

THUSONG SERVICE CENTERS

The province has set a target of 2 Thusong Service Centers in each Municipality by 2014.

To date there are 14 functional Thusong Service Centers, namely: Mbangwane, Matsamo, Louisville, Casteel, Moremela, Wonderfontein, Marapyane, Mpuluzi, Breyten, Tholulwazi, Driefontein, Daggakraal, Siyathemba & Thuthukani.

Thusong Service Centers are aimed at extending services of government in an integrated way, primarily to rural communities, and in so doing to address historical factors limiting access of citizens to government information and services.

WATER FOR ALL PROJECT

The Water for All project has been identified as one of the five key projects in Mpumalanga. The purpose of the programme is to accelerate the roll out of water infrastructure to meet higher level of services by 2010 in order to ensure that the basic level of services are progressively provided in areas without infrastructure. A total amount of R2, 385 billion is required to eradicate water backlogs as per project lists submitted, by 2010. The total resources currently allocated as indicated on the project lists and available in the province is R1, 279 billion including MIG, own funding and sector funding would be largely utilized to cater for minimum access to water. So far, 24 water projects have been completed since the inception of the Water for All. 74 projects, funded by the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) are under construction. A total of 667 495 households out of 926 050 have access to water. The backlog that still needs to be addressed is 258 555 through the Water for All Flagship project.

TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTION

In Mpumalanga, there are 59 Traditional Councils. The department's role is to render support services to Traditional Institutional Management. The department facilitated the successful traditional council elections last year, making Mpumalanga, the first province to conduct them in the country. The councils will assist traditional leaders in the development of rural areas.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITATION

The purpose of this sub-program is to support and coordinate rural development programmes within jurisdiction of 59 Traditional Councils to be aligned to municipal IDPs. It facilitates the improvement of accessibility of services by traditional communities. It also empowers Traditional Leadership structures and strengthening of functional linkages with municipalities.

TRADITIONAL LAND ADMINISTRATION

The purpose of this sub-program is to support Traditional Councils on registration and securing of land tenure rights in traditional areas. It also manages settlement of land disputes and facilitates development of land use management in traditional areas.

VISION

Integrated sustainable people centered development.

MISSION

To facilitate and co-ordinate Intergovernmental Structures and developmental Agencies for Sustainable Integrated Service Delivery through public participation and Traditional system of governance.

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led Local Economic Development ldp Integrated Development Planning mig Municipal Infrastructure Grant pc Project Consolidation isrdp Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme

website: <http://cgta.mpg.gov.za>



Department:
Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS



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BACKGROUND

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, formerly Local Government was renamed recently in realignment with the National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. With 21 Municipalities and 59 Traditional Councils in Mpumalanga, the department's role is to monitor and support the two institutions to discharge their mandate and responsibilities. The department is responsible to strengthening Co-operative Governance in the province as well as to improve the Institution of Traditional leaders. This means the department will make government work and function better in a more integrated way and ensure that the institution of Traditional Leaders are transformed, to play a big role in partnering with government to accelerate development.

Over the years, municipalities have had to grapple with challenges in discharging their full mandate, owing to lack of adequate resources such as funds and expertise. Consequently, the majority of municipalities failed to comply with legislative prescripts such as the Municipal System's Act and the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), however, the situation has now been turned around through the intervention of the department. This intervention has seen an increase in municipalities that receive unqualified reports in respect of Financial Statements by the Auditor-General, while the number of those with disclaimers reduced gradually. The department is also helping municipalities with integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and Local Economic Development (LED) strategies in order for them to be financially viable. We have also seen an increase in the spending of the Municipality Infrastructure Grant (MIG) and an increase in the number of homesteads who have access to water and electricity.

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT (MIG)

The municipal infrastructure grant programme is aimed at providing all South Africans with at least a basic level by the year 2013 through the provision of grant finance aimed at covering the capital cost of basic infrastructure for the poor. The MIG programme is a key part of government's overall drive to alleviate poverty in the country and therefore, infrastructure is to be provided in such a way that employment is maximized and opportunities are created for enterprises to flourish.

Since the inception of the MIG programme up to December 2008, R3, 913 billion worth of projects have been registered. Through the MIG programme, more than 706 000 households were provided with basic access to sanitation and more than 773 000 households were provided with basic roads and infrastructure.

The department has deployed engineers to assist municipalities to expedite registration of infrastructure projects and technical reports. This assisted municipalities to improve the expenditure on the Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) from 53% in the pre-

vious year to 75% by March 2008. The department also supported municipalities to appoint service providers to fast track the rate of submissions of business plans and technical reports by the Department of Water Affairs and Forest (DWAF).

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)

Local Economic Development (LED) is an outcome based on local economic initiatives and driven by local stakeholders. The objective of LED is to create employment opportunities for local residents, alleviate poverty and redistribute resources and opportunities to the benefit of all local residents. It strives for the eradication of poverty and unemployment through the implementation of the LED programmes. In Mpumalanga, the department has conducted a Capacity Assessment of all District and Local municipalities to determine the state of readiness to implement the LED mandate. As part of capacity building for the LED, the department in conjunction with Wits University and the German NGO, GTZ have sponsored an intensive training programme in which 47 candidates, among them Councillors and Senior officials from Municipalities graduated with NQ-7 certificates.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE

The role of this unit is to promote and support municipalities to ensure that they are financially self sustainable. This is done by ensuring the following:

- Monitoring the financial position of municipalities.
- Provide financial management support where necessary to build institutional capacity and improve their systems to provide sustainable service delivery.
- Handling municipal finance related issues in terms of relevant legislations.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

The responsibility of this directorate is to monitor and facilitate the effectiveness of administration within municipalities, ensure legislative compliance by municipalities and promote the principles of co-operative governance. This directorate derives its mandate from the following legislative framework, the Constitution of the Republic: chapter 7, Municipal Structures Act: chapter 1,2 & 4, Municipal Systems Act: chapter 2,3,7 & 8 and Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act. The below functions are mainly performed by this directorate:

- Facilitate the establishment of municipalities.
- Monitor the institutional transformation and organisation development within municipalities and provide support where necessary. This includes monitoring of municipal organogram, vacancy rate and policies.
- Assess capacity of municipalities in the provision of municipal services.
- Co-ordinate IGR structures in the province.
- Manage the implementation of 5 year Local Government Strategic Agenda.

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (IDP)

This sub-programme is in line with Chapter 5 of the Municipal Systems Act no 32 of 2000. The core function of the programme is to support, coordinate and assess the Integrated Development Plans (IDP) of municipalities. It also ensures the alignment of the IDP with Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) and the National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP). The department supports municipalities in the development of credible IDPs.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The unit co-ordinates Disaster Management with all spheres of government. It seeks to provide for an integrated and coordinated disaster management policy that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of disasters, emergency preparedness, rapid and effective response to disaster and post disaster recovery. A Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum (PDMAF) has been established to advise, monitor and recommend on disaster related issues and risk management and gather information about the provincial capacity to assist in disasters and access to resources. The department is building a state of the art Disaster Management Center. The center will be useful during the 2010 World Cup. The department has a disaster toll free number: 0800202507, where the community report disasters.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS (CDWs)

Community Development Workers are catalysts of change who liaise, coordinate, mobilize, inform and assist communities to have access to information and services provided by Government. They also assist communities to identify and communicate their needs to Government at National, Provincial and Local level thus bringing Government closer to the people. The department has recruited 322 CDWs. In the Gert Sibande region, 105 have been recruited, while 95 were recruited in Ehlanzeni region. In Nkangala, 122 have been recruited. The department has appointed 3 district coordinators and administrators to ensure effective functionality of the CDWs in the three regions.

WARD COMMITTEES

Ward Committees are structures established in terms of Chapter 4, Section 73 of the Local Government Municipal Structures' Act. The objective of the Ward Committees is to enhance public participation in Local Government decision making. A Ward Committee consists of not more than 10 persons elected by the community of that particular ward. The Ward Councillor is the Chairperson of the Ward Committee. The Ward Committee may make recommendations on any matter affecting its ward to the Ward Councillor or through the Ward Councillor to the local council.