**LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN ANNEXURE S**

**(DRAFT)**

**LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**2011**

****

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3. **INTRODUCTION**

Economic development is imperative in a developing country such as South Africa and it is at local level where it should start. Local Government should create the environment and give direction to local economic development in the area. The people within the community expect local government to drive the process of development of the local economy. It is indeed a challenge for Local Governments to take the initiative and make an impact on the living conditions of the communities.

It is indeed at local level where conditions such as unemployment prevail and which lead to poverty and people living under the breadline. The people within all communities of South Africa wish to see evidence of local development and there is also an expectation that Local Government must drive the process. This expectation provides a challenge and opportunity for Local Government to make a meaningful impact on the lives of its communities.

To take this argument further it is for the government, the private sector and civil society to work together in order to create sustainable local economies. It is moreover in the interest of the public as a whole that growth should be affected in the local economy. It means that action should be taken to stimulate the economy in order to improve living conditions within the community.

However, there still exists a fundamental need to build a shared understanding among decision-makers, implementers and other stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, regarding what constitutes appropriate and effective local economic development practice. The National Framework for Local Economic Development in South Africa seeks that a shared understanding of good Local Economic Development practice be build.

1. **WHAT IS LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)?**

Local Economic Development is a process to create better conditions mainly for economic growth and poverty eradication by employment creation. The process is undertaken collectively by the public sector, the community and the private sector. The aim of Local Economic Development is to facilitate economic growth in the local area in order to improve the quality of life of all the inhabitants.

It further refers to the activities undertaken to build up the economic strength of a local area in order to improve the economic future of its inhabitants. The economic successes of communities also depend upon the establishment of successful private enterprises.

These successful private enterprises create wealth, jobs and improved living standards for the local communities. Private enterprises, however, depends on favorable local business conditions to achieve prosperity. Developmental Local Governments are responsible for and play an essential role in the creating of favorable environments for business success and job creation. Practicing Local Economic Development requires a strong partnership between the local government, the local community and the private sector.

In order to link economic development projects with the mainstream economy, it is important to note that LED has to be sustainable within the framework provided by the national economy. LED should therefore not be seen as separate from the mainstream economy.

Although social elements very often play an important role in LED projects, it has to be emphasized that the macro-economic environment still outlines the playing field for LED. Local economic development initiatives thus include elements such as job creation and training. Take note of the fact that LED is not a separate initiative but an integrated part of the development of the local community and of the country as a whole.

1. **LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR LED ON LOCAL LEVEL**

Poverty alleviation and unemployment are the greatest development challenges at present as half of South Africa's population lives in poverty and in informal settlements without basic services. LED has been acknowledged and recognized for its role in meeting South Africa’s development challenges.

The legal mandate for LED in South Africa is reflected in the following existing legislation:

* **The Constitution of the RSA (Act 108 of 1996)**

In section 41 of the Constitution it is stipulated, among others, that the principles of co-operative government and intergovernmental relations, should co-operate with one another in mutual trust and good faith. Municipalities should thus undertake LED in relation to provincial and national strategies and guidelines.

Section 152 of the Constitution states that the objects of local government are:

* to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;
* to ensure the 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.

All of the objectives listed above can be associated with Local Economic Development. Local authorities have a legal mandate to promote social and economic upliftment within their areas of jurisdiction. These objectives form part of an integral set of principles from which LED strategies are formulated and implemented.

Section 153 of the Constitution indicates that a municipality must:

* structure and manage its administration and budgeting and planning

processes;

* give priority to the basic needs of the community, and to promote the social

and economic development of the community; and

* participate in national and provincial development programmes

The above sections of the Constitution provide a mandate to municipalities for the economic development of communities on local level. It further informs municipalities about the way in which such development initiatives should be executed. LED, however, is directly contributing to the developmental role of municipalities as stipulated by the Constitution.

* **Local Government: Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000)**

This Act lists the duties of a municipal council in Section 4(2), within its financial and administrative capacity, as follows:

* Exercise the municipality's executive and legislative authority and use the

resources of the municipality in the best interests of the local community.

* Provide, without favour or prejudice, democratic and accountable

government.

* Encourage the involvement of the local community.
* Strive to ensure that municipal services are provided to the local

community in a financially and environmentally sustainable manner.

* Consult the local community about the level, quality, range and impact of

municipal services provided by the municipality, either directly or through another service provider; and the available options for service delivery.

* Give members of the local community equitable access to the municipal

services to which they are entitled.

* Promote and undertake development in the municipality.
* Promote gender equity in the exercise of the municipality's executive and

legislative authority.

* Promote a safe and healthy environment in the municipality.
* Contribute, together with other organs of state, to the progressive

realization of the fundamental rights contained in sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 29 of the Constitution.

Local Economic Development is one of the most strategic tools through which local municipalities adhere to its duties, as prescribed by the Municipal Structures Act. This fact becomes even more applicable, once a municipality's LED strategy is functionally integrated with its Integrated Development Plan.

Section 26(c) of the Municipal Systems Act further specifies that the Integrated Development Plan of a Local Municipality must contain its Local Economic Development aims. This awards the municipal LED Strategy legal status as part of the Integrated Development Planning process.

In Chapter 5 of the Act municipalities are given the mandate to develop and adopt an Integrated Development Plan (IDP). Local Economic Development forms part of this IDP and thus provide legal status to the LED process on local level.

* **Municipal Demarcation Act (Act 27 of 1998)**

The first step in the transformation of local government was the need to re-demarcate the boundaries of municipalities. To do this a Demarcation Board was established. The Board had the task of demarcating boundaries in accordance with factors listed in Section 25 of the Demarcation Act.

The Demarcation Act is closely linked to the Municipal Structures Act, which is described below. For example, the Municipal Structures Act contains the criteria used by the Demarcation Board to determine the different municipal areas as well as the different categories of municipalities.

The Demarcation Act provides mandates to Local Governments in order to prepare and implement LED plans for the economic development of communities in the area. In fact it confirms the responsibility of municipalities to undertake economic development in a specific demarcated area.

* **Municipal Structures Act (Act 117 of 1998)**

In the preamble of the Act it is, among others, stated that, whereas past policies have bequeathed a legacy of massive poverty, gross inequalities in municipal services, and disrupted spatial social and economic environments in which our people continue to live and work and whereas there is fundamental agreement in our country on a vision of democratic and developmental local government. in which municipalities fulfill their constitutional obligations to ensure sustainable effective and efficient municipal services, promote social and economic development, encourage a safe and healthy environment by working with communities in creating environments and human settlements in which all our people can lead uplifted and dignified lives.

The Municipal Structures Act put relevant structures into place to manage the functions of municipalities, such as IDP and LED as identified by the Constitution as well as the Municipal Systems Act.

* **Municipal Finance Management Act (Act 56 of 2003)**

The Municipal Finance Management Act secures sound and sustainable management of the financial affairs of municipalities and other institutions in the local sphere of government. It also establishes treasury norms and standards for the local sphere of government.

In terms of section 17 (2) of the Act, an annual budget must generally be divided into a capital and an operating budget. This budget makes provision for capital expenditure of projects as identified on the 5-year Integrated Development Plan as well as operating expenditure within a specific financial year of a Municipality. Both capital and operating expenditure are aimed at sustainable development within the jurisdiction area of the municipality. This includes LED which forms part of the Integrated Development Plan of the municipality.

1. **NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON LED**

The existing national policies and legislation forms the framework for LED initiatives and local strategies. On national level the priorities for LED interventions are in the following areas and form the key concepts for LED:

* **Basic needs orientation:**
* Secure literacy and at least basic education.
* Improve living conditions, housing and infrastructure development.
* Have access to clean water and sanitation.
* SMME promotion, employment creation.
* Stimulating economic growth, private sector development.
* Investment promotion for priority sectors (e.g. tourism).
* Infrastructure development (Community development ,poverty reduction)
* **The National Principles of Spatial Economic Development Strategy**

**(PSEDS) is built on the principles of the National Spatial Development**

**Perspective (NSDP), namely:**

* Rapid economic growth that is sustained and inclusive is a prerequisite

for the achievement of poverty alleviation;

* fixed investment should be focused in localities of economic growth or

economic potential;

* where low economic potential exists investments should be directed at

projects and programmes to address poverty and the provision of basic

services in order to address past and current social inequalities and

* future settlement and economic development opportunities should be

channelled into activity corridors and nodes that are adjacent to or link the main centres.

1. **PROVINCIAL PERSPECTIVE ON LED**

Provincial governments are expected to play a leading role in ensuring that economic planning, infrastructure investment and development spending take place in accordance

with the principles set out in the National Spatial Development Perspective (NSDP). The

Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) is a critical tool to guide and coordinate the allocation of national, provincial and local resources and private sector investment to achieve sustainable development outcomes.

* **The Pillars of the Provincial Economic Development Strategy (PGDS)**

**are:**

* Increasing investment in the province
* Improving skills and capacity building
* Broadening participation in the economy
* Increasing competitiveness
* **The purpose of the Provincial Spatial Economic Development Strategy (PSEDS) is to:**
* Provide spatial context to Growth and Development strategy;
* address spatial imbalances, curb urban sprawl and ensure sustainable

interventions;

* identify priority areas and types of development;
* align to municipal spatial development frameworks;
* guide budgeting processes of the province and municipalities and
* influence investment decisions of the private sector.
* **Important key sectors which have been identified as drivers of economic**

**growth in the province are:**

* The Agricultural sector (including agri-processing and land reform)
* The Industrial sector (Including Manufacturing)
* The Tourism sector
* The Service sector (including government services)

The Ubuntu Municipality’s approach to economic development policy can be seen as two-fold namely the Spatial Development Framework (SDF) and the Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy.

Information supplied by Provide Project Background Paper of 2009 shows the population of the Northern Cape Province as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| African | Coloured | Indian | White | Other | Male | Female | Total |
| 278633 | 435368 | 2268 | 111844 | 12207 | 412681 | 427639 | 840320 |

Poverty indicators for the Northern Cape Province:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of poorPersons(million) | % Populationin poverty | Poverty gap(R billion) | Share of povertygap |
| 0.5 | 61% | 1.5 | 1.8% |

Northern Cape highest education level for those aged 20 years and above:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No schooling | SomePrimary | Com-pletePrimary | Some High School | Matric | Higher | Less thanmatric &certif/dip | Matric &Other qual | Unspeci-fied | Total |
| 97538 | 64795 | 69353 | 130352 | 53482 | 25939 | 8881 | 4724 | 13303 | 468367 |

Economically Active Population of the Northern Cape Province:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Employed | Unemployed | Total |
| 215523 | 86060 | 301583 |

1. **LOCAL VISION, MISSION AND CORPORATE VALUES & CULTURE**

The functioning of the Ubuntu Municipality is founded on a set of principles and values adopted by the Municipality. It spells out the level of service delivery and the way in which the Municipality approaches its responsibilities within the community it serves. These principles and values culminate in the following Vision, Mission and Corporate Values & Principles of the Municipality:

* **Vision**

The vision of the Ubuntu Municipality is: “We, Ubuntu Municipality, commit ourselves to be developmental and economically viable, to ensure a better life for all”

* **Mission**

The mission of the Ubuntu Municipality is:

We strive to achieve -

* Effective and efficient service delivery;
* optimal human and natural resource development;
* local economic growth and development, job creation and poverty alleviation;
* a vibrant tourism industry;
* to participate in the fight to reduce the infection rate and lessen the impact of

HIV/AIDS, alcohol abuse and other communicable diseases;

* a safe, secure and community friendly environment and
* to ensure sound and sustainable management of Financial and Fiscal affairs

of the municipality.

* **Corporate Values and Culture:**

Corporate values and culture adopted by the Ubuntu Municipality are as follows:

* Driven by the aspirations of our people, we will respect and uphold the

constitution of the Republic of South Africa and, to this end, observe human rights and participate in co-operative governance.

* We subscribe to the principles of Batho Pele and total quality management.
* We commit ourselves to the Codes of Conduct for councillors and officials in

the Municipal Systems Act and to the principles of sound financial management.

* We believe in integrity in the relations with all our stakeholders.
* We commit ourselves to a corruption free municipality.
* We endorse a “people-driven” approach and, to this end, commit ourselves to

ensuring public participation in local government.

1. **THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP) AND LED**

Local Economic Development has been identified as one of the Key Performance Areas (KPA’s) of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of the Ubuntu Municipality. The Plan stipulates that a thorough economic analysis of the municipal area needs to be conducted with the intention to develop an LED strategy or plan. The National LED Framework should guide the development of these strategies and plans. The municipality needs to identify key catalectic projects that will stimulate local economic growth. In terms of the targets set in the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy, the strategies that have been put into place in order to ensure that the targets are met and how they will be achieved, it is crucial to note that the first driver of LED is a well managed municipality. It is further important to note that LED cannot be done by the municipality alone but needs a partnership between civil society, businesses, non-state actors and government for any level of success.

The IDP is an integrated plan to outline the future development of the area.The new approach to local government is one with a developmental aim to overcome the poor planning of the past.

The gap between the level of services for the rich and the poor areas, and for informal settlements with few or no services at all, needs to be bridged. Thus, it is clear that LED is directly part of the national development vision and the IDP on local level. The principles and indicators of LED’s would clarify the issue of bringing about development on local level as part of the IDP.

* **The principles and indicators of LED’s:**
* Consist of more than just poverty alleviation and job creation.
* They move beyond the basic need for developmental focus toward

sustainable economic growth.

* LED therefore is more a local growth strategy.
* To enable all people to benefit from local development, it needs the

participation and commitment from as many local people as possible.

* If the local area reflects a dynamic business environment, it will attract

investors and tourists to the area, thus stimulating growth.

* LED is directly related to the IDP, and
* All LED projects need to be reflected in the IDP to ensure maximum

participation and support from all spheres of government.

One can redefine the IDP as the overall macro plan for the area and LED as the micro plan for all sector development.

The under-mentioned should be considered in order for the municipality to have a Credible LED Strategy.

* **A credible LED strategy:**
* Is the strategy aligned with the national, provincial and district

objectives, particularly in respect of infrastructure and skills development?

* Has there been adequate consideration of spatial issues relevant to

economic development?

* Is there empirical and statistical evidence to support the main

development thrust of the strategy?

* Have the financial implications been considered, at least as far as an

indicative budget?

* Has a review taken place of institutional factors that need to be in place

to deliver the strategy?

* Is there evidence of adequate stakeholder and community involvement?
* Are there clearly identified objectives and can the attainment of these be

measured?

* Is there an indicative time frame for the delivery of the strategy?
* Are management arrangements in place, such as a coordinating committee, a

structure for reporting and an indicative format for work programmes?

* Have issues of improved governance relating to investment and job

creation been considered?

* Is the area comparative and competitive advantage understood?
* Are plans adequate to provide support to small enterprises?
* Does the plan have full Council and stakeholder commitment?
* Is there leadership for the strategy among the stakeholders?
* Have monitoring and evaluation processes been established?

The following illustration explains how different municipal areas contribute to an IDP:

1. **SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

A situational analysis provides valuable information in order to get a better perspective on the economic profile of the region. This information could be used to identify certain economic potentials of the Ubuntu region as well as possible strategies to promote economic growth within the region.

* **Local Demographics and social Data**

Local demographics and social data play an important role in local economics and is crucial for the development of action plans for economic growth in the region and are reflected hereunder.

The Ubuntu demographic and social data obtained from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses as well as the 2007 Community Survey (CS) serve as the foundation of the Socio-economic analysis which includes the following information:

* Population and Households

The following important statistics flowed from the Census 2001 and the Community Survey (CS) 2007 and are related to the economic conditions within the communities of the Ubuntu region:

Estimated population and households: Census 2001 and Community Survey (CS) 2007

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Municipalities | Persons | Households |
|  | Census2001 | CS 2007 | Census 2001 \* | CS 2007 |
| Ubuntu Local Municipality | 16 375 | 16 153 | 4 163 | 4 276 |

**\***Excludes collective living quarters

Percentage of households living in formal and informal dwellings: Census 2001 and CS

2007

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Municipalities | Formal | Informal |
|  | Census 2001 | CS 2007 | Census 2001 \* | CS 2007 |
| Ubuntu Local Municipality | 93,0 | 89,1 | 3,2 | 10,5 |

Percentage distribution of households by tenure status: Census 2001 and CS 2007

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Municipalities | Census 2001 | CS 2007 |
| Ubuntu Local Municipality |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Previous statistics from censuses of 1996 and 2001 are reflected hereunder, as -

* Household size

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Household size | Number of households in 2001 |
| 1 | 556 |
| 2 | 848 |
| 3 | 809 |
| 4 | 766 |
| 5 | 423 |
| 6 | 263 |
| 7 | 192 |
| 8 | 119 |
| 9 | 60 |
| 10 and Over | 127 |

* Population groups

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Persons | 2001 | 1996 |
| African | 2748 | 3252 |
| Coloured | 11912 | 14337 |
| Indian | 23 | 7 |
| White | 1693 | 1970 |
| Total Population | 16376 | 19566 |

* Age group distribution

Age distribution plays an important role in planning the priority services to be rendered. The demand for medical and social services increases proportionally as the percentage of older people increases.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Persons  | 2001 | 1996 |
| Males – 0 - 4 | 914 | 1090 |
| Males – 5 -14 | 1789 | 2437 |
| Males – 15 -34 | 2708 | 3215 |
| Males – 35 – 64 | 2126 | 2249 |
| Males – Over 65 | 379 | 426 |
| Females - 0 - 4 | 928 | 1133 |
| Females - 5 - 14 | 1812 | 2556 |
| Females - 15 - 34 | 2742 | 3268 |
| Females - 35 – 64 | 2424 | 2570 |
| Females – Over 65 | 554 | 597 |
| Males - Total | 7916 | 9417 |
| Female - Total | 8460 | 10124 |

* Income levels

Income levels do not only influence the type of services to be rendered but also the level of the service. Income levels also indicate to private institutions where investments should be made.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Persons | 2001 | 1996 |
| None  | 10152 | 10722 |
| R1 – 400 | 1572 | 1600 |
| R401 – 800 | 2682 | 4167 |
| R801 - 1600 | 710 | 361 |
| R1601 – 3200 | 522 | 350 |
| R3201 – 6400 | 405 | 515 |
| R6401 – 12800 | 217 | 122 |
| R12801 – 25600 | 71 | 12 |
| R25601 – 51200 | 16 | 22 |
| R51201 – 102400 | 14 | 14 |
| R102401 – 204800 | 13 | - |
| Over R204801 | 0 | - |

* Economic active population

Information about economic active population also impacts on the type and level of services to be rendered. This information also indicates the tendencies in employment within the region.

Labour Force:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Persons | 2001 | 1996 |
| Employed | 4078 | 5169 |
| Unemployed | 2111 | 1656 |
| Not Economically Active | 3879 | - |
| Total Labour Force | 6189 | - |

* Status of Housing

The current status of housing indicates the need for housing development, such as the building of houses, subsidy schemes and the possible upgrading of houses.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Households | 2001 | 1996 | Backlog |
| Formal  | 3873 | 3733 | 1200 |
| Informal | 134 | 412 | 1200 |
| Traditional  | 152 | 44 | 0 |
| Other  | 5 | 9 | 0 |

* Status of Sanitation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Households | 2001 | 1996 |
| Flush Toilets | 1556 | 1538 |
| Flush Septic Tanks | 373 | - |
| Chemical toilets | 48 | - |
| VIP | 107 | - |
| Pit latrine | 83 | 311 |
| Bucket Latrine | 1200 | 1467 |
| None  | 797 | 910 |

* Telecommunication data

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Households | 2001 | 1996 |
| Telephone and Cell phone in Dwelling | 458 | - |
| Telephone only in Dwelling | 626 | 943 |
| Cell phone | 289 | - |
| Neighbour | 1034 | 605 |
| Public Telephone | 1234 | 703 |
| Other Nearby | 178 | 745 |
| Other – Not Nearby  | 64 | 146 |
| No Access | 281 | 1054 |

* Economical data

Economical data describes the economic activities and thus the economic profile of the Ubuntu region. It also serves as an important indicator of trends and defines the major economic activities of the region.

* Distribution of employment per sector in the region:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Livestockfarming/Agri-culture | Mining | Manu-fac-turing | Elec-tricity | Con-struc-tion | Wholesaletrade | Trans-portandcomm.. | Financeandother | Com-merseandperso-nalser-vice |
| Hutchinson | 28 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 33 | 0 | 0 |
| Loxton | 12 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 9 | 0 | 6 |
| Loxtonfarms | 1009 | 0 | 8 | 15 | 3 | 22 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Merriman |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Richmond | 17 | 0 | 22 | 3 | 48 | 139 | 23 | 28 | 20 |
| Richmondfarms | 797 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| VictoriaWest | 81 | 1 | 73 | 1 | 166 | 265 | 92 | 104 | 49 |

* Tourism related data

The current relevant tourism data is as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Details | Victoria West | Richmond | Loxton | Hutchinson | Merriman |
| Dining Facilities | Sunset Sports Bar | Blue Lantern | Rooigranaat Restaurant  | None | None |
| Copper Eagle Trading  | Ka-Ma Lodge | Die Bouhuis Restaurant  |  |  |
| Merino Restaurant | Supper Club |  |  |  |
| Diamond Route Restaurant |  |  |  |  |
|  |
| Overnight Facilities | Karoo Bird Park | An-Ra Guest House | Biesiespoort Guest House |  |  |
| Bimpi Cottage | Marina Guest House | Jakhalsdans Guest House |  |  |
| Bona Vista | Aandrus | Spies Guest House |  |  |
| De Oude Scholen | Richmond Lodge | Ouetehuis(Old Age Home) |  |  |
| Die Pophuis | Ka-Ma Lodge | Ons Loxton Huis |  |  |
| Tuishuis | Perdehoef Guest House | Loxton Lodge |  |  |
| Hickmans Country Lodge | Rondawel B&B | Karoo Cottage |  |  |
| Liza B&B | Victoria Guest House | Four Seasons |  |  |
| Marseilles | Deudone Guest House  | Drankwinkel Kamers |  |  |
| Melton Wold |  |  |  |  |
| Rest a While |  |  |  |  |
| Victoria Guesthouse |  |  |  |  |
| Silver Oaks |  |  |  |  |
| Peperboom B&B |  |  |  |  |
| De Oude Pastorie |  |  |  |  |

* Tourist attractions

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Richmond | Victoria West | Loxton |
| Horse Breeders Museum | Apollo Theatre | Hiking Trail Taaibosfontein(John Sinclair) |
| Oude Dak | Noblesfontein (Mining of mineral water) | Old buildings |
| War Park | Printing press (old printers machinery) | Castle (Van Aswegensfontein) |
| Dinosaurs Museum (Soetvlei) | Museum (fossils, etc) | Largest White Dorper (Van Aswegensfontein) |
|  | Bird park (different types of birds and reptiles) | Handpomp |
|  | Biesiesfontein (processing of game) | Second World War Museum  |
|  | Gun Powder House (place where ammunition was stored during WW2) |  |
|  | Demarcated old houses |  |
|  | Anglican Church |  |
|  | Victoria West Trading Post (Mannetjies Roux Museum) |  |

* Tourism services

Victoria West has a Tourist Centre and a tourism office where information, covering the entire region and district, is available. Victoria West Info is an organization that assists tourists in the region. Tour operators are available in the area. Future development at the Apollo Complex will on its completion provide in many tourism needs.

* Banks

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Richmond | Victoria West | Loxton |
| Standard Bank | ABSA Bank & Mini ATM | FNB Mini ATM |
| ABSA ATM & Mini ATM | Standard Bank & ATM |  |
| Post Bank | First National Bank & ATM and Mini ATM |  |

* Fuel Stations and Garages

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Richmond | Victoria West | Loxton |
| Caltex | Excell | KVB Shell |
| Excelsior Garage | Shell Ultra | Loxton Herstel Dienste |
| N1 Truck -in | KVB Shell |  |
| Camp Towing  | Besters Garage |  |
| Gou reg Bande | ZAMA\_ZAMA |  |

* Shops

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Victoria West | Richmond | Loxton |
| A.B. Handelaars | Trinitys | Karoo Vleisboere Kooperasie |
| Fillis Store | Percy se Plek | Ons Winkel |
| De Nita’s Restaurant | Pep Stores | Spies Produkte |
| Dreyer Fisheries & Bakery  |  | Indraf Café |
| Karoo Butchery  | Ka-Ma Lodge | Loxton Drankwinkel |
| Karoo Vleisboere Kooperasie | Gafoors Algemene Handelaars |  |
| Kontant Winkel | Ricmic Bakkery |  |
| N12 Mini Mark | J&L Slaghuis & Supermark |  |
| Ons Winkel (Hutchinson) | Gafoors Drankwinkels |  |
| Spar Supermark | BKB  |  |
| Tok Inn Medisyne Hoek | Help Mekaar Tavern |  |
| Kontrei Gallery | Sacarica Inn Pub |  |
| Asbosskerrm | Biltong Winkel  |  |
| Victoria-Wes Slaghuis | Gafoors drankwinkel  |  |
| Nick’s Shop | Richmond Gallery |  |
| Village Pub |  |  |
| Pick Bar |  |  |
| Vorentoe Bottlestore |  |  |
| Hickman’s Liquor Store |  |  |
| Rabbit Den Tavern |  |  |
| Indraf General Dealers |  |  |
| Snoephoekie |  |  |
| Pep Stores |  |  |
| Lewis |  |  |
| Icon |  |  |
| Lappies Den |  |  |
| Grib & Vos Joinery |  |  |
| Ali’s Tavern |  |  |
| O & D Windpompe en Sweiswerke  |  |  |
| Karoo Deli |  |  |
| China Shop |  |  |
| Kontant Meubels |  |  |
| Fillis Store |  |  |
| Thembi’s Funeral Service |  |  |
| Spotties Shop |  |  |
| Bovest Butchery  |  |  |
| JF van Wyk & Kie  |  |  |
| Smith Vlok & Kie  |  |  |

* Tuck shops

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Victoria West | Richmond | Loxton |
| Bailey’s Tuckshop | Curby’s Mobile | Horns Handelaar |
| Benji’s Tuckshop | Charlies Tuckshop | Riekert Tuckshop |
| Prens Tuckshop | Six Room |  |
| Gaika’s Tuckshop | Wezi’s Tuckshop |  |
| Blue Move Tuckshop |  |  |
| Thozamile’s Tuckshop |  |  |
| Fillis Caravan  |  |  |
| Fula’s Tuckshop |  |  |
| Lebo’s Mini Store |  |  |

* Hotels

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Victoria West | Hickman’s Country LodgeWallrick Rooms |
| Loxton | None |
| Richmond | None |

1. **A SWOT ANALYSIS ON LOCAL ECONOMICS**

A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis is informative to the strategic objectives of this LED plan and thus serves as a guide for the identification of specific development strategies.

The information which came to the fore cannot be regarded as a complete list for a SWOT analysis on Local Economic Development in the Ubuntu region.

The results of a SWOT Analysis, however, covers the Institutional, Agricultural, Tourism, Business, Infrastructure and Community Development areas and are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Communities can freely participate in economic development decision-making structures.
* A number of vacant buildings exist which can be used as venues for economic activities and/or training programmes.
* An open door policy has been implemented to streamline participation of all role-players in economic development initiatives.
* The strong link with tourism in the region contributes to the potential for the selling of local products.
* Farm tourism can be utilized for local economic activities.
* Availability of good agricultural land in Loxton.
* Availability of commonage and Government land for farming.
* Sufficient labour is available wherever employment is created.
* The establishment of a working group in the agricultural sector between small and commercial farmers.
* Utilizing the the Karoo habitat as attraction for nature tourists.
* Utilization of the Victoria West Museum as excellent venue for tourist and other economic activities.
* The railway line that passes through the region has the potential to be employed in the economic activities of the region.
* Utilization of air strips in Victoria-West, Richmond and Loxton for economic development initiatives.
* Development of the organized hunting industry for job creation and other economic initiatives.
* Sufficient and tourism friendly accommodation available.
* Historical architecture exists to attract potential visitors to the region.
* A safe environment, open plains and clear skies attracts visitors to the region.
* The N1 and the N12 routes ensure a large volume of traffic through the region.
* Black economic empowerment (BEE) strategies to be employed for wealth creation in the region.
* Sufficient land available for future development.
* Water and electricity available for development initiatives.
 | * The poor payment of services influences the level of service delivery to inhabitants.
* Insufficient funds impact on development programmes and projects.
* Political interference is obstructing developmental activities.
* Lack of training in the business environment.
* Lack of markets for emerging farmers.
* Lack of management and economic skills among emerging farmers.
* Difficulty in obtaining funds from financial institutions.
* Quality of some facilities such as telecommunication not to standard.
* Shortage of recreational facilities.
* Richmond museum needs attention to be utilized as a tourism attraction.
* Insufficient petrol filling stations in Loxton.
* Poor marketing for economic development purposes.
* Poor condition of roads impacts on tourism.
* Lack of tourist information in the region affects the tourism market.
* Vandalism such as the destruction of information boards.
* No tourists packages in existence.
* Long distances in the region impacts on costs for tourists to travel through the region.
* Littering in the area impacts on visitors and tourists.
* Race relationships leaves much to be desired and impacts negatively on

tourism.* Poor infrastructure in the townships hurts the tourism industry.
* Briny water in Richmond impacts on tourism.
* The problem of mosquitoes and lice has a negative impact on tourism.
* SMME’s compete against bigger businesses in the region.
* Insufficient sport facilities
* Lack of town planning for development purposes.
* Old buildings and water networks impact on development initiatives.
 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Training in the management of small businesses.
* Establish small business incubators to train new entrepreneurs.
* Cooperation between the municipality and the community in terms of service delivery and economic growth and development.
* Opportunity to fill posts with local people.
* Training for special technical skills.
* Transport services.
* Potential regional tours.
* Job creation through tourism development.
* Opportunity to sell bottled water to tourists.
* Utilize game farms to promote tourism in the region.
* Utilize tourism information offices to market the whole region to tourists.
* Recycling of waste materials.
* Loxton has the potential for a museum to attract tourists.
* Upgrading of the caravan park in Loxton in order to promote tourism.
* Possible utilization of railway line through the region for the benefit of the community and for possible tourism development.
* Establishment of a Business Chamber in the Ubuntu region.
* Utilize the centrality of the Ubuntu region for new business initiatives.
* Marketing of N12, N1 & R63 to attract tourists to the region.
* Establishment of a Youth Centre to assist the youth with new initiatives and/or projects.
* Utilize the potential for Private Public Partnerships (PPP’s) for the benefit of community development projects and programmes.
* Utilize community hall for marketing and other community projects.
* Avail open land for sustainable development initiatives.
* Training of municipal staff in economic development.
 | * Unemployment in the region.
* Outflow of money through CPS loan systems.
* No support or assistance for new local small businesses.
* Standard of Health Services.
* High inland retail prices.
* Standard of communication systems.
* Local Government credit control problems.
* Literacy level of inhabitants.
* Education in the use of electricity and water.
* Control over the use of commonage by community members.
* A rational policy for indigents.
* Corruption in the public service.
* Pauper burial service.
* Periodical droughts in the region.
* Poor quality of livestock.
* Unemployment in the region.
* Poor cooperation between emerging farmers.
* Low wages and low income in the region.
* Negative impact of alcohol abuse on tourism.
* Compete with other regions in terms of economic prosperity.
* Typical crime in the area.
* Protest marches and the blockage of streets and roads impact negatively on tourism and local businesses.
* Poor marketing in the area.
* Lack of resources in the region.
* Insufficient security within communities.
* Poor investments in the region.
* Strong business competition in the area.
* Unstable electricity supply.
* Local businesses belonging to owners outside of the Ubuntu region.
* Community is dependent on social grants with no other assistance to become economically active.
* Pollution of water resources due to French Drains.
* Old water network system.
* Pollution of rivers in the municipal area.
* Insufficient capacity of reservoirs in Victoria West & Richmond.
* Insufficient electricity supply in Loxton.
* Insufficient capacity of fire brigades.
* Lack of skills in the region.
* Uncontrolled and unplanned influx of people into towns in the region.
* Insufficient funds for development purposes.
* Closing of railway services.
* Transport of poisons through towns in the region.
* Standard of public services such as social development, hospitals, policing, correctional services, education and hostels.
* Service delivery vehicles not fully equipped for the task.
* No environmental awareness initiatives in place.
* Lack in community development initiatives.
* Ruined buildings “ white blocks” a threat to the community.
* Lack of lighting along the N1.
* High services bills impacts negatively on socio economic development.
 |

1. **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR LED**
* **A development strategy in terms of social and economic development**

**should aim:**

* To improve physical and functional integration within the Ubuntu

Municipality in order to improve access to developmental opportunities;

* to protect the natural resources and assets through effective environmental-

and asset management;

* to create development opportunities through economic growth and

development initiatives and

* to promote economic improvement and growth within the communities of the

Ubuntu region.

* **The goals of a social and economic development strategy should be to:**
* Establish a hierarchy of nodes throughout the Ubuntu Municipality;
* improve access to social facilities and infrastructure for rural communities and

disadvantaged groups, particularly women, children and the elderly;

* promote a diversity of land uses, activities and opportunities;
* implement the outcomes of the strategic environment assessment;
* promote the status of the Ubuntu Municipality to become a developmental

local government;

* enhance the tourism potential of the Ubuntu Municipality;
* promote local economic development initiatives;
* promote primary industrial development;
* support existing local economic development initiatives and encourage

new initiatives;

* create an entry level into the market system for emerging businesses, the

informal sector and SMMEs and

* promote a diversity of economic activities throughout the Ubuntu

Municipality.

* **The following are some important LED strategies for economic**

**development within the communities of Ubuntu:**

* Establishment of a local Call Centre for assistance to development initiatives.
* Municipality has to market the region for economic development purposes.
* Establish a Skills Training Centre for the community.
* Initiate and support skills development (e.g. bricklaying, plumbing, painting,

welding etc.).

* Promote and coordinate Public Private Partnerships (PPP’s)
* Institute local community development programmes.
* Training of and assistance to new entrepreneurs and small businesses.

(SMME’s)

* Initiate a range of poverty alleviation programmes, such as training and job

creation programmes.

* Assistance to communities to become economically active.
* Assist communities to obtain informal trading facilities.
* Municipality to support and facilitate in-service training programmes.
* Urge businesses in Ubuntu to invest in social development issues.
* Lead the community with awareness programmes in order to get employment

after the completion of an acquired skill or qualification.

* Promote employment opportunities in rural areas in order to create a work

culture within rural communities.

* Promote business projects within communities such as brick making, chicken

farming, gardens etc.

* Promote the Tourism Strategy in order to create a demand for tourism goods

and services in the region.

1. **SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LED**

It is of great importance to take note of the fact that spatial development has a major role to play in local economic development. The Spatial Development Framework (SDF) identifies specific spatial planning principles, aims and policies. In the SDF of Ubuntu it was emphasized that the primary aim of setting up a SDF is to provide an instrument that could ensure effective growth management, supported by informed decision making. This will ensure the economic functioning of the municipality and enhance the functioning thereof. These should be attended to in order to remove potential obstructions in local economic development programmes and projects.

The following should be considered in favour of local economic development:

* **Promote sustainable urban development**
* Avoid the disturbance of landscapes and sites that constitute the nation’s

cultural heritage and living paterns.

* Avoid or minimize the disturbance of ecosystems and loss of biological

diversity.

* Long distances between residential and employment areas to be minimized

for economic reasons.

* Provision is to be made for a range of residential and commercial types to

allow the local economy to diversify and to develop.

* Rectify distorted spatial patterns and trends.
* Discourage and prevent urban sprawl.
* Prevent illegal occupation of land by the provisioning of formalized residential

areas.

* **Environmental management and conservation**
* Ensure the ecological sustainability of the environment.
* Special development/management areas to be identified to ensure areas of

cultural, agricultural or environmental significance.

* Distinct between types of land uses where certain types could be encouraged

or discouraged in terms of rational land use.

* Indicate where the intensity of land development could be increased or

decreased.

* Conservation of high potential agricultural land.
* Prepare a plan for refuse removal in suitable areas.
* **Promoting economic development**
* Permitting and encouraging diverse land uses at appropriate locations to

develop the economy.

* Ensure alignment with the district and governmental organizations in the

interest of promoting tourism development without damaging the environment

or ecology.

* Opportunities for small emerging business at accessible locations by

identifying nodes/investment points in both the urban and rural areas.

* Boosting economic sectors/activities in land use planning in order to promote

the potential for growth and employment.

* Promote tourism development without damaging the economy or ecology of

the area.

* Promote the development of public and private land in the area.
* **Provision of a minimum level of services**
* Optimize use of existing resources by; inter alia, discouraging long-line

services which is more costly.

* New developments should, as far as possible, be serviced by existing

infrastructure and networks.

* Provision of basic infrastructure/services and housing to communities.
* Provide minimum levels of services where infrastructure investment is

needed.

1. **LED AND THE ECONOMIC PRODUCTION FACTORS**

Remember that LED is not a separate initiative but an integrated part of the development of the local community and of the country as a whole.

Thus, the following is an illustration of how LED can be involved in each of the four Economic Production Factors:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Natural resources | ResourcesEcosystem ServicesLiving systems | Clean water, arable land, minerals,genetic diversity, energy resources and other natural resources.Waste sinks, natural purification systems (e.g., air and water), water and flood protection through intact watersheds.Ecosystems which are resilient, self-regenerating, and diverse in providing resources and services to local populations. |
| Capital | FinancialTechnology, Tools,Machines, Factories.Information | Improving access to, and use of, financial capital: credit, cash, investments, monetary instruments to all sectors, including informal and women.Making better use of technology in business processes.Providing social links and access to business, economic, market, social and environmental information. |
| Labour | Leadership andOrganizationalBuilt Environmentand InfrastructureLabour Force | Building leadership skills in business, local government, and economic development. Improving the social networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit.Improving general built environment and infrastructure to support economic development.Building skills within the existing population and attracting skilled labour to the community. |
| Entrepreneurship | Intelligence andInnovation | Strengthening entrepreneurship, education, and collaborative learning environments. |

1. **INFLUENCE OF HIV/AIDS ON THE ECONOMY**

AIDS mean Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is a disease that destroys the human body’s ability to fight other infections through the immune system. The immune system is your body’s defense against diseases. It is your white blood cells which will attack and destroy many diseases. You get AIDS from a virus called Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

People who have the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) may stay healthy for years and most infected people do not even know that they are HIV positive. When the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) takes over, one starts becoming ill more easily. The immune system of the human body becomes weak and cannot fight viruses and infections effectively and ends up in death.

* **The economic impact of HIV/AIDS will be on:**
* Households and
* all sectors of the industry such as: agriculture, firms, health, transport,

mining, education, water, as well as the macro economic situation environment of the country.

* **Affects of aids on government spending**
* More taxes on health and welfare.
* S.A. Welfare System not coping with growing numbers of orphans and their

needs.

* Less money will be available for basic services or development.
* **Micro-economic impact on organizations:**
* Higher benefit costs: life, medical, disability.
* Replacement: recruitment, training, productivity.
* Leave: sick leave, compassionate leave, morale.
* System costs: management, legal.
* **Economic impact on markets**
* Shifting spending patterns.
* Breadwinners in many households lost.
* Catastrophic impact on poorer households.
* Reduced growth in markets.
* **Financial impact**
* Direct cost:

The implications refer to expenses encountered in the direct addressing of the management of HIV/AIDS.

* Indirect cost:

The implications refer to additional loss of income as a result of the direct effect.

* Systemic cost:

The implications refer to accumulated loss of potential income as a result of indirect cost.

Awareness programmes should form part of LED management on local level. Leaders or people in leadership positions should be targeted to become involved in HIV/AIDS support groups such as mayors, ward councilors, religious leaders, traditional leaders and healers, sport and cultural stars, popular business people, community leaders, shop stewards and teachers.

Methods to raise awareness could include workshops, talks, plays, songs, music, community meetings, door-to-door visits, pamphlets, radio and newspaper.

1. **INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN LED**

Sustainable development is the guiding principle of any developmental activity. Sustainability can only be achieved by following certain procedures and ensuring a participatory approach. To make sustainability an operational approach a range of indicators has been developed to provide the benchmark for LED:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LED FOCUS AREAS** | **INDICATORS** |
| **Community Focus:*** Sustainability is based on a participatory approach.
* Communities must drive LED.
* Stewardship.
 | * Community members are the driving

forces behind development.* Ownership, Stakeholder forum.
* Participation in the project management.
 |
| **Needs Orientation:*** Economic development.
* Job creation.
* Housing.
* Basic needs orientation.

**Economic Growth:*** Growing economy, private sector

development.* SMME promotion.
* Economic prosperity.
 | * Needs expressed by the community.
* Forms part of the municipal IDP.
* Falls within the priority areas of the

Municipality.* Increasing income level.
* Job creation.
* Job opportunities.
 |
| **Environment:*** Protects local environment.
* The use of local resources benefits the community.
 | * It is based on local resources.
* Nature and environment conservation

principles are adhered to.* Plan for the use of local resources

established. |
| **LED Environment in Munici-pality:*** Planning process in place.
* Human resources available.
* Organizational structure in place.
 | * LED strategy, programmes, projects.
* LED officer, coordinator, manager.
* Led unit established.
 |

1. **LED AS PART OF THE TYPICAL FUNCTIONS OF A MUNICIPALITY**

The Municipality needs an internal organization and a structure with specialized departments in order to fulfill all tasks (powers and functions), as stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Each department will have its internal organization with posts, task descriptions and hierarchies. The table below provides a typical example of departments, tasks and functions of a municipality:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DEPARTMENT** | **TYPICAL TASKS** | **TYPICAL FUNCTIONS** |
| **Internal Auditing** | To ensure that control measures, concerning financial and stock matters, are adhered to. | * Implementation and maintenance of effective auditing programmes.
* Continuous auditing of council activities.
* Providing advice to prevent losses.
* Responding on audit reports.
 |
| **Legal Services** | To provide legal advice, opinions and services to the municipality.(political and admin. structures as a legal entity which has quasi-judicial functions). | * Scrutinising all council's documentation, to ensure that they meet all relevant legislation.
* Ensuring implementation and monitoring "batho pele" strategy.
* Developing legal policies, procedures and guidelines.
* Providing advice with regard to industrial relations and attending to disciplinary hearings.
 |
| **Community and social development** | To provide appropriate community services. | * Striving towards proper primary health care services for the community.
* Striving to develop a community that is able to determine their priorities and become self reliant.
* Developing, managing and providing of cultural and recreational services for the community.
 |
| **Financial services** | To provide and manage a financial system and supportservices for the dept: financial management. | * Administration of statistics and insurance admin.
* Control of council's budget and reporting to council.
* Administration of financial statements.
* Control of council's asset register.
 |
| **Organizational Department** | To make proposals to ensure effective operations within the municipality. | * Setting up organizational structures and processes.
* Orderly structuring of the organization’s human resources to ensure sound control of human and technical resources.
 |
| **LED Unit** | To promote economic and social development. | * Development of a LED strategy and programmes.
* Design, implementation and management of LED projects.
* Allocation of an annual budget for LED.
* Reporting on LED activities.
 |
| **Parks, Sport and Recreation** | To develop, manage and provide recreational and horticultural services for the community. | * Determining of future needs.
* Development of recreational facilities

and activities.* Managing parks, sport- and recreational matters.
 |
| **Housing Development** | To create sustainable and environmentally friendly human settlements. | * Management of municipal housing properties.
* Provision of affordable housing to the com-munity.
* Land affairs admini-stration.
 |
| **Human Resources** | To ensure proper human resources management. | * Set up human resource planning.
* Implementation of sound labour relations.
* Co-ordination of training and develop-ment for personnel.
* Ensure proper control of occupational health and safety regulations.
 |
| **Corporate Services** | The development of council administration, library and customer-care services. | * Rendering of a council administrative service.
* Rendering of a library and information service.
* Management of a customer care services.
 |
| **Information and Communication Technology** | To provide an electronic information and communi-cation service. | * Development and maintenance of the IT system.
* Installation of computer systems and of an information network.
* Operation of the IT network
 |
| **Traffic and Security Services** | To ensure orderly utilization of the public roads network and protection of the council's resources. | * Provision of security services.
* Provision of traffic operational services.
* Provision of an accident prevention programme and applying law enforcement measures.
 |

1. **THE CHANGING FOCUS ON LED FUNCTIONAL TOOLS**

When referring to LED tools one should think broadly and very innovatively. A successful LED project is based on a range of tools, combined with the right decisions and a participatory approach.

It will, however, be the choice of the qualified LED officer to select the right tool or the most adequate combination of tools to ensure the success of the project. Led tools must indeed support the implementation of the LED strategies in order to reach the agreed objectives. Some of the tools can be aligned with more than one concept and some LED tools are of a generic nature.

Before examining how to do LED, it is crucial to examine how the focus tools have been changed over the years. It points to a number of different ways in which LED can be done. These are very important in order to avoid making mistakes of the past.

* **The period 1960’s to early 1980’s**
* Mobile manufacturing investment attraction from outside the local area.
* Attraction of foreign direct investment.
* Making hard infrastructure investment.
* Large grants, tax breaks, subsidized loans for manufacturing investors.
* Subsidized hard infrastructure investment.
* Lowered production costs through techniques like recruitment of cheap labor.
* **The period 1980’s to mid 1990’s**
* Retention and growing of existing local businesses.
* Direct payments to individual businesses.
* Continued emphasis on inward investment attraction but usually more

targeted to specific sectors or from certain geographic areas. (Public Sector Driven).

* Business Incubators/workspace.
* Advice and training for small, medium scale enterprises.
* Technical Support.
* Business Start-up support.
* Both hard and soft infrastructure investment.
* **Period late 1990’s onwards**
* Making whole business environment favorable.
* Soft infrastructure investments (e.g. human resource development, regulatory rationalization).
* Public/Private Partnerships.
* Leveraging private sector investments for public good.
* Improving quality of life and security for the communities and potential investors.
* Highly targeted inward investment attraction, building local area competitive advantage.
* Holistic strategy to provide a competitive local business environment.
* Focus on stimulating growth of local firms.
* Cross-community networking and collaboration.
* Facilitating economically linked business clusters.
* Emphasis on development and soft infrastructure provision.
* Supporting the quality of life improvements.
* Focus on service sector as well as manufacturing.
1. **SUMMARY OF SOME IMPORTANT LED TOOLS**
* **Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMME) development**

Support by municipalities to small businesses by facilitating access to finance, training and development, research and information, markets and linkages, incentives and new technology. The municipality should play an important role by helping local entrepreneurs gain access to these important sources of support. A municipal official should serve as an SMME coordinator and should be responsible for collecting and disseminating information on such programmes.

A number of organizations provide loans to entrepreneurs. The municipality can assist entrepreneurs by making them aware of the support available through these organizations.

There exist a substantial failure among new and small businesses. The need for management and business training, counseling, research and other forms of support is a critical issue in SMME’S.

* **Regulations and By-Laws**

An environment for growth and development can be created by the development of an efficient regulatory framework to govern trading, zoning, business licenses and other regulatory issues. Ubuntu Municipality should strive to ensure a balance between economic development and safeguarding the interest of the community and the environment.

* **Land**

Ubuntu Municipality should play an active role in encouraging growth and development by creatively utilizing the land, buildings and other assets owned by the municipality. Ownership of land provides the Ubuntu Municipality with the opportunity to leverage investments, encourage certain types of development or target areas to facilitate further growth.

* **Human Resource development**

The municipality should start with its own staff to develop human resources in order to make a positive contribution to LED. It has to join forces with other stakeholders to identify training needs throughout the locality and help ensure that local resources are directed towards these needs. Such linkages could be facilitated by a one-stop development centre, local business service centre and the LED forum. Such a centre could be staffed by officials to maintain a job opportunity database lease with employers and ensure that the general public have easy access to an information centre.

* **Development of LED initiatives within the different economic sectors**

LED initiatives should take place within the formal economic sectors namely, transport, manufacturing, services, agriculture, mining and especially tourism. Economic development opportunities within these sectors should be investigated one by one in order to identify LED opportunities which will fit in with the economic profile of the region.

Special focus should be put on tourism as an economic sector as it has great potential in the Ubuntu region and also has the status of the fastest growing economic sector globally. Furthermore, has the World Tourism Organization (WTO) launched tourism internationally as a fully fledged economic sector.

Based on the present status of tourism as an economic sector and the great potential of tourism in the region, it is imperative to treat tourism as a priority issue in LED.

1. **LINKAGES BETWEEN LED STRATEGIES, PROGRAMMES AND**

**PROJECTS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS**

Develop LED Vision

Identify LED

Goals and

Objectives

Identify

Opportunities

Identify

Barriers

Formulate and Implement LED Strategies

Review

LED

Plan

Programme 1

Programme 2

Programme 3

Evaluation: Measure against the extent to which the project has realized the Goals and Objectives

1. **ACTION PLAN FOR LED**

The LED process occurs when a local authority, businesses, civil society, NGO 's and most importantly individuals work collectively and strive to improve their economic status by combining skills, resources and ideas and putting them together into action plans. The action plan should guide the development activities in order to implement programmes and projects which are aimed at local economic development initiatives as described hereunder:

* **Organizing the LED function in action planning**
* Establishing of the LED function

Someone has to take responsibility for starting a focus on LED in the local area. Mostly this is the responsibility of the local municipality. Even if the initiator is not the local municipality, it is crucial to have local government support for the process. In almost all successful city economic development case studies, a responsible person, often in either the Mayor's office or in the office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), is initially appointed to take responsibility for LED. (This may expand into a specific unit or department at a later point.) The responsible initiator(s) may spend much of his/her time upfront obtaining a sufficient understanding of the local economy to identify important stakeholders.

* Management of stakeholders

Stakeholders are individuals, firms and/or organizations in the public and private sectors that have an interest in and ability to contribute to LED. The stakeholder management process recognizes that all stakeholders are important and that some will be able to participate more than others.

* In terms of stakeholders it must, however, be determined:
* who the key stakeholders are
* what their interests are likely to be
* the best way to involve them in the LED activities
* The benefits of involving stakeholders include:
* Stakeholders bring specialist knowledge and different perspectives making

the planning process more robust.

* They bring professional, financial and physical resources to the table.
* They legitimize the process by being involved.
* They forestall problems by being engaged in the process.
* Business partners are likely to know much more than local government representatives about the true state of the competitive position of the community.
* By involving higher tiers of government, strategies are likely to benefit from their support (including financial).
* Local community representatives are likely to be best informed about local problems and opportunities that could be addressed by the LED strategy.
* By involving communities, it is more likely that a volunteer effort could be established to support LED implementation programs.
* Jobs and economic growth are created in the private sector. Government is usually merely a facilitator in this process.
* Potential stakeholders in the public sector include:
* Local government
* Provincial and Central Government
* Health Authority
* Transportation Authority
* Institutions of higher learning
* Education Board/Authority
* Utilities
* Potential stakeholders in the private sector include:
* Chamber of Commerce
* Board of Trade
* Business associations
* Large corporations
* SMME representatives
* Private developers
* News media
* Professional associations
* Higher learning establishments
* Utilities
* Town center improvement groups, etc.
* Potential stakeholders in the community sector include:
* Individuals
* Neighborhood groups
* Church groups
* Youth groups
* Environmental groups
* Voluntary service groups
* Historic societies
* Cultural and Arts groups
* Educational groups
* Groups representing minorities

The ultimate configuration of the stakeholder group should be determined by a strategic assessment of the local economy and the important local economic actors.

* Establishment of a Steering Committee

The Steering Committee should include key stakeholders from all sectors including the local authority. The local authority will usually provide institutional support for this committee. This provides them with a degree of control that may be needed in the early days of establishing the LED strategy and partnerships.

* Establishment of a group within the local authority to oversee the LED

process

This group should include people from across the various local authority departments that are likely to have an interest or professional, technical, political or financial responsibility for matters affected by the LED strategy. Membership should be at both Elected Member and at officer levels. There should be terms of reference and a formal reporting system for the group. Transparency and public access to information used or generated by the group is important to its credibility.

* **Guiding principles in action planning**

Guiding principles for LED is purposeful in developing action plans for LED in the region. These principles also serve as a purposeful tool for better understanding of what is expected in order to make effective LED a reality in the specific region. Important principles, among others, are:

* Target previously disadvantage people.

LEDmust target previously disadvantage people**,** marginalized communities and geographical regions, black economic empowerment enterprises and SMMEs to allow them to participate in the economy.

* local ownership

LEDpromotes local ownership**,** community involvement, local leadership and joint decision-making.

* Favorable location factors

LEDaims at creating favorable location factors**,** i.e. qualities which make a place a good place to do business. This includes obvious elements such as improving the infrastructure and training workers, but also less obvious elements such as business-mindedness and efficiency of local administration.

* Promoting business

LED aims at promoting business**.** This can be existing businesses, start-ups or external companies coming into a location. It is also about linking things: promote and support spin-offs and sub-contracting, attract investors, which fit into the local economic structure, and consider franchises as a source of new local businesses.

* Local markets work better

LED aims at making local markets work better**.** It aims at creating places and opportunities to match supply and demand, as well as to discover, propagate and promote new business opportunities.

* Locally available resources andskills

LEDaims at making better use of locally available resources andskills and maximises opportunities for development.

* National and international partnerships

LEDinvolves local, national and international partnershipsbetween communities, businesses and government to solve problems, create joint business ventures and build up local areas.

* **Important steps with the practical implementation of LED projects in**

**action planning**

With the practical implementation of initiated LED projects, certain steps have to be followed in order to manage the project effectively. Each of the steps for the practical implementation, however, has its own components. These components as well as the different steps are interdependent and progressive and build up to the implementation and evaluation of projects.

The steps, which are inter-connected to each other, are as follows:

1. Identification

2. Defining project and approach

3. Marketing

4. Funding

5. Implementation

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

* Step 1: Identification

The first practical step is the identification of the potential projects and opportunities that can be developed in the local economy. The generation of new ideas and opportunities can be brought about through the establishment of committees, consultation with local communities and brainstorming sessions. Assessment of the initiatives in terms of a SWOT analysis should also be included. It is good practice that the initial step of idea generation and project/opportunity identification be undertaken by the local municipality. Municipalities are well informed about the local conditions and dynamics of their communities and are aware of all the local key role-players within the community.

* Step 2: Defining project and approach

The project and the approach of the process have to be defined. It refers to the actual formulation of business plans and the design of specific projects. It also refers to the role that the municipality can play to assist local entrepreneurs in the provision of the necessary infrastructure, ensuring and enabling institutional environment and creating a business environment.

* Step 3: Marketing

Marketing refers to marketing of the region as well as the marketing of the specific products/services produced by the respective projects. The provision of appropriate mechanisms and communication methods to market the region is critically important to the successful attraction of investors to the area. The need for adequate exposure of local business to consumers is also important.

* Step 4: Funding

Fundingrefers to the acquiring of finances for implementation and development of projects. It also refers to the facilitating efforts of the local authority through the provision of support in the application for funding as well as matching potential investors and funding sources.

* Step 5: Implementation

Implementation means the culmination of the preceding steps in order to put the identified opportunities into action. It is important to assist entrepreneurs with the provision of support activities and skills development in the early stages of entrepreneurship.

* Step 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of the LED Strategy needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis. Progress with respect to new investment and the impact thereof on the local economy needs to be constantly assessed and monitored over the implementation period of the strategy.

To enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the strategy, continuous adjustments need to be made, based on market fluctuations and demand changes. This entails continuous strategic re-positioning.

1. **THE WAY FORWARD**

It is important that, in order to implement the various development programmes and projects formulated in the LED strategy, the institutional recommendations have to be initiated and established as soon as possible. These drivers of the LED process, however, will not succeed if the political ambition and will is not part of this implementation process. Therefore, it is imperative to keep all the stakeholders and role-players involved throughout the planning process in order to initiate political will, to generate interest and to stimulate dialog.

The rapid deployment of the various institutional options and strategies should be undertaken as a matter of urgency. Once the opportunity for an option appears it should immediately be taken up before it disappears, which means that momentum will be lost in the economic development process of the region. This will also negatively influence developmental efforts and initiatives in future.

Furthermore it is of great importance that role-players take ownership of LED strategies in order to facilitate the implementation of the different programmes and projects. The monitoring and evaluation of the various activities could be incorporated into the performance management system to ensure responsibility and accountability within the Local Economic Development function of the municipality.

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