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Demarcate land with mineral deposits for mining development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify areas with potential for economic growth, declare them as Special Economic Zones with incentives to specific developments zones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify areas with low economic development potential, these areas must be provided with the constitutionally accepted level of services.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Create Sustainable Human Settlements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Contain urban development within urban settlement boundaries/urban edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Densify existing settlements to optimise engineering services and viability of public transport systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The establishment of human settlements should be within reasonable walking distance to public transport, this is to enhance accessibility to employment opportunities, social facilities and greater variety of goods and services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop employment and residential opportunities close to bulk engineering infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eradicate the dysfunctional spatial pattern that was created by past spatial policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Identify appropriate locations for land reform purposes to prevent the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
development of marginalised rural settlements.

- Increase internal road access to ensure functional urban and rural integration

**Protect the Natural and Built Environment**

- Protect ecologically sensitive natural open spaces and utilise valuable natural assets (ecological corridors, Vaal River, tributaries and wetlands).
- Comply with the Mpumalanga Conservation Plan and all district and local environmental management frameworks.
- Protect and manage the built and natural environment with heritage value (Greylingstad Mountains).
- Identify high potential agricultural land and protect it from development (land along Vaal Rivers)
- Ensure detailed planning and management where areas have high priority for development and high environmental sensitivity (Areas around Greylingstad with mining potential yet situated in the ecological corridor).

Significantly, the Dipaleseng SDF needs to be aligned with the Gert Sibande Spatial Development Framework, 2014 and the Mpumalanga PSDF, 2019 as per SPLUMA requirements. Hence the need for the current SDF review. The provincial and district SDF’s thus guides the development of the Municipality to ensure that the spatial restructuring component in urban and rural areas is achieved.

### 6.3 Dipaleseng Local Economic Development Strategy, 2011

The Dipaleseng LM is legally bound to promote social and economic development within its community. This implies that public investment should largely focus on developing the Municipal area in terms of Local Economic Development and providing for the basic needs of the community. The purpose of the Dipaleseng LED strategy is to direct and align as many stakeholders as possible towards accelerated economic development, increased job creation and improved standards of living in the Municipal area. The LED vision is to create a conclusive environment for economic growth, stability and development within Dipaleseng LM.

The LED strategy has identified several opportunities and potential development projects to be prioritised in accordance to their economic impact on the municipal area. The LED has a set of Strategic Development Pillars which serve as the point of alignment with the municipal IDP, SDF and other development policies. The Aim of the Pillars is to utilise existing strengths and opportunities by transforming workable programmes and actions that will assist in reducing threats and alleviate weakness in the local economic environment. The Pillars to be implemented are:

- **Pillar 1:** Rural Development
- **Pillar 2:** Human Resource Development
- **Pillar 3:** Institutional Development
- **Pillar 4:** Tourism Development

Below are the identified Strategic Goals as per the LED Vision:
- **The Protection of Natural Capital**: Ensuring sustainable long-term local economic development through the protection and maintenance of natural capital.

- **The Reduction in Income Disparity**: Reducing the income disparity in Dipaleseng by focusing on skills training, capacity-building initiatives, local competitive advantages and development of the informal sector.

- **Improvement of Institutional Capacity**: Ensuring sustainable local economic development by improving the capacity of the Municipality through the establishment of an Economic Development Agency.

- **The Promotion of the Retention of Local Wealth**: Retaining wealth and increasing the circulation of the wealth in the Municipality by promoting local savings, investment and entrepreneurship.

- **Promotion of Public, Private Partnerships**: Ensuring that relations between the public and private sector are improved in an effort to better leverage LED support and resources at a local level by engaging all the sectors about their roles in LED.

- **The Promotion of Business/Investment Attraction and Job-Creation**: Ensuring effective job-creation strategies by focusing on specific occupations and industry sectors.

- **Innovation**: Creative and inclusive Rural Development and the application of Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in LED (e.g. Knowledge Economy).
7 DRAFT SPATIAL VISION AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

7.1 Development Objectives

Based on the Spatial Synthesis and Key Takeaways of all the policies, directives and frameworks done, the following development objective were formulated, keeping in mind that the spatial development objectives of the current Dipaleseng SDF are still applicable and aligned with the Municipal IDP, PSDF and the District SDF (2014). Therefore it is the intention of this SDF review to keep the current development objectives, improve upon them and include new objectives to help realize the Municipal vision.

Objective 1: To exploit economic opportunities and poverty reduction;
Objective 2: To promote sustainable human settlements and integrated development
Objective 3: To protect and conserve the natural environment, its resources and biodiversity
Objective 4: Promote sustainable development
Objective 5: Concentrate development on development corridors and nodes
Objective 6: Promote rural development
Objective 7: Promote tourism development

7.2 Spatial Goals

To address the identified spatial challenges and give effect to the relevant policies the Dipaleseng SDF should focus development of municipal towards:

- A more inherent economic opportunities such as the natural beauty characterised by the biodiversity, wetlands, Vaal River, mining opportunities including gold and coal, electricity generation,
- Protection and utilization of resources such as the rich agricultural land and diverse natural environment
- Development of sustainable settlements where residents can lead enriched, healthy and convenient lives; and
- An improved effectiveness in the governance.

7.3 DRAFT SPATIAL VISION

As a SPLUMA requirement, the national, provincial, and municipal spheres of government must prepare SDFs that establish a clear vision which must be developed through a thorough inventory and analysis based on national spatial planning principles and provincial strategies and local long-term development goals and plans.
7.4 SPATIAL VISION

The existing Dipaleseng SDF (2010) Vision is as follows:

“Providing quality affordable services, good governance and sustainable economic opportunities”

Based on the national, provincial, district and local policy frameworks that were reviewed as part the Dipaleseng SDF review DRAFT Vision was formulated as the following:

“Providing quality affordable services, good governance, rural development and sustainable economic opportunities, while protecting the natural environment”