

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES
TAKING PARLIAMENT
TO THE PEOPLE

Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal
14 - 18 November 2022

**Background Paper on the Capacity of the State to Provide
Services in KwaZulu-Natal Province**



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BACKGROUND

The National Council of Provinces, (NCOP), was established to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. To this end, the National Council of Provinces must provide a national forum for public consideration of issues affecting provinces. Programmes such as the Taking Parliament to the People represent some of the attempts that the National Council of Provinces has made to reach out to the public in the various provinces in an effort to deal with the matters that affect provinces in the national sphere of government.

Identifying provinces to host these programmes is done in alphabetic order and the KwaZulu-Natal Province will be visited in 2022. The Ugu district has been identified as the host Municipality.

The Ugu District Municipality is a Category C municipality situated in the south of KwaZulu-Natal. The Ugu DM encompasses the following local municipalities: Umdoni Local Municipality (LM), Umzumbe LM, Ray Nkonyeni LM and Umuziwabantu LM. The district covers an area of 5 074 km² with a coastline of approximately 112km. The main towns and cities include Harding, Hibberdene, Margate, Pennington, Port Edward, Port Shepstone, Scottburgh/Umzinto North and Southbroom. Izingolweni is the main rural town within the district, with Turton and Umzumbe experiencing increasing densification in recent years, with expanding, dense rural settlements surrounding these towns.¹ The N2 highway runs through the Ugu DM parallel to the sea. Port Shepstone is the seat of the district, and also forms the main commercial centre. The highway serves as both a link and gateway to the neighbouring Eastern Cape, and in the opposite direction to Durban and Johannesburg.

The proposed focus areas for the Taking Parliament to the People Programme 2022 in KwaZulu-Natal should include the provision of water and sanitation, the development of water and road infrastructure, safety and security, human settlements, agriculture and local economic development.

¹ Ugu District Municipality (2022).

In preparation for that, the research team and content advisors conducted desk top research and verified the information during site identification and verification pre-visits. We will discuss these in chapter format in the following order: (1) agriculture; (2) economic development; (3) human settlements; (4) road infrastructure and transportation; (5) safety and security; and (6) water and sanitation.

CHAPTER ONE

UGU DISTRICT AGRICULTURE PROFILE AND SITE DESCRIPTIONS

1.1 Introduction

As Agriculture is a concurrent function, the sector receives support from both the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (KZN DARD). The National Department provides financial support to the province through the transfer of conditional grants (CASP and Ilima/Letsema) that the province utilizes to implement programmes for the development of the agricultural sector and to provide support services to the farming community. In addition, the province also appropriates a budget (Equitable Share) to the provincial DARD for agricultural development and farmer support.

The Provincial Department has elevated its focus on the implementation of the Radical Agrarian Socio-Economic Transformation (RASET) programme. RASET is a government programme, which aims to increase economic opportunities for historically disadvantaged individuals through value chains and market access, which is primarily market-driven by government demand. Various government departments integrated their programmes to implement the RASET Programme.

The Provincial Department (DARD) supports farming throughout the province from 11 District offices, 41 local offices, and 6 research stations. DARD operates in 869 wards, with 488 extension officers and 166 assistant extension officers on the one hand. The Provincial Shared Services Centre (PSSC), on the other hand, operates with five regional offices in Ladysmith (uThukela and uMzinyathi), Pietermaritzburg (uMgungundlovu and iLembe), Port Shepstone (Ugu and Harry Gwala), Richards Bay (uMkhanyakude and King Cetshwayo) and Vryheid (Amajuba and Zululand), where project officers support land reform beneficiaries and are also responsible for all land reform queries.

1.1.1 Agricultural opportunities and constraints

The district's climate is well suited for agriculture and is thus seen as an opportunity for supporting growth. The district has large tracts of fertile land, a subtropical climate with high temperatures and a good water supply. The main agricultural activities within the district consists of crop farming, with sugarcane and bananas being the main crops. The Local Economic Development (LED) Strategy of the District further calls for the consideration of agricultural opportunities throughout all the agricultural sectors of the four local municipalities, by adding value through developing upstream agricultural activities.

The agricultural sector is faced with a number of challenges, such as the lack of tenure security both for commercial and emerging farmers. The lack of title deeds restricts access of emerging farmers to financial services such as loans. While the agriculture sector has averaged positive growth over the past 10 years, there are significant threats to future growth in the sector. Ugu's comparative advantage in this sector was derived from sugarcane, but lowering crop yield and regional competition may strip the district of this comparative advantage. Until the sugarcane industry is reformed or agricultural products are diversified, this comparative advantage remains unstable and under threat.

1.1.2 Impact of the July 2021 unrest in Ugu District

As a sugarcane growing region, the Ugu District Municipality was not spared from the unrest, where more than 500 000 tons of sugarcane worth millions of rand in potential revenue were destroyed by arsonists in the province, an act that had a negative impact on 65 000 direct jobs in the sugarcane growing sector and 1 million indirect jobs. Two warehouses holding 12 000 tons of sugar were looted and 40 000 tons of sugarcane at Sezela Sugar Mill, which is in Ugu District, was unusable and had to be destroyed. At the time of Parliament's visit to the area in August 2021, the Sugar Mills associations, which estimated losses at R100 million of revenue, was in discussion with the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for a stimulus recovery package to assist the sugarcane industry.

SAFDA also highlighted that the unrest has shown the slow pace of transformation in the sugar industry and the need for legislative review, in particular, the issue of the Daily Rateable Delivery (DRD), which disadvantages small-scale growers. It was reported that the level of disaster tolerance among sugarcane growers is not the same, as most of the small-scale

growers lost everything during the unrest. Furthermore, land reform growers are mostly operating on marginal land and transport remains the greatest cost for all small-scale growers, who mostly rely on contractors to cut and transport their sugarcane. The South African Cane Growers Association estimated lost sugarcane revenue at R70 million in the region as a result of the unrest, which affected both small-scale and commercial growers.

1.2 Site Descriptions

Below is a list of sites visited for verification by the content team.

1.2.1 Igeja Farming Services

The farm was acquired by the State under the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS). Beneficiaries of this programme were given a provisional short-term (usually 5 years) lease of the farm with the option to extend the lease or apply to buy the farm. It was transferred to individual farmers on 23 October 2012. At first, there were six beneficiaries, but at present, there is only the owner/operator. The farm is operational and produce is sold to formal and informal markets within the district. It produces bananas on 14 ha of land and sugarcane on 24ha. There are also two dams, but their condition is poor. The current operator has renewed the initial 5-year lease of the farm to 30 years, and is in his second year of the extended lease.

The Department assisted with site clearing, land preparation, purchase of production inputs and irrigation installation with a total budget of R2 504 780. The farm is an example of a government support project that has been successful in providing initial farming support that had not created a scenario of government dependency. Seed funding and support with the repair of irrigation infrastructure damaged in recent floods have supported the farmer to become and stay self-sufficient.

Key Challenges

The Ugu Fresh Produce Market was destroyed during the recent unrest and has not been rebuilt. The market was a key ripening support base for bananas, but the service is no longer available.

The Sezela sugar mill is the only operating sugar mill in the district. The mill is old and suffers frequent breakdowns. The state of the mill reduces its capacity, which in turn limits the volume of sugar cane that farmers are able to send for processing.

1.2.2 Sinekhona Poultry project

The poultry product had been a family-run venture for a number of years as a small-scale operation out of the back yard of the beneficiary family's home. The Department became aware of the project and decided to assist through the construction of two structures capable of rearing 2000 broilers at a time. The project was also supplied with the first batch of broiler chickens needed to allow the family to expand the operation. The structures were completed less than two years ago, but the operation has already become self-sufficient at a larger scale. From this point the venture has been producing chickens for local demand with no processing facilities or transport to markets required, as community members buy directly from the farmer. Production increases over the Easter and Christmas periods, but at present, it is not constrained by the size of the buildings supplied.

The total amount of funds invested by the Department was R1 750 000. The farm has 2 beneficiaries and up to 4 seasonal employment opportunities were created. The project does not have any funding issues. The project was designed to identify existing small ventures that were self-sustainable and assist in their expansion.

Key Challenges

No challenges were identified.

1.2.3 Horse shoe FPSU

Horse Shoe was established in 2013 when the Ugu Municipality allocated one of their farms to the communities of Ezinqoleni Municipality. The project has benefited from the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development with the installation of an irrigation scheme on a 30ha area and fencing of 16ha. The project has planted vegetables on 16ha for income generation and home consumption.

An FPSU formed part of the then Department and Rural Development and Land Reform plan for the farm. The Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) is supposed to operate as a rural small-holder farmer outreach and capacity-building unit that links up with farmers and markets. The FPSU does primary collection, some storage, some processing for the local market, and extension services including mechanisation. The FPSU is supposed to support the original beneficiaries of the Horseshoe irrigation scheme and surrounding smallholder farmers. At present, not all the implements and infrastructure required to operationalise the FPSU have been procured.

Key Challenges

The full funding required to complete the FPSU has not been provided, resulting in partially completed infrastructure and expensive equipment standing in front of the half-built warehouse. Another challenge is that the DARRD has to fund FPSU development out of Rural Infrastructure and Development (RID) and Rural Enterprise Industrial Development (REID) grant allocations. Neither of these funding allocations supports operational expenditure. Therefore, even a completed structure funded from the provincial department's vote allocation will still be under-funded operationally. The department does not appear to have sufficient financial resources to rapidly operationalise the project. Since the FPSU is not operational, it does not offer support services to surrounding farmers while millions of rand in capital expenditure is deteriorating on site. There is also uncertainty about the ability of the department to operationalise the site once capital expenditure is complete.

1.2.4 KwaShinga

The FPSU is primarily designed to support the beneficiaries of the adjacent KwaShinga irrigation scheme. The FPSU has only been in development since 2019/20, but sits adjacent to a smallholder agricultural site that has been in operation since 1986. The site is still in use, although the number of active users of the production site has dropped to around 18 participants, cultivating 20ha of land in total. Farmers are supported by the municipality (ploughing services) and the department of agriculture (production inputs), but the overall support is not sufficient due to the lack of completion at the FPSU. Ageing irrigation

infrastructure has been partially replaced by the Thanda Afterschool, a local NGO. Thanda also provides a vehicle to be used as transport to the markets.

Key Challenges

The funding required to complete the FPSU has not been provided, resulting in partially completed infrastructure and expensive equipment standing in front of the half-built warehouse. Another challenge is that the DARRD has to fund FPSU development out of Rural Infrastructure and Development (RID) and Rural Enterprise Industrial Development (REID) grant allocations. Neither of these funding allocations supports operational expenditure. Therefore, even a completed structure funded from the provincial department's vote allocation will still be under-funded operationally.

As the FPSU is not operational, it is not able to offer support services to surrounding farmers while millions of rand in capital expenditure is deteriorating on site. There is also uncertainty about the ability of the department to operationalise the site once capital expenditure is complete.

1.2.5 Farm Thornton and Bethesda

Farm Thornton and Bethesda, extent 445,3ha, was transferred to the current lessee in 2020. The farm predominantly farms sugar cane, but also produced some wheat in the past. The farm was originally acquired using PLAS funding. The current beneficiary has been operating the farm since 2020 and has not required additional funding to remain in operation. The farm is fully operational, with required outbuildings and machinery for day-to-day operations.

Key Challenges

The farm is currently not experiencing funding issues and is an example of a recent lease agreement that does not require additional funding or post-settlement support.

The farm's main concern is the distance between it and the only operational sugar mill in the area, located in Sezela. The transporting distance is adding significant cost to the operation. Production income is also affected by the processing capacity of the ageing mill.

1.2.6 KMD Essential Oils (Ezingoleni oils)

The Ugu District Municipality, together with its investors, has injected over R6,5 million into the Ezingoleni Essential Oils (Pty) Ltd scheme. The project consists of a state-of-the-art nursery and greenhouse facility for seedling cultivation. This is a flagship project for Ugu and the Department of Agriculture. The resultant venture, Ezingoleni Essential Oils (EEO) covers all aspects of the production of essential oils. The company has developed a Southern African footprint and in the process has supported and mentored more than 495 independent growers, including emerging farmers. KMD, the section of the business supported by the Department of Agriculture, operates three high-tech greenhouses where seedlings are propagated and then readied for sale to surrounding essential oil producers. KMD received support in the form of production inputs, underfloor heating, the installation of tunnels with irrigation, and land preparation.

Key Challenges

None reported.

1.2.7 UGU Fresh Produce Market

The market had been in operation for a number of years, but in 2019, the Executive Committee of the municipality in which the market is located resolved to hand over the Ugu Fresh Produce Market to the Ugu South Coast Development Agency. The plan was to implement all the agricultural activities at the premises while the municipality reconsiders all available options for the use of the facility. While operational, the facility's purpose was to provide a trading platform for local farmers where fresh produce is bought through producers and it also served as a catalyst for the development of black farmers to become successful producers and suppliers. In a meeting held in April 2021, just 4 months before the destruction of the market, a Business Plan for the Establishment of a Farmer Production Support Unit (FPSU) at the Ugu District Municipality, Ugu Fresh Produce Market (UFPM) was unanimously adopted by the Ugu District Municipal Council.

The FPSU would be responsible for primary collection, storage processing and some extension services. The Ugu District Municipal Council advised members that the SAFDA and the Department of Agriculture, the Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR) had identified and expressed interest in using the Ugu Fresh Produce Market as an FPSU for the support of the Sezela small-scale Sugarcane Growers and other emerging farmers in the Ugu District that would produce other value crops.

Key Challenges

The project was not implemented after the destruction of the market. The market was listed as a potential site even though it was not operated by the Department at the time of its destruction, but served a pivotal role in the marketing of fresh produce in the area. The Department further initiated plans to invest in the Ugu Fresh Produce Market to provide improved services to the local agriculture sector.

1.2.8 Ubuntu Layers

Mlondi Mkhize started this project in 2017 after he completed his Diploma in Office Management and Technology. He registered this project as Ubuntubethu eggs (Pty) Ltd. The beneficiary is an unemployed youth and a graduate. He developed an interest in producing eggs after identifying a gap in the market and a demand for eggs within Umzumbe. The high demand for eggs resulted in him submitting a request to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for a 4000-layer unit. The Department approved a 2000-layer unit for R2 300 000 in the 2020-2022 financial year. The funding was for a layer unit structure, feed, cages, 2000 layers, toilets, fencing, packaging material, medication and a cleaning detergent machine over two years. The project was supported by the Department and is self-sufficient without any further need for support at present. The Department assisted with the construction of the laying shed and provision of the original 2000 laying cages. The farmer has expanded the facilities to the current capacity himself. The project is an example of a supported farmer who has grown a business which is currently unable to meet the demand of clients. The business has room for expansion, but at present the farm owner needs to recoup the financial investment made in the last round of expansion before further investment can be made.

Key Challenges

One of the only operating challenges mentioned by the farmer is that cell-phone reception is extremely poor in his area and that this hampers communication with clients.

1.3 Conclusion/Issues for Consideration

The selection of sites in the Ugu District represents a spread of successful land reform and targeted agriculture department support that has resulted in the development of self-sustaining agriculture enterprises. Not all sites presented here are success stories. However, there are a number of projects that have faced challenges as a result of funding constraints, while a fresh produce market pivotal to small-scale farmer produce marketing was destroyed in the recent unrest. The market was earmarked for expansion to provide wider farmer support services and the loss of the facility has had a negative impact on the farmers of the District.

Two FPSU sites were included in the sites identified. This support programme, initiated by the former Department of Land Reform and Rural Development, has been plagued by under-funding since its commencement. Only a few of the facilities across all provinces are operational. Those that have not been completed are at risk of falling into decay. Half-constructed infrastructure and new farming equipment exposed to the elements are typically observed at these sites. Apart from the risk of the loss of financial investment, the sites do not fulfil their role, which is small-scale farmer support in poorer municipal districts.

The overall perception of agriculture in the district is one of functional land reform and privately initiated enterprises that have been identified and supported by the Department of Agriculture. These farms are operating in a self-sustaining manner, which is mainly a result of the rural nature of the district. Communities are far from retail outlets, and small-scale farmers successfully supply the basic fresh produce needs of these communities. Larger commercial enterprises, however, struggle as a result of these distances to the market, as well as the relatively poor state of road infrastructure. The major negative experience in the district has been the ineffective farmer support being offered by FPSU sites. These represent a potential loss of capital, with small-scale farmers not receiving the support required.

CHAPTER TWO

THE CAPACITY OF THE STATE TO PROVIDE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

The Ugu District has a fairly diversified economy with strong public and private sector participation, with most industries contributing substantially to the provincial *gross value added* (GVA). This district economy is largely driven by the tertiary sector which contributes approximately 59 per cent to the region's GVA. Wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (16.9 per cent), supported by tourism and cross-border activities emanating from the Eastern Cape province emerges as the largest contributors to district GVA, followed by government (15.8 per cent), finance (15.8 per cent) and manufacturing (15.3 per cent). The district also has strong agricultural activities which forms 10 per cent of the district GVA and contribute to employment. The district contributes 4,4 per cent of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial GVA.

Subsequent to the work of a content team, the following sites were identified for the economic development sector at Ugu district municipality.

2.2 Site Descriptions

Below is a list of sites visited for verification by the content team.

2.2.1 Zurii skincare manufacturing company

This black industrialist project is located at Umdoni local municipality ward 14 in a village called Mandawe. Zurii Skincare was founded in 2012 as a kitchen-based organic and ethical herbal company. The company produces lotions and soaps. It grew to supply family, friends and the immediate community. The value proposition of the company came as a response to common skin ailments using a multi-pronged approach including head-to-toe herbal solutions. The business has grown to an International Standard Organisation (ISO) certified factory based in the rural area of South Coast where raw materials are derived from organically grown herbs. Zurii Skincare is ISO9001 and ISO 22716 certified since 2015.

The company supplies the department of health KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and Ethekewini Metropolitan Municipality, Manhattan cosmetics, Ritz cosmetics in Umzinto, Scala, Link pharmacy, and SPAR, amongst others. Zurii skincare products are well received in the market, because the company is leading in introducing ethical, organic and vegan skincare to the mass market in South Africa. The products are well known for providing natural supplements and derma cosmetics from head to toe.

The Zurii skincare products are a bi-product of traditional African medicinal knowledge accumulated over centuries and passed down for many generations. Zurii skincare products are hypoallergenic and moisturize, treat, repair, and protect skin. The herbs used are organically grown by local village women and youth providing fresh herbal solutions to the customers and end users. The company is signed with Obelis Group in Belgium as a responsible person in Europe (EU) and is currently undergoing testing for EU certification and registration.

Presently, the company employs 15 full-time employees, but this number could rapidly increase when production capacity is improved through the acquisition of standard operational equipment. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development and Tourism (KZNDEDT) supported the project with R2 million.

Key Challenges

- The production capacity is very limited due to the size of the factory and the small calibre of the equipment being utilized.
- There is a serious lack of funding to purchase equipment that meets industry-level standards in terms of safety and compliance.
- Personnel has to be trained in order to increase productive efficiency and to improve adherence to safety regulations.
- Poor access to roads, such as proper gravel roads, poses a serious challenge to deliveries, especially during the rainy season.
- Electricity supply is erratic due to periodic load shedding and thus disrupting production efficiency.

Desired Solutions

- The company is at the final stages of securing a long-term lease agreement and will soon be relocating the production facilities to the new premises.
- Funding is required for capital expenditure so that factory equipment can be purchased and installed to enhance the mass production of skincare products to meet customer supply needs in both the domestic and export markets.
- Skills development programmes are required for both production and safety regulatory frameworks.
- There is a need for government intervention to improve road access using provincial grants earmarked for rural road infrastructure development.
- In respect of securing a reliable electricity supply, the company needs a funding injection of about R250 000 to purchase a hydrogen-powered generator available from a Dube Trade Port-based manufacturer in Durban.

2.2.2 Marburg Motor Mechanic Workshop

The Marburg Motor Mechanic Workshop is based in the Marburg area of Port Shepstone Town in Ray Nkonyeni (RN) Local Municipality. The Local Economic Development (LED) strategy of Ray Nkonyeni LM identified small businesses and cooperatives for business support and development. This strategy is aligned with the municipality's 20-year growth and development strategy which seeks to advance inclusive economic development. In accordance with the mandate of a diverse and inclusive economy, the municipality successfully applied for funding to establish a motor mechanic/automotive workshop, mainly targeting small and emerging motor mechanics who are operating informally in the town of Port Shepstone and the surrounding Marburg area.

National Treasury provided funding of just more than R22 million for the development of the mechanical workshop facility. The objective of the initiative is to develop the project into a fully-fledged Retail Motor Industry (RMI) compliant motor mechanic/servicing facility, that will cater for twenty-one (21) emerging motor mechanics, who specialise in different trades.

This facility is in the process of being registered as a cooperative company of 21 motor mechanics and auxiliary trades, including a car wash and corporate services such as administration and finance. The workshop received R22 million as a result of a funding application made by the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality LED unit. In order to facilitate mechanical operations, the structure was equipped with internal and external accessories. There are still additional tools and sophisticated equipment that can be added to the workshop to make it a fully-fledged service centre.

Key Challenges

- At the time of the visit by the content team of Parliament, the workshop was completed and awaiting an official opening by the Executive Mayor of RN Local Municipality.
- The erratic supply of electricity due to load shedding will most probably pose a challenge to the operations and turn-around times of the service.
- Ensuring that cooperative members are skilled enough to provide professional service and that they comply with minimum industry standards.
- Ensuring that the business is fully marketed and thus able to compete with other leading businesses within the industry.
- An assessment of individual mechanics is required to ascertain their competency levels in their trade to enable their compliance with the following bodies: Motor Industry Workshop Association (MIWA); South African Motor Body Repairers' Association and Retail Motor Industry (RMI). It is therefore critical to involve SATEC (SEDA Automotive Technology Centre) and ensure compliance with these accreditations.

Desired Solutions

- Develop the cooperative into a fully-fledged business;
- Ensure that the cooperative is skilled enough to provide professional service according to industry standards;
- Ensure that the workshop is fully marketed and competes with other businesses in the industry;
- Ensure that the workshop is properly registered and complies with industry standards.

Successes

- Ray Nkonyeni Auto Mechanics Primary Cooperative Limited has been registered and incorporated into a legal entity, with its approved Constitution.
- The cooperative has successfully elected managing members, who are the executive of the entity.
- The cooperative has been linked with Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) to be assisted with basic business management, marketing and branding.
- Basic skills gap assessments, relating to their individual trade, were completed. However, a professional analysis, in line with industry standards, is still outstanding.

2.2.3 Sesyafika trading

The company is located at Mandawe mission – KwaCele village in Scottburgh at Umdoni Local Municipality. It was established in 2015 by a young person who was determined to succeed in operating his own carpentry workshop and empowering other youth by sharing knowledge and creating jobs, following his retrenchment from a big firm in the furniture industry.

The company has 5 fulltime employees with a huge possibility of employing more as the business capacity expands. It operates from the sole proprietor's property with the potential for expanding the workshop, as access to land is not a constraint. The company needs funding and business support from government agencies such as Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA); Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA); Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). This will further develop the company's capacity to meet the demands of its client base.

Key Challenges

- There is a need to train workers in order to improve their technical skills in carpentry and to empower them with industry-based safety regulations.

- The company also needs administrative and finance personnel support to relieve the sole owner of those functions, so that he can focus on productive efficiency at the workshop.
- The company needs assistance with marketing and branding through the development of its own website.
- There is a need for a bigger truck and a hyster to transport raw materials and to deliver finished products. Access to a hyster, in particular, will circumvent the limitation of the business in buying raw materials from wholesalers. Most wholesaler businesses need a hyster to qualify for bulk purchases.
- The business needs a powerful 3-phase diesel generator and an edging machine with a value of between R300 000 to R400 000.
- Table saw equipment is also required which costs about R150 000.

Desired Solutions

- Responsive approach from Development Finance Agencies (DFIs) will boost the company's capacity to serve existing markets and tapping into new markets.

Successes

- The company is already doing business with municipalities, provincial government departments and large corporates.
- The company has managed to secure personnel to perform administrative and finance functions.

2.2.4 Oatlands Oyster Mushrooms

The company is based at Margate town in KwaNositha location, KwaMavundla Traditional Authority of Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality. It was established in 2018 and it is owned by a woman based in KwaNositha location, ward 27 under the KwaMavundla Traditional Authority. This is a unique women's business that has acquired a high degree of proficiency in farming mushrooms in a sustainable manner. Currently, the business supplies the following places as regular customers:

- Spar in Harbour View;
- Green Grocers in Marburg;
- Food Lovers' Market South Coast Mall and Scottburgh;
- Green Grocers in Port Shepstone and Marburg;
- Fresh Earth Farmer's Market;

- Fresh Earth Farmer's Market also supplies Durban Food Lovers and Johannesburg Food Lovers every week.

The business also aims to venture into market outlets all over the Ugu District, as well as the province and nationally. It currently has 3 employees and is expected to grow the business to the extent that it reaches provincial and national markets and thus creating more job opportunities.

Key Challenges

- Access to funding and augmenting production capacity is still constrained.
- Tailored training in respect of mushroom production is required to improve production efficiency and product quality.
- More access to reliable markets through meeting certification standards and traceability requirements.

Desired Solutions

- More hydroponic tunnels is required to ensure that the production environment is controlled to meet customer expectations in terms of high value and product quality. This requires capital injections to increase the hydroponic infrastructural capacity.

CHAPTER THREE

AN OVERVIEW OF THE PREDOMINANT SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN THE UGU DISTRICT

3.1 Introduction

By 2020, according to StatsSA's General Household Survey (2021), approximately 88% of households in KwaZulu-Natal lived in formal dwellings, compared to 9.2% that lived in traditional dwellings and 2.9% that lived in informal settlements. KwaZulu-Natal was also one of the provinces with the highest percentage of households living in homes that they owned and have fully paid off.²

Most of the households in the district live in dwellings that are owned and fully paid off by the occupants (61%), compared to around 9% of households residing in dwellings not yet paid off, while an estimated 9% occupy their dwelling rent-free and 16% of households live in rented properties. The **Integrated Development Plan (IDP)** for the Ugu District Municipality emphasises the need to further contextualise these statistics, as around 79% of the population reside in traditional areas (rural areas fall under the **Ingonyama Land Trust**). The percentages presented therefore mostly relate to urban areas where title deeds are registered for properties, compared to a large portion of the population making use of long-term leases.³

The largest portion of the inland is marked by rural villages and settlements, which are spread within different parts of the administrative boundaries of traditional authorities. There are a total of forty traditional council areas within the Ugu District Municipality's jurisdiction, as summarised below:⁴

Local Municipality	Tribal Authority Area
Umdoni	Mbele; Qiko; Zembeni; Izimpethuzendlovu; Emandleni; Ukuthula; AmaNyuswa; Cele; and Malangeni.

² StatsSA (2021).

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ugu District Municipality (2022).

Umzumbe	Bhekani; Cele P; Nhlanguwini; Mabhelani; KwaBombo; Nyavini; Ndelu; Hlongwa; Thulini; Qwabe N; Cele K; Dungeni; Emadungeni; Qoloqolo; Qwabe P; and Hlubi.
Ray Nkonyeni	Qiniselani/Manyuswa; Mavundla/Nkumbini; Cele/Vukuzithathe; Xolo; Nzimakwe; Mavundla; Nsimbini; Lushaba; and Madlala.
Umuziwabantu	Kwa-Fodo; Thokozani/Madumisa; Jabulani/Beshwayo; Mbotho; Jali/Nhlangano; and Maci/Isibonda.

Source: Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality IDP (2022)

3.2 Visited and Verified Sites

The following tables list the sites visited by the content team.

3.2.1 Umzumbe Municipality

PROJECT NAME	Umzumbe Cluster “C” Rural Housing
PROJECT NO.	K04100001
WARD NO.	1, 2, 3 AND 4
IMPLEMENTING AGENT	Fezeka Business Services
NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	1000
PHASE 1	1000
PROJECT VALUE	R135 693 530.00
MONIES SPENT	R65 069 349.46
HOUSES BUILT TO DATE	233 (758 SLABS, 682 wall plates, 575 roofs, 109 concrete aprons, 238 Electricity and 233 VIPs)
START DATE	13 August 2014
END DATE	10 January 2023

Source: Ugu District Municipality

Challenges/Comments

Slow progress on units left incomplete by the previous Implementing Agency (IA).

3.2.1.1 *Umzambe Cluster B*

PROJECT NAME	Umzambe Cluster “B” phase 2 Rural Housing Project
PROJECT NO.	K14010016
WARD NO.	5, 12, 13, 14 and 16
IMPLEMENTING AGENT	Bigen WBHO Housing (PTY) LTD
NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	300
PHASE 2	300
PROJECT VALUE	R 40 092 231.000
MONIES SPENT	R 0.00
PHASE 2	300
HOUSES BUILT TO DATE	0 (0 slabs, 0 wall plates, 0 roofs and 0 VIPs)
START DATE	16 February 2021
END DATE	28 July 2023 (Phase 2 of 650 Units)

Source: Ugu District Municipality

Challenges/Comments

Local sub-contractors delayed the project by demanding 50% on foundations and this was resolved last month January 2022. However, during the first phase of the project 500 units were completed.

3.2.1.2 *Umzambe Cluster A*

PROJECT NAME	Umzambe Cluster “A” Rural Housing Project
PROJECT NO	K15020009

WARD NO.	10,16,17,18 and 19
IMPLEMENTING AGENT	Ngcolosi Consulting Engineers
NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	300
PHASE 1	300
PROJECT VALUE	R66 865 920.00
MONIES SPENT	R0.00
HOUSES BUILT TO DATE	0 (0 slabs, 0 wall plates and 0 roofs)
START DATE	29 June 2021
END DATE	29 June 2023

Source: Ugu District Municipality

Challenges/Comments

The enrolment and change of specification by the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) have delayed the project.

3.3 Responding to the floods of April 2022

On 11 April 2022, KwaZulu-Natal experienced unusual rainfall when it received precipitation in excess of 300mm over 24 hours – equivalent to 75% of South Africa’s total annual rainfall.⁵

On 15 April 2022, it was announced that the province would receive about R1 billion from the Department of Human Settlements after thousands of houses were destroyed during the floods. The preliminary reports available at the time indicated that more than 13 500 households were affected, with more than 3 927 houses being destroyed and a further 8 097 being partially destroyed.⁶

The Ugu district was also severely affected by the flooding, with widespread damage being reported across all four local municipalities.⁷

In view of the above, the following sites were visited and verified:

⁵ [Mwai](#) (2022).

⁶ [Nair](#) (2022).

⁷ Magubane (2022).

3.3.1 Disaster Temporary Shelters

PROJECT NAME	APRIL 2022- DISASTER TEMPORARY SHELTERS
PROJECT NO	K19030003/56
CONTRACTOR	Chushisanani Mzansi
NO. OF UNITS	200
PROJECT VALUE	R 1 280 000,00
MONIES SPENT TO DATE	R 710 400,00
ALLOCATION UNITS	200
TYPE	Temporary Shelter
HOUSES BUILT TO DATE	111
BALANCE	89
STAGE	Implementation

3.1.1.1 Progress to date

UGU TEMPORARY SHELTERS						
NO.	Municipality	Allocations	Platforms	Foundations Poured	Wall Panels	Completions
1	uMdoni	50	30	30	30	30
2	uMzumbe	50	16	16	16	16
3	Ray Nkonyeni	50	29	29	29	29
4	uMuziwabantu	50	36	36	36	36
	TOTAL	200	111	111	111	111

3.1.2 Shelters accommodation

MUNICIPALITY	COMMENTS AND PROGRESS
Umdoni	UCC Church has been cleared and closed since all seven beneficiaries within the shelter were assisted. The Municipality to identify the alternative sites so that we assist those four beneficiaries who don't have land, and who currently live with relatives.

Ray Nkonyeni	Jesus Community Hall was cleared since all eight families were assisted with temporary shelters.
Umzumbe	KwaNгуza and Nqolobane community halls were cleared. The six beneficiaries that were living in those shelters have been assisted with temporary shelters.

Challenges

- Business Forums are demanding all projects around the district, affecting progress on service delivery.
- Access had to be cut up to 300m in certain areas to get to the beneficiary's homestead, which delayed the contractors.
- The impact of the inclement weather with heavy rains and the many roads which collapsed prevented access to sites.
- Slow progress in respect of the appointed service provider.

3.4 Issues for Consideration

- What is the current status of the housing list/database in the Ugu District Municipality?
- What are the reasons for the delay in finalising the housing waiting list for the district?
- What are the primary reasons for the budget constraints in relation to housing projects in the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality?
- A large percentage of dwellings within the district (and specifically Umzumbe Local Municipality) are made from traditional materials, which are not resilient to withstand natural elements and weather events such as storms. What progress has been made in replacing mud houses in the district?
- How many households that were affected and displaced during the floods are still awaiting support and alternative accommodation?
- In 2002 a government housing project was approved for implementation in Kwalatshoda (ward 1). Since then, 600 houses were built but lacked adequate water and sanitation services, which had to be installed and connected before title deeds could be issued. What is the current status of the project? Are these houses occupied by their rightful owners? Have the beneficiaries received their title deeds yet and have municipal services (such as water, sanitation and refuse removal) been secured?

CHAPTER FOUR

SYNOPSIS OF THE UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY'S ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1 Introduction

The district is one of the ten districts (Category C municipalities) of the KZN province. It is located in the far south of the province and measures 4 908 km² in extent. The District has a coastline of 112 km, which forms its eastern border. On the north, the district is bordered by the eThekweni metro and in the west by Umgungundlovu and Harry Gwala District municipalities.

The road hierarchy in the district starts with national roads, then provincial roads down to local municipal roads. The N2 runs parallel to the coast with plans to extend this coastal route into the Eastern Cape. The provincial road network provides a high proportion of the road network in the district and covers a vast range of types of roads from main regional links (class 2) through to local roads (class 7)⁸. In terms of road usage, large volumes of traffic pass through R612 from Park Rynie to Ixopo and the road from Umtentweni to St Faiths. Access to road infrastructure varies across the district, especially between rural and urban areas.

Access to public transport is a major development challenge within the district and a potential factor in increasing access of communities to economic opportunities. At least, 87% of public transport users within the district are dependent on mini bus transport, compared to 9% which is dependent on bus transport. In instances, where bus services are available, they transport more commuters than the mini bus taxi service⁹.

Access to rail transport is limited within the region. The metropolitan rail system serving eThekweni only reaches the northern extremity of the district with three stages in the Umdoni municipality, namely Kelso, Park Rynie and Scottburgh. Currently, Transnet Freight Rail uses

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

the electrified south coast railway line. No commuter services are offered beyond these three aforementioned stations¹⁰.

4.2 Ugu District Municipality's Road and Infrastructure Projects

The R10 million upgrade to Margate Airport was funded by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in June 2020. The upgrade included expanding the arrivals terminal, refurbishing ablution facilities, the addition of a new building for car rental and constructing a controlled paid parking area. The project was scheduled to be completed in December 2020,¹¹ but was delayed due to local business owners who demanded to be included in the upgrading of the airport. Due to the demand of business owners, five subcontractors were eventually appointed. However, three of the five subcontractors failed to honour their appointments, which led to their subcontracting being withdrawn. Currently, the airport's renovations are now 80% complete, however, the district is still looking for more investors to build conference centres and hotels around the area¹².

4.2.1 Louisiana Ring Road

Objective of the project

- Improve overall road safety and riding quality.
- Improve road geometry to ensure public transport, such as taxis, can safely utilise the road.

Challenges

The main challenge has been the reconstruction of the water main line that was installed at a shallow level. This needed to be laid at the correct depth before the road layer-works could begin. This caused a major delay in the project. There was also a challenge of local sub-contractors who were subcontracted for works but were not able to start as agreed with the main contractor, which also caused a delay in the completion of the project.

¹⁰ Cogta (2022)

¹¹ Citizen (2022)

¹² Citizen (2022)

Interventions

A variation was then approved for the contractor to start relaying the main water line to the correct depth before the construction of layer works was done. The main contractor had to terminate the contract with the defaulting sub-contractor and went on to appoint another sub-contractor to finish the work. The new sub-contractor is now on site busy with kerb and channelling.

4.2.2 The rejuvenation of Nelson Mandela Drive and Main Harding Road

Observation, Challenges and Interventions

- The main challenge has been the management of vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the CBD area.
- The ongoing concern by business owners is that the project is affecting their businesses
- Damages suffered during the April 2022 disaster.

Interventions

- A traffic management plan has been adopted.
- There is a full-time Health and Safety team on site who ensures that signage and demarcation are properly managed on site to ensure the flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- A Social Facilitator has been appointed as part of the project team who ensures continued communication between business owners and the project team.
- There is also a Project Steering Committee which involves all relevant stakeholders including business owners, transport operators and community representatives.
- Some damages have been covered by the contractor's insurance.

4.2.3 Main Harding Road

A total of R54 million has been allocated for the rehabilitation of Main Harding Road and 60 jobs have been created. This project is scheduled to be completed in January 2023. This project will entail the 2,1 km road from N2 (Marburg) to the uMbango River bridge. The scope of work includes the construction of new road layer work, improved intersections, installation of traffic lights and construction of drop-off points. The rehabilitating of the two roads will include drainage systems as well as the repairing of potholes.

Observations, Challenges and Interventions

- The main challenge has been the management of traffic and access to businesses along the construction route.
- The ongoing concern by business owners is that the project is affecting their businesses' profit margins, due to the drop in customer numbers caused by the construction.
- Damages suffered during the April 2022 disaster meant that some work needed to be redone, thus affecting the overall anticipated completion date.

Interventions

- A traffic management plan has been adopted.
- There is a full-time Health and Safety team on site who ensures that signage and demarcation are properly managed on site to ensure the flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- A Social Facilitator has been appointed as part of the project team who ensures continued communication between business owners and the project team.
- There is also a Project Steering Committee which involves all relevant stakeholders including business owners, transport operators and community representatives.
- Some damages have been covered by the contractor's insurance.

4.2.4 The Marburg Mechanical Workshop

Objective of the project

- Overall Objective: To provide support to Marburg Motor Mechanics Automotive Cooperative by establishing a fully resourced mechanical workshop to formalise their mechanical operations as a fully functional business.
- Specific Objectives: To support motor mechanics in a formal business that renders mechanical repairs to vehicles and or/light delivery vehicles.

Outcomes

- Develop the cooperative into fully-fledged motor mechanical operations to service the community of Ray Nkonyeni Municipality.
- Ensure that the cooperative is skilled enough to provide professional service to potential customers as per industry standards.
- Ensure that the mechanical operation is fully marketed and competes with other businesses on a global stage.
- Ensure that the operation is profitable.
- Ensure that the operation is properly registered and complies with industry standards.

4.3 Conclusion

Rural roads are often treated as the last link of the transport network.¹³ Despite this, they often form the most important link in terms of providing access to the rural population. Their permanent or seasonal absence will act as a crucial factor in terms of the access of rural communities to basic services such as education, primary health care, water supply, local markets and economic opportunities.

Investments in rural roads have significant potential for the use of local resources. They create decent jobs, support the local economy and strengthen local commerce and have therefore important implications for poverty reduction and local economic and social development.

CHAPTER FIVE

SAFETY AND SECURITY / POLICING IN UGU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

5.1 Introduction¹⁴

The Ugu District Municipality comprises four local municipalities, namely Ray Nkonyeni, Umuziwabantu, Umzumba and Umdoni. There are 40 traditional council areas in the district. A number of initiatives have been developed to address the issue of safety in the district and these include:

- A safety and security strategy was developed in 2009. A municipal safety plan is a consultative document that sets out the strategic objectives, and operationalises those into local crime prevention action steps which contains elements of law enforcement, situational and social crime prevention, and addresses social unrest and mediation.
- The district municipality has a senior citizens' forum in place which also seeks to promote the protection and safety of elderly citizens.
- Community development, with a focus on vulnerable groups, addresses the development of youth, people with disabilities, women, people affected by HIV/Aids, drugs, crime, etc. The district also has a dedicated Special Programmes Unit which caters for the needs of these special groups.
- The conversion of community policing forums into safety and security committees by some communities.

5.1.1 Safety and security/policing in Ray Nkonyeni Municipality (RNM)¹⁵

- RNM has an Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Strategy, as well as a safety plan in place.
- Public safety is the municipality's number one priority.
- RNM has full-time safety and security personnel in some urban centres where crime is very rife.

¹⁴ Ugu District Municipality 2022/2023-2026/2027 Final Integrated Development Plan. Accessed on 2 October 2022 at <https://www.ugu.gov.za/Documents/IDP/FINAL%20UGU%202022-2023%20to%202026-2027%20IDP.pdf>

¹⁵ Ray Nkonyeni 2022/2023 – 2026/2027 Final Integrated Development Plan Accessed at <https://www.rnm.gov.za/images/docs/IDP/RNM%202022-23%202026-27%20FINAL%20IDP.pdf>. 2 October 2022

- Crime is very high, mainly due to prevalent economic and social factors which include poverty and unemployment.
- In RNM, more than 168 521 people have reported feeling unsafe at night, while more than 38 173 people become victims of crime annually.
- Visible policing is present in all major towns within the RNM.
- SAPS works closely with the municipality's Safety and Security Department to combat crime. Some areas like Sunwich Port, Southport and Umtentweni have Crime Watch Units that have a long working relationship with their respective community police stations.
- The two police clusters within the RNM are based at Margate and Port Shepstone. However, the lack of policing in the rural areas is a major concern.
- Crime is rife in the rural areas due to the lack of police stations and satellite police stations. Places of concern include Gamalakhe Township, Margate, Albersville and Murchison. Stock theft, rape and burglary are prevalent in these rural areas.
- The high crime rate in the rural areas is attributed to a delayed response from the SAPS, or none at all in some instances. When crime is reported, it takes longer than a day to be assisted. The sloped terrain makes reaching these places very difficult, as some are not accessible by police vehicles.
- Communities have requested to have at least satellite police stations established in their areas. However, the IDP states that the Department of Public Works does not have funds to set up new police stations in rural areas, which is a major concern.

5.1.2 Safety And Security / Policing In Umuziwabantu Local Municipality¹⁶

- Umuziwabantu Municipality consists of 11 wards and 6 traditional councils.
- High levels of crime and drug abuse amongst the youth are major concerns.
- However, there is currently one police station in the whole Umuziwabantu jurisdiction which is situated in town, servicing 108 576 people.
- In addition to the inadequacy of this service, the police station lacks equipment and vehicles.

¹⁶ Umuziwabantu 2022/2022 – 2026/2027 Draft Integrated Development Plan. Accessed at <https://www.umuziwabantu.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/202223-to-202627-Draft-IDP.pdf>. 2 October 2022

- The lack or shortage of safety and security services leads to community confusion since other communities, for example Ward 5, are serviced by Ezingoleni SAPS (Paddock) which is part of the RNM.
- The municipality established war rooms in each ward within Umuziwabantu to conduct anti-crime and anti-drugs awareness campaigns, amongst other things.

5.1.3 Safety and security / policing in Umzumbe Local Municipality¹⁷

- Umzumbe covers a vast, largely rural area of about 1221 km², with approximately 1% being built up, semi-urban area.
- High crime rates are regarded as a threat and a key challenge (figures not confirmed in terms of IDP).
- The 2017 commercial agriculture census identified 76 farms within the municipality as having experienced farm losses through crime. Several farms in the municipality experienced losses through stock theft (10), theft of farming/forestry/fisheries produce (35), theft of input supplies (26) and other crime (5).
- There are three police stations within Umzumbe Municipality with a ratio of 1:1 063.
- The police stations are located at Msinsini, Mehlomnyama and St Faiths.
- Community policing forums have been set up throughout the municipal area.
- Although located outside the municipal area of jurisdiction, Hibberdene and Sawoti Police Stations also provide service to the area of Umzumbe.
- A new police station is proposed to be developed in Ward 12, KwaNdelu.
- There is a magistrate's court located within Ward 20 and 18 courts. Traditional courts generally deal with civil cases. They are situated in the Thulini, Cele P, Cele K, Emandleni, Hlongwa, Mabheleni, Bhekani, Hlubi, Qoloqolo, Nhlanguwini, Qwabe N, Qwabe P Dungeni, Bombo, Ndelu, KwaHlongwane, Nyavini and Izipethu Zendlovu areas.
- It has been proposed that satellite police stations be established in Wards 7 and 8.

¹⁷ Umzumbe Integrated Development Plan 2022/2023 Review & 2022 - 2027 Financial Year

- In addition, the IDP proposes that key challenges be addressed through the Municipal Safety Plan (adopted to encourage social crime prevention); and the establishment of municipal police and traffic services.
- The municipality is in the process of establishing a Municipal Police Services Section to enforce by-laws. In the interim, development planners will carry out the functions of peace officers.

5.1.4 Safety and security / policing in Umdoni Local Municipality¹⁸

- The town of Scottburgh in the Umdoni Local Municipality is approximately 50km from the city of Durban and 65km from Port Shepstone.
- Scottburgh has a police station, as well as a magistrate's court.
- The following wards have police stations: 1, 12, 15, 19 (Dududu, Sawoti, Scottburgh).
- The project to establish the Farm Isonti Satellite Police Station has been ongoing since 2016.
- Over the medium term, the municipality has prioritised intensifying the fight against crime and corruption. According to the outcomes of community consultation meetings, crime in Wards 8 and 9 threatens the lives of the community.
- The priorities in respect of Wards 1 and 16 include the establishment of a police station and mobile police station.

5.2 Challenges Experienced in providing Services to the Community

The police stations visited included Margate SAPS, Port Shepstone SAPS, Port Edward SAPS, Ezingoleni SAPS, and Southport SAPS. A number of police stations visited identified some challenges in providing services to the community. Some of these challenges are unique while others are common at all or most stations. These challenges range from infrastructure, human resources and budget allocation. Key amongst these challenges include the following:

- A shortage of police vehicles. Where police vehicles are available, they are very old. Vehicles taken to the government garage for service is not returned timeously. This

¹⁸ Umdoni Municipality 2022 / 2023 – 2026/ 2027 Integrated Development Plan.

has an impact on visible policing in the community and leads to a slow response time to regarding complaints reported.

- The distance between police stations and Durban-Westville Correctional Centre is a challenge. Inmates have to be transported from court to Durban-Westville Correctional Centre daily, which, in some cases, is close to 900km for daily return trips. This is because Durban-Westville is the only remand detention facility in the whole province. This has an impact on fuel, tyres and kilometres driven.
- The issue of both office space and storage space was highlighted as a challenge at most stations. At Margate police station, containers have to be used to store dockets.
- Insufficient holding cells at most stations was highlighted as a challenge, because even for minor offences, such as public drinking or driving under the influence, offenders cannot be detained at the station until they are released.
- Toxicology reports can take up to 10 years to be released, and this can be ascribed to a shortage of skills at the Department of Health.
- Vacancies take time to fill, which has an impact on service delivery.
- A shortage of water is another challenge, especially at Eziqoleni police station where there has not been water for almost two years.
- Some of the buildings at the police station are not in a good condition, especially at the Eziqoleni Police Station. At other stations, roofs are leaking and this causes damage to furniture and documents.
- The centralisation of supply chain processes hinders service delivery. There are instances where supply chain processes make it difficult for the budget to be adequately spent, and this results in the budget allocation for the following year being reduced.

5.3 Desired Solutions to Some of these Challenges

Several solutions were identified to address some of these challenges, which include:

- Improvement in the turn-around time in respect of the filling of vacancies and the allocation of additional manpower to improve visible policing.
- Procurement of vehicles that are suitable for areas of patrol.
- Allowing stations to use petty-cash for some of the day-to-day expenses and services.
- Decentralisation of supply chain processes to ensure smooth service delivery.

- Refurbishment of old buildings to create a safe and conducive working environment.
- The need for a remand detention facility in the district.
- Development of a service level agreement between the SAPS and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.
- Procurement of water tanks, while waiting for a solution to the water shortage.

CHAPTER SIX

BULK WATER SUPPLY IN THE UGU DISTRICT

6.1 Introduction

Ugu District falls under the area that is supplied by the Umgeni Water Board. Umgeni Water is a state-owned entity (SOE), established in 1974, to provide water services – water supply and sanitation services – to other water services institutions in its service area, which is KwaZulu-Natal. It thus supplies 66% of the population of KwaZulu-Natal with drinking water through various water services authorities (WSAs).¹⁹ The entity operates in accordance with the Water Services Act (Act No. 108 of 1997) and the Public Finance Management Act (Act No. 1 of 1999), amongst others, and is categorised as a national government business enterprise. Umgeni Water reports directly to the Department of Water and Sanitation. The Water Board has a bulk-water supply agreement with Ugu District Municipality. This agreement includes, but is not limited to, water infrastructure development in Ugu to ensure universal access to water services.

In this regard, Umgeni Water intends to build the Ncwabeni Off-Channel Storage Dam to secure water supply to the Ugu District Municipality during dry periods. The project will involve the construction of a new dam on the Ncwabeni River, two abstraction weirs on the uMzimkhulu and Ncwabeni Rivers, a pump station and a pipeline to pump water into the Ncwabeni Off-Channel Dam from the Umzimkhulu River. This is one of the rural development projects that is aimed at eliminating the water services delivery backlog in most of the rural areas of the Ugu District Municipality. It is expected to provide water to the Umzumbhe Municipality by 2040.²⁰

Water losses

The latest audited water loss results show a material water loss of R109,99 million (2019-20: R112,17 million) was incurred, which represents 73% (2019-20: 79%) of total water

¹⁹ Umgeni Water Board (2022)

²⁰ Ibid.

purchased. This was mainly due to leakages, unauthorised consumption and customer meter inaccuracies.²¹

Ugu Water debt owed to Umgeni Water Board

As at May 2022, the Department of Water and Sanitation’s water trading entity was owed R24,57 billion by its customers. Municipalities and the water boards were responsible for 65% of this debt. Municipalities owed the water boards R13,94 billion due to the non-payment of their water users. This in turn resulted in the water boards owing the Department R7,6 billion. In addition, direct municipal debt to the Department amounted to R8 billion.²² The Ugu District Municipality owes Umgeni Water a total of R276 750 590, 98% of which is debt older than 90 days. It is, however, worth noting that there is a 4-year payment plan in place that is currently being serviced. To this end, the municipality has paid R40 million for the 2022/23 financial year.²³

6.2 Access to Water and Sanitation in Ugu District

The survey that provides statistics on access to water and sanitation services at municipal level was last published in 2016.²⁴ Table 3 shows water and sanitation access across the Ugu District Municipality.

The Ugu District can be classified as peri-urban, as it is dominated by B2 municipalities. Insofar as access to water and sanitation is concerned, households in the more urbanised municipalities enjoy a high percentage of access to an improved water source and piped water in a dwelling. However, it appears that those that enjoy high access percentage are also the ones that suffer the most water interruptions, lasting for more than two days. The access percentages are in line with the national average of 89% for water and 84% for sanitation. There are no reports on the use of bucket toilet systems in this district.

Table 6.1: Household access to Water and Sanitation Ugu District (%)

	Water	Sanitation
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²¹ Auditor General South Africa (2021)

²² South African Government (2022)

²³ Ugu District Municipality (2022)

²⁴ Statistics of South Africa (2017)

Municipal Category	Municipality	Access to improved water source	Access to piped water	Water interruptions longer than 2 days	Access to improved sanitation	Sharing toilet
B2 (large town)	Umdoni	99.3	99.0	83.5	46.7	35.1
B3 (small towns)	Umuziwabantu	83.7	80.7	83.7	63	9.7
B4 (mostly rural)	Umzumbe	71.0	68	78.1	49.3	16.8
B2 (large town)	Ray Nkonyeni	97	96.4	63.6	67.4	30.8
DC 21	Ugu	87.8	86	77.2	56.6	23.1

Source: adapted from Statistics SA²⁵

6.3 Identified Water and Sanitation Capital Projects in Ugu District

Table 6.1 shows a list of projects that were verified and recommended for consideration by Parliament.

Table 6.2: List of projects

Project Name	Location	Description	Observations, Challenges and Recommendations
Msikaba Bulk Water Supply Scheme	-30.756760, 30.348198	This is a bulk water supply scheme that will supply Msikaba (Nyandezulu) communities. It consists of Phase 1 which involved the construction of the Bomela North Reservoir. The reservoir is complete. Phase 2 involves the construction of 300DN X 5.5 km long steel pipeline from the Nsimbini pump station to the	The project is well placed within the community and appears to be very beneficial to the communities. The project is recommended for the TPTTP programme as it is easily accessible in the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality. The demand for work by local business people in the

²⁵ Statistics South Africa (2017)

		Bomela North Reservoir, 50kl elevated tank and an upgrade of M&E equipment at the Nsimbini pump station. This phase is 90% complete. This project has employed 34 people. Phase 3 will involve water reticulation in households. This phase will commence once Phase 2 is completed. Budget R 31 896 510.	form of 30% contracts from the main contractor delayed the implementation of the project, but this challenge has now been resolved.
Marburg Bulk Water Pipeline	<u>-30.743551,</u> <u>30.402855</u>	This project involved the construction of a bulk water pipeline to supply water to the Marburg reservoirs. The pipe line was commissioned in October 2022. Budget: R30 000 000	The project is well placed within the community and appears to be very beneficial to the communities. The project is recommended for the TPTTP programme as it is easily accessible in the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality.
KwaXolo Bulk Water Supply	KwaXolo	The project involves connecting to the Eastern Cape's power supply to allow more water to be extracted from the Umthavuna River for purification and distribution to Ezingolweni, KwaXolo and Southbroom. It also involves upgrading the KwaXolo bulk water supply scheme to increase supply to the KwaXolo and Izingolweni networks. Budget: R14 600 000	The project is well placed within the community and appears to be very beneficial to the communities. The project is recommended for the TPTTP programme as it is easily accessible in the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality.

Bazini Pipeline Replacement	-30.677273, 29.751866	The project serves the Bazini community with drinking water supply through 14 stand taps. The work that was done included the installation of a 4,2km gravity line of 110mm HDPE; 1.6km gravity line of 90mm HDPE; 539m of 63mm HDPE Reticulation System; 3.7km of 50mm HDPE Reticulation System; Valves and 14 stand taps. Budget: R12 779 261	This project is located far from the Margate area where the event will be. It is in the Harding area, which is difficult to access due to road works and gravel roads. It is located within the Umuziwabantu Local Municipality.
Drilling and installation of boreholes	-30.693302, 29.875613	The project involves the drilling and installation of boreholes (12x production boreholes) in Umzumbe and Umuziwabantu Municipalities through the COGTA Massification Grant.	This project is located far from Margate area where the event will be. It is in the Harding area, which is difficult to access due to road works and gravel roads. It is located within the Umuziwabantu Local Municipality.
St Helen's Rock Raw Water Pump Station Refurbishment of Mechanical & Electrical Infrastructure	-30.706158, 30.391008 Dam -30.713465, 30.387150	This project involves the refurbishment (optimisation and replacement) of the ageing pump station infrastructure. And installation of access control on critical installations (security initiatives).	The project is well placed within the community and appears to be very beneficial to the communities. The project is recommended for the TPTTP programme as it is easily accessible in the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality.

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