



Vuthela SPARK

IGNITING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ILEMBE

Vuthela training sparks life into dreams

Graduates from ICT course eager to build websites and digital apps to reach their full potential for income-generation.

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Editorial: Collaboration needed to address the energy crisis

Vuthela Spark 12 has a focus on energy and entrepreneurship training.

The challenge for the Vuthela Programme has been to incorporate the dramatic changes to the electricity and energy landscape since the deepening crisis around reliable and secure energy supply nationally and in the iLembe district.

At the time of the original Vuthela Programme design more than a decade ago, the focus for the programme was on interventions to strengthen the reliability of electricity supply by: updating the electricity master plans for KwaDukuza and Mandeni, development of the functional design and specifications for a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system and control room for KwaDukuza, performing a feasibility study for renewable energy generation at a water or wastewater treatment works and the formulation of strategies to deal with electricity losses (Non-Revenue Electricity), with limited pilot implementation projects.

While all these initiatives have materialised over the past six years, they have been overtaken by the deepening national energy supply crisis in the past two years, and its devastating impact on the national and local economy and the necessity for a rapid response to the crisis.

Last month the Vuthela Programme hosted an “Energy Synergy” seminar bringing together a range of district and external role players including local government, developers, business operators, energy suppliers and energy experts to better understand the opportunities and options for addressing the energy challenges in the district. A key theme emerging from the engagement was the need for improved collaboration between the public and private sector in the district to respond to the crisis.

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Several of the Vuthela entrepreneur training programmes have now been concluded. In this issue we reflect on the lessons learnt.

Meanwhile, several of the Vuthela entrepreneur training programmes have now been concluded. In this issue of the *Vuthela Spark* we reflect on the lessons emerging from the iLembe ICT training course as well as the KwaDukuza Entrepreneurship support programme.

The Programme Co-ordinating Unit (PCU) of Vuthela will be concluding its project implementation work in September 2023, and completing close out activities until dissolution in December 2023. The Vuthela Programme and its local government and implementing agent partners will however still be active in undertaking Vuthela implementation projects that have been transferred to the municipalities for contract management relating to reducing water and electricity losses in the district to the value of more than R40 million.



Vuthela training sparks life into dreams

Vuthela ICT course prepared graduates to build their own website and digital app development companies to reach their full potential for income-generation.

With her new digital skills, Zamalinda Mbatha plans to grow her fledgling business and give wings to her dreams.

While working during the day as an intern in the financial sector, vibrant and energetic Zamalinda worked hard to get her business off the ground. She developed skin care products based only on natural products found in the local environment around her home near KwaDukuza in KwaZulu-Natal.

But the challenges of operating a business in a district where unemployment is high, incomes are low and local economic growth is slow has limited the full potential of her products.

She enrolled for a one-year course on developing and building websites and digital apps, knowing that the training did not include a stipend or allowance, but determined to learn how to expand the markets for her business.

The ICT training course for unemployed youth was offered under the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme in partnership with Enterprise iLembe, the Moses Kotane institute, and the KwaDukuza and Mandeni Local Municipalities.

It enabled trainees to acquire digital skills they need to design and build websites and apps on their own – from start to finish.

For the 29 young graduates like Zamalinda who completed the course, life is about to change.

“I have been producing and bottling my own range of natural skin care products for a while now and people like them, but I need more sales,” she said, proudly holding her graduation certificate she received from iLembe District Municipality Mayor TP Shandu and Councillor Hlengiwe Makhata recently.

The qualification will be framed and hung next to her diploma in skin care.

The course was quite amazing. I started off knowing about skin care but very little about website development. Now I know about both, and I'm excited about what it can do for my business.

“Now I am going to build my own website for my online store, and I'm going to sell my products online so I can expose them to more markets.

“The course was quite amazing. I started off knowing about skin care but very little about website development. Now I know about both, and I'm excited about what it can do for my business.”

Shannon Moffett, project manager of the iLembe ICT project and Vuthela Key Expert on Private Sector Development, said the one-year course was designed to give IT novices all the skills and knowledge they needed to design and build websites and digital apps.

“This skill is becoming increasingly important as the fourth industrial revolution changes and shapes the way that business is conducted today,” said Moffett.

“The internet and the digital economy are key drivers of growth and employment, and they can be used to unlock the full potential of enterprises. The course will open many doors for the young people who graduated from this programme.”

The prevailing economic and social conditions in many parts of the district mean that this course will create meaningful employment and livelihoods.

A panel discussion organised by Enterprise iLembe preceded the graduation and assessed the value of digital platforms for emerging entrepreneurs.

These included cost-effectiveness, targeted audience reach, and measurable results.

“Digital marketing opens doors for entrepreneurs to compete with established players, expand their market reach, and connect with their target audience in meaningful ways,” said digital marketing consultant Sarah Basson.

“Additionally, digital marketing allows for scalability and growth, empowering small businesses to expand their reach and achieve their objectives. Overall, these benefits enable small businesses to effectively promote their brand, connect with their target audience, and drive success in a dynamic and competitive digital landscape,” she said.

“However, it's essential for businesses to carefully consider their specific goals, resources, and target audience to determine the most effective digital marketing mix. By leveraging the right channels, businesses can maximise their online presence, engage with customers, and achieve their marketing objectives.



Nkululeko Zungu



Lindon Govender (middle) received his certificate from Cllr Thobani Shandu, Mayor of iLembe District Municipality (left) and the Hlengiwe Makhata, Skills Development Portfolio Committee Chairperson of iLembe District Municipality



Zamalinda Mbatha

“With the ever-evolving digital landscape, staying informed about the latest trends and technologies will be crucial for businesses to adapt and succeed in their digital marketing efforts,” said Basson.

Graduate Nkululekho Zungu said he was thankful that he had applied and enrolled online on the spur of the moment, as he was confident that his life was about to change.

“I am going to start my own business building websites, and I know that many local businesses will become my customers. I can give a full service from start to finish, and I'm going to build it up and get more customers through digital marketing,” said Nkululekho.

“My vision is to build a big digital company, and I can do that with what I know.”

Graduate Lindon Govender, who worked as a merchandiser in a chain store while training, said he planned to use his qualification to get a better job in the IT sector.

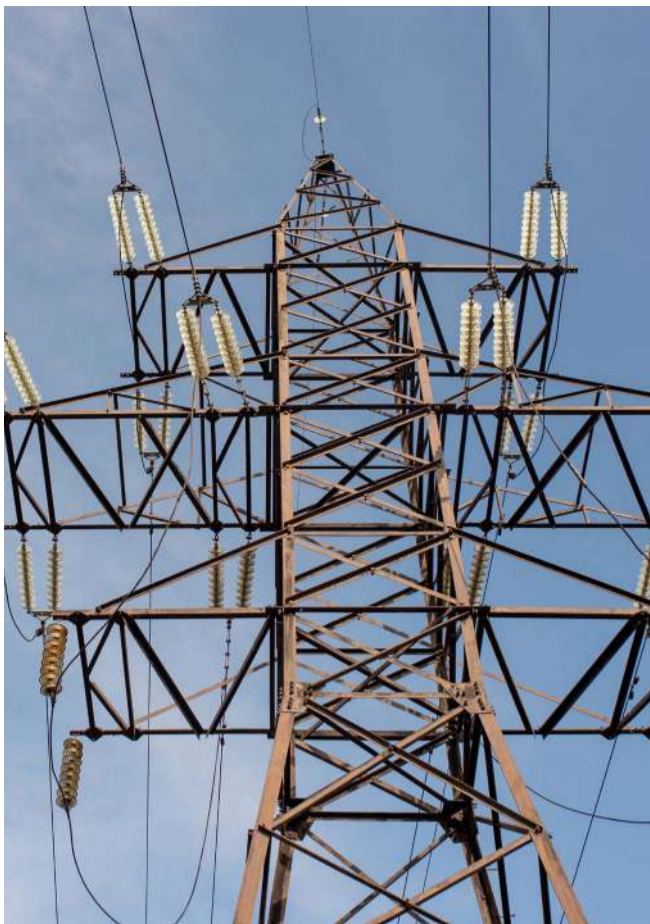
“The course showed me that I could do things that I never ever imagined I would actually do, although I really wanted to. So now I can go on and do other things I thought I could not do, like get a good job in IT building websites,” said Lindon.

“I'm already applying for jobs.”



ICT graduates





Synergy for Energy

As the dire shortage of electricity on the national grid continues to make loadshedding a major obstacle to sustaining and growing economic activity, the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme recently held a “Synergy for Energy” seminar.

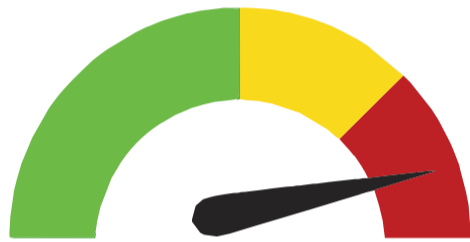
The presentations and discussions at this practice and policy dialogue by development practitioners and stakeholders in the private and public sector highlighted the need for a secure and reliable electricity supply to support inclusive economic growth in the district.

Many of the diverse stakeholders remarked that to date they had not been provided with a forum in which they could sit around the table and discuss such crucially relevant issues.

This amplified the need to strengthen engagement, co-operation and collaboration between the private and public sector if energy reliability and supply are to be secured in the district going forward.

Look out for the Vuthela case study on Energy that will be distributed shortly. In this issue of Vuthela Spark, we share three different articles emanating from the seminar.

Moving the power dial



Plans to improve the electricity infrastructure at KwaDukuza and Mandeni are taking shape, setting the scene for future developments in the local generation and distribution of power in the area.

Moves to improve the efficiency and reliability of the electricity supply in the coastal areas of the iLembe district are being boosted by several developments on the local, national and international front.

The wide range of supportive initiatives were discussed at a “Synergy for Energy” seminar recently held by the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme.

The informal engagement brought together developers and business operators from the private sector and municipal, provincial, and national government

participants from the public sector.

The shortage of electricity on the Eskom grid is restricting the performance of local business, industry and municipal infrastructure service operations and is an obstacle to sustaining economic activity and improving growth prospects in the future.

Several measures to improve efficiencies have been implemented by municipalities in the district under the Vuthela Programme. Presentations at the seminar indicated that some of these strategies are starting to move the dial and create efficiencies.

But it was clear that much more will need to be accomplished by the private and public sector working

in partnership to achieve a reliable power supply in the district, including the rapid development of local renewable energy solutions to supplement the national Eskom grid. One of the challenges currently is to establish the enabling policy environment that clearly paves the way forward to do this.

In the district:

- The KwaDukuza Local Municipality is installing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) system to manage the flow of power through sub-stations in the network by remote switching from a central control room.

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Richard Ahlschlager, Technical Director Energy, Resources and Manufacturing at Zutari

Pros and cons of going solar

A technical expert at the “Synergy for Energy” seminar warned that solar energy should not be considered as a “silver bullet” solution that is capable of addressing all the challenges related to supplying electricity.

Although solar energy offered many benefits, there were also significant challenges, said Richard Ahlschlager, Technical Director: Energy, Resources and Manufacturing at Zutari, a private company that provides infrastructure solutions in 35 countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Challenges include:

- The lack of clear regulations and guidelines and the lack of tariffs for wheeling (selling solar-generated power into the Eskom grid).
- The lack of technical capabilities and sufficient knowledge about the limitations of solar energy.
- The high initial cost of installing solar power infrastructure.
- Many municipalities are concerned that renewable energy will be a threat to their revenue base, leaving them with even less resources to develop infrastructure, and leading to a “death spiral”.

Emerging opportunities:

- No licence is required for embedded generation below the 100 MW limit. The only requirement is that these facilities must be registered.
- Precincts and sectional title facilities can consider consolidated and amalgamated supplies to save costs.
- Supplementing the Eskom electricity supply with cost-effective solutions and appropriate tariff structures.
- Managing the demand on the local network could create efficiencies.
- Consolidated energy storage facilities and tri-generation, which combines heat, power and cooling solutions through integrated systems, could create energy efficiencies and improve the reliability of the overall network by reducing demand on the network.



Moving the dial

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This will help to create efficiencies in the network and manage the impact of faults and loadshedding better when it is commissioned towards the end of this year.

- Sections of the overhead electricity supply network in KwaDukuza and ageing underground cables at Mandeni are being upgraded to remove bottlenecks and provide additional transmission capacity.

- Non-Revenue Electricity (NRE) losses at Mandeni due to billing errors, inaccurate reading, unmetered customers, meter tampering and illegal connections were reduced by 15% last year, compared to the previous year.

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- Strategies to reduce NRE and improve revenue collection include implementing web-based automatic meter reading, auditing electricity resellers, conducting weekly service connection raids and monthly inspections of meters.

- An energy policy for the KwaDukuza Local Municipality is being drafted and will soon be made available for public comment.

At national level:

- Over 100 municipalities are partnering with the Embedded Generation Support Programme to implement small-scale energy generation (SSEG) plans. The programme provides municipalities, residents, business owners and other stakeholders with guidance about municipal regulations, tariffs and application processes relating to small-scale generation. About 40 municipalities have already devised feed-in tariffs, enabling them to implement SSEG programmes.

- Funds are still available from National Treasury for municipalities to improve their energy security. Of the R10-billion available in the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) Fund, only R3 billion has been spent. The fund is implemented by the Development Bank of Southern Africa to support the implementation of national priority projects.

Over 100 municipalities are partnering with the Embedded Generation Support Programme to implement small-scale energy generation (SSEG) plans...

On the global front:

- The World Bank is providing technical assistance and expert advice to several cities in South Africa, aiming to improve the reliability of their local electricity supply.

- World Bank advisors confirm that renewable energy infrastructure, especially focusing on energy generation,

is appropriate for the KwaDukuza Local Municipality and is expected to yield enormous social and economic benefits. There is a need to improve information on electricity services provided in order to report using international best practice and monitor progress to improve services. The World Bank is providing technical and advisory services to the KwaDukuza Local Municipality.

- The World Bank has supported feasibility studies to augment the Eskom electricity supplied to the Sundumbili Water Treatment Works with solar power to keep the plant running during loadshedding and to introduce solar power at the Isithebe Industrial Estate.

The initiatives already underway at local, national, and international level will enhance prospects for the private and public sector to collaborate on future strategies to improve the reliability of the electricity supply especially in the economic nodes of the KwaDukuza Local Municipality with the wide-scale installation of renewable energy facilities.



Peeking behind the policy process

Stakeholders normally see public policy for the first time when drafts are presented for public comment, but the Vuthela “Energy for Synergy” seminar took participants behind the scenes for a preview of what’s in store.

Participants at the recent “Synergy for Energy” seminar hosted by the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme were treated to a rare behind-the-scenes peek into how local government’s policy on renewable energy is being developed.

The KwaDukuza Local Municipality established an Energy Office to draft a policy around energy sources like solar power.

The policy is nearing readiness for public comment. It aims to address issues around safety and compliance and installation regulations. It will determine how the municipality plans to create an enabling environment for increased renewable energy in the KwaDukuza Local Municipality and how it will address any revenue losses incurred.

A presentation by Chimene Pereira, Director: Special Projects from the KwaDukuza Local Municipality’s Energy Office, took participants at the seminar into the backroom of the drafting process, providing insights into the various factors and complex dynamics that informed the final wording that details the policy.



Chimene Pereira, Director: Special Projects from the KwaDukuza Local Municipality’s Energy Office

The Energy Office was established in 2021 to assess the impacts of renewable energy on council operations and to consider the possibility of the council generating and selling energy on its own.

The policy will determine tariffs related to renewable energy projects and co-ordinate project proposals received from the private sector for IPPs (Independent Power Producers) and SSEG (Small-Scale Embedded Generation).

“Embedded Generators” are defined as entities that operate one or more generation units that are connected to the national electricity distribution system. “Small-Scale Embedded Generator” refers to a unit that produces less than 1 MW and “Medium-Scale Embedded Generation” is defined as an embedded generator with a capacity above 1 MW but below 10000 kVA (10 MW).

Changing municipal role

Pereira described how the role of municipalities in the energy value chain has changed. Municipalities now had to execute four main functions: as energy consumers, producers and distributors, investors in the energy sector,

and motivators for efficiencies.

A team of policy drafters working behind the scenes had to answer several questions to ensure the policy supported these functions:

- How does the municipality plan to create an enabling environment for increased renewable energy in the KwaDukuza Local Municipality?

- How will it address any revenue losses incurred?

- How will the policy address the municipality’s diverse customer base, safety and certification, compliance, incentives and security?

- What will be the key benefits of the policy once it is implemented?

- What support or collaboration will be required from other stakeholders to finalise and implement the policy?

- How will the policy assist businesses and residents to protect themselves against loadshedding?

The drafting process had to be based on constitutional and regulatory requirements.

Electricity generation licenses are issued by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA).

In January 2023 the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy amended legislation that controls the generation of electricity. Facilities that provide standby or back-up energy during power outages and facilities that are not connected to the national grid are exempted from the requirement to apply for a licence and be registered with NERSA.

Business models

The policy is being devised with a raft of business models in mind:

Building generation capacity: rooftop solar Photo-Voltaic systems on municipal buildings and stand-alone power plants like wind and solar farms can be financed through the municipality, debt or grants. Public-Private Partnerships and special purpose vehicles can be formed between municipalities and partners.

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Peeking behind the policy process

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Procuring energy: electricity produced by embedded generators like rooftop residential systems and Independent Power Producers can be purchased through feed-in tariffs, net metering and net billing or power purchase agreements.

Facilitation: municipalities can play a trading and facilitation role (wheeling) by buying electricity from local producers and selling it to consumers, operating a storage facility to store power in low use periods and installing and maintaining network systems, through tariffs and service fees.

For participants at the seminar, the background work, research and insights provided by the policy-making team contributed to a thorough understanding of the issues and the inter-related set of factors which need to be considered in the process of drafting the policy.

The draft policy will be open for public comment before being finalised and approved by the KwaDukuza Local Municipality, setting the scene for the installation and operation of renewable energy facilities in the district.

It will also serve as a potential model for other licensed electricity providers to consider.



The draft policy will be open for public comment before being finalised and approved by the KwaDukuza Local Municipality.

Partners in progress

The urgent need for private and public players to shed their silos and collaborate to secure power for the future was a recurring theme at the seminar.

The “Synergy for Energy” seminar hosted by the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme recently showed how a range of well-planned initiatives are coming together to improve the reliability of the electricity supply in local municipalities within the iLembe district.

The seminar enabled robust engagement between representatives of municipal, provincial and national government and private developers, business operators and the iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

Private and public sector delegates discussed prevailing challenges and emerging opportunities in developing a reliable electricity supply. Many participants remarked that they had not had an opportunity to date to talk directly and openly with other role-players in the room on issues which had an impact on all parties present.

Throughout the discussions, this underlying theme recurred - the lack of sufficient co-operation and partnership development between business operators and the municipalities could put the long-term plan for a secure, consistent power supply at risk.

Discussions were often heated given the passion of the people present striving to fulfil their respective public or private mandates.

A big gap in the development process soon became apparent - effective platforms for sharing perspectives and resolving disparate positions were few and far between. Closer inter-governmental relations are required so that national and provincial government initiatives that support local government can be initiated and expedited.

Formal engagement essential

This highlights the pressing need to strengthen interaction, collaboration and partnerships between the private and public sector: we have to find more ways of talking to more people to secure a more reliable energy supply for the district. Formal engagements between the public and private sectors and specific interactions to address priority areas will be an essential precursor for energy development.

The need to pool resources, plans and programmes was evident down the line of the entire supply chain, from small- and medium-scale generation to transmission networks to regulations and tariffs related to producers and consumers.

Municipalities do not have the technical expertise and resources to instal renewable energy solutions on their own. Private enterprise has the skills and the resources, but they perceive that their efforts are often hampered by



Linda Mncube, CEO of Enterprise iLembe (right), Shannon Moffett, Vuthela Key Expert for Private Sector Development and Building Inclusive Growth (middle) and Sibusiso Mahlangu, Manager: Planning and Integrated Development Planning at iLembe District Municipality (left)

There's a pressing need to strengthen interaction, collaboration and partnerships between the private and public sector: we have to find more ways of talking to more people to secure a more reliable energy supply for the district.

the absence of enabling policy and regulations which are conducive to developing renewable energy options.

Everyone agreed that a reliable electricity supply is central to all economic and social activity, and to attracting investment, economic growth, and overall developmental progress in the district. But disparities in policy, practice and pricing among private and public parties proved that it will not be possible to achieve this goal without a working platform to resolve issues.

Support for this notion came from many quarters.

The iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism proposed that those present at the seminar should seek a meeting with Eskom officials to jointly

discuss several issues that emerged, especially around renewable energy opportunities.

Representatives of international infrastructure developer Zutari indicated that collaboration between partners in the private and public sector was essential to resolve issues and bring real benefits for municipalities, power producers and consumers.

Road paved with partnerships

It was proposed that collaboration can be strengthened by creating effective platforms for engagement and holding regular workshops. Private sector skills and resources should be used to assist government where possible. It was essential to create a conducive enabling environment, bring in expertise where it is needed, and improve the security of supply through embedded generation, according to Zutari.

The private company's success in developing large energy infrastructure projects in Africa and the Middle East suggests that everyone involved in producing energy should take note, if they have not already: the road ahead must be paved with partnerships.

Vuthela entrepreneurship support programme - lessons learnt

As the Vuthela entrepreneurship support programme wraps up, Shannon Moffett, Key Expert of the Vuthela Private Sector Development Component reflects on the lessons learnt.



Shannon Moffett, Key Expert of the Vuthela Private Sector Development Component of the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme

In *Vuthela Spark 10*, we covered the start of Vuthela's entrepreneur support programme being implemented in KwaDukuza Local Municipality. At the time of the newsletter, the 20 selected entrepreneurs had just started the programme, with a four-day bootcamp in Ballito.

Programme participants reflected on what lessons they had learnt so far, and how they would apply to their businesses. They also explained what they were hoping to get out of the programme.

With the programme wrapped up at the end of June 2023, this newsletter article reflects on the outcomes of the project and the lessons learnt.

During the short, six-week intensive programme, in addition to their training at the bootcamp, the service provider for the programme, Goshen Enterprise Development, provided both group and individual training and mentoring sessions.

Five industry leaders shared their experiences and tips with the entrepreneurs and a range of business support services was provided.

A key learning of the programme is that six weeks is not enough time to sufficiently support and mentor entrepreneurs. Ideally, such a programme should be implemented over at least a year, allowing for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the programme learnings and to assist businesses to adjust their business plan based on their business circumstances and market changes. Furthermore, the service provider noted the challenge in delivering the business support services in this short time frame. It was the initial intention of the programme to be a year long, however delays in approvals and allocating funding to the programme meant it was substantially shortened.

Fortunately for the programme participants, Goshen Enterprise Development is also the service provider for Enterprise iLembe's incubator, based in KwaDukuza. All graduates from the Vuthela programme have been invited to join the incubator programme and will continue to receive support for their businesses.

A key learning of the programme is that six weeks is not enough time to sufficiently support and mentor entrepreneurs.

Business support services

The second key learning of the programme is how critical business support services are to entrepreneurs. As part of the programme, an allocation of R10,000 per entrepreneur was made to be used for additional specialist training, marketing collateral, financial services, and/or quality control which might include SABS compliance. Based on a detailed assessment of needs, four companies had their financials done by an accountant, eight businesses had websites developed, most of the businesses were registered on SMEplus (a

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Entrepreneurship support programme - lessons learnt

quotation, invoicing and business compliance system), and others received marketing materials such as branded shirts and aprons, business logos, banners etc.

Relevant companies were registered with COIDA or with the municipality for business licenses. While such support services are critical to operating a business, the costs involved are often out of reach of young businesses. Furthermore, while many government, NGO and private sector programmes provide training support to entrepreneurs, few programmes provide the funds for the business support services made available through this programme.

A key consideration when designing the programme was how to make such a short support programme sustainable. To achieve this, two officials from the Local Economic Development (LED) department of KwaDukuza Local Municipality were included in the programme.

The assumption was that by going through the training and support programme themselves they would be in a better position to advise and support entrepreneurs who come to the municipality's LED office. The LED officials were also expected to select one of the entrepreneurs, and shadow them through their programme journey. LED intern, Ms Ntombizodwa Gumede chose to shadow a photography and videography company, Focal Shot Productions, and Ms Nomathamsanqa Ngiba chose to shadow Stez Manufacturing, a company that manufactures and sell tombstones.

Comprehensive and well-structured

Speaking of her experience of the programme, Gumede said, "The KDM Entrepreneurship Support Programme

The feedback from the service provider is that the LED staff were "excellent". They attended all sessions, and were always engaged with the topics, asking questions, and participating.

was a comprehensive and well-structured initiative. Through training sessions, mentorship opportunities, and access to resources, the programme equipped aspiring entrepreneurs with valuable knowledge and support. The sessions covered essential topics such as business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, and business compliance."

Ngiba wrote that it was a "wonderful programme that has given us knowledge of high calibre. In this programme I have learnt a lot such as being able to identify business ideas and opportunities to have a sustainable business."

It must also be noted that the feedback from the service provider is that the LED staff were "excellent". They attended all sessions, and were always engaged with the topics, asking questions, and participating.

Again, a challenge of such a short programme limits an analysis on the effectiveness of including the LED officials and how it has impacted on their work in providing support to entrepreneurs who visit the office. How many businesses have they advised? What has happened to those businesses? Is the LED office now better able to deliver business support services to their clients? A longer programme would have allowed us to implement tracking

mechanisms for this.

The questions of stipends to support participants in programmes like this is an important one. During Vuthela's iLembe ICT project, stipends were not provided to participating youth. While there is no evidence to support that, it is possible that the high drop off rate from the programme was due to there not being financial support in place for the youth. Considering this, the programme provided a small stipend of R100 a day to cover the transport and other costs for the participants involved in the programme.

The attendance in the programme was very good, with almost a full house at most sessions. The service provider however reported that two of the selected businesses were not engaged in the programme.

Had the programme been longer in duration, we would have been able to replace them with entrepreneurs on a waiting list.

What else can such a programme provide to support entrepreneurs?

To answer this question, we asked the programme participants in a client satisfaction survey, distributed at the end of the programme. For the most part, respondents felt that they need more financial information and support as well as how to tender. Another requested more information on point of sales and how to manage their stock better.

For the most part, the participants expressed great satisfaction with the programme and the support they received, with 100% of the participants responding that they were "very satisfied" with the quality of the programme.



WHAT IT IS ABOUT

The Vuthela iLembe LED Programme responds directly to the urgent need to address unemployment, poverty and inequality by accelerating inclusive local economic development and growth in line with the National Development Plan, the KZN Provincial Growth and Development Plan, iLembe District Municipality Growth and Development Plan as well as the Integrated Development Plans of the family of local municipalities in the district.

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective and expected impact of the programme is to contribute to the improvement of the economic future of the iLembe District and the quality of life of its inhabitants, through sustainable growth of the local economy, and the creation of higher, better and more inclusive employment and income generating opportunities.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

Of the 44 contracts, 31 have been completed (70%), five (11%) are in implementation, one (2%) is at invitation, two (6%) are in the process of being transferred to municipalities and five (11%) have been withdrawn.



WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

The Vuthela iLembe LED Programme, is a joint initiative of the State Secretariat of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, the iLembe District Municipality, and the KwaDukuza and Mandeni Local Municipalities. The programme includes participation of the Ndwedwe and Maphumulo Local Municipalities.

THE FIVE INTER-RELATED COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAMME

- ▶ **Public Finance Management** - strengthening the financial position of municipalities through better capacity to plan, finance and manage infrastructure investments and the provision of public services.
- ▶ **Municipal Infrastructure** - improved planning and access to infrastructure services for development investment, effective and efficient service delivery, and sustainable growth.
- ▶ **Private Sector Development Component** - Address obstacles to doing business in the district by improving the regulatory environment and supporting skills development; greater investment in and growth of Small and Medium Enterprises, leading to increased employment.
- ▶ **Building Inclusive Growth Component** - inclusive and sustainable growth and employment interventions to support SMEs in growth sectors.
- ▶ **Programme Management, Partnership and Co-ordination Component** - sustained partnerships and capacity for local economic development in the iLembe District, and the replication of the approach in policy elsewhere in South Africa.

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