



Vuthela SPARK

IGNITING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ILEMBE

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– the partnership begins**
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South Africa's economic challenges continue to mount, risking ongoing stagnation during a worsening energy crisis and ongoing infrastructure bottlenecks in our rail network and ports. South Africa is projected to see the highest jobless rate globally in 2023, while inflation remains stubbornly high and business confidence hit a two-year low in the first quarter of 2023.

Elevated public debt limits the fiscal space for government to respond to these challenges. Increasingly there are statements emanating from the national level - largely still at the level of intention - to engage in a more structured partnership with South Africa's private sector to find solutions to a number of these challenges.

Improving the relationship between organised business and government in South Africa is crucial for fostering

South Africa is projected to see the highest jobless rate globally in 2023...

economic growth, attracting investment, and addressing socio-economic challenges. There are several things that can be done to enhance this partnership

Improving the relationship between organised business and government in South Africa is crucial for fostering economic growth, attracting investment, and addressing socio-economic challenges.

relationship: enhance mutual transparency and accountability, simplify the regulatory environment, foster Public-Private Dialogue, encourage stakeholder participation in policy development and decision-making processes, promote skills development and education, support Small Medium and Micro Enterprises, enhance infrastructure development, combat corruption, and foster good governance.

Government-business relationships are complex and fraught with difficulties in most countries but are a necessary requirement for successful economic growth in a modern economy. The complex relationship between government and business in contemporary South Africa is affected by the legacy of apartheid, racial and transformation issues, and an ongoing trust deficit that stands in the way of achieving sustained collaboration and partnership around a common set of economic objectives for the country.

As part of enhancing transparency and encouraging stakeholder participation, this issue of *Vuthela Spark*

carries the comments of the iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (iCCIT) on the KwaDukuza Local Municipality Draft Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework, as a part of a public dialogue towards improving the local business enabling environment.

Vuthela Spark also looks at the challenges of dealing with electronic waste and efforts to address it with the support of the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme and the broader State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) work taking place in South Africa. We profile some of the local entrepreneurs from KwaDukuza who are undergoing an intensive entrepreneurship programme with the support of the Vuthela Programme.

We also learn a bit more about Mariswe (Pty) Ltd, the specialist planning and consulting engineering company behind the Programme Co-ordinating Unit (PCU). Finally, we update on the launch of the iLembe District Business Directory as well as the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Bill which, once legislated, is intended to produce a predictable and standardised approach to the levying of development charges by municipalities.

Also in this issue, we learn about Mariswe, the company behind the PCU.



“WEEE are iLembe” – the partnership begins

A multi-stakeholder partnership is set to boost the iLembe e-waste industry and drive collaborative projects and interventions in the district. This is part of the global Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) Programme which will be localised and institutionalised in iLembe write Paul Jones, the SRI Project Local Coordinator, and Shannon Moffett, Key Expert for the Building Inclusive Growth Component of the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme.



Wandisa Radebe (left), Simphiwe Menyuka (middle) and Jabulani Khumalo (right) of RecycleX, Ballito

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), or e-waste, is the fastest growing waste stream globally. Despite this, South Africa’s current recycling rate is only estimated to be between 2% and 2.5% for waste lighting and between 10% and 12% for other e-waste.¹

Given the hazardous nature of e-waste, a landfill ban for e-waste became effective in South Africa on 23 August 2021, in addition to the landfill ban for lamps which was already put in place five years earlier. Although this ban has been enacted by the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), there is limited awareness and a lack of understanding about the implications of the e-waste landfill ban, particularly by local government, small businesses and households.

The Sustainable Recycling Industries (SRI) Programme is a global programme which seeks to build capacity for sustainable e-waste recycling in developing nations. Phase II of the SRI programme is currently being implemented

in South Africa until mid-2025. Amongst other things, the project aims to support development of a national e-waste policy and minimum requirement-based operational and technical norms and standards for the management of e-waste to create a more level playing field.

Falling under the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme, SRI also has a local component which is currently being implemented in iLembe. The focus of the iLembe project component is to ensure harmonisation of local policies and by-laws and to strengthen the interface between stakeholders in the e-waste value chain.

Progress

During 2022, the iLembe local team undertook detailed stakeholder engagement and research into the iLembe e-waste industry. This resulted in the iLembe WEEE landscape report, which provides an assessment of the local e-waste value chain, the stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities, the main challenges facing the industry, and presented some opportunity areas for growth. The landscape report can be accessed on the SRI website: <https://www.sustainable-recycling.org/reports/ilembe-weee-landscape-report/>



Paul Jones,
the SRI Project Local Coordinator



Shannon Moffett, Key Expert for the
Building Inclusive Growth
Component of the Vuthela iLembe LED
Support Programme



The key findings in the landscape report highlighted that little has been done in iLembe regarding infrastructural development and awareness creation for the public that would enable residents to comply with the ban of e-waste to landfill. Additionally, local policies and by-laws have not yet been amended to ensure alignment with this ban. There is generally limited awareness amongst households and businesses about e-waste while there are very limited collection and alternative disposal options available to avoid e-waste from ending up in an engineered landfill site - or even worse on an illegal dump site.

Rationale for “WEEE are iLembe”

To support local stakeholders in addressing the challenges identified in the e-waste industry, and pursuing opportunities to grow the industry that can benefit from valuables contained in this unique waste stream, a partnership initiative titled “WEEE are iLembe” has been conceptualised. The rationale for the partnership is to create a shared vision and broad buy-in amongst all stakeholders to allow for phased development of the iLembe e-waste industry. This will also support institutionalisation of the SRI programme in iLembe, and create a unique, autonomous brand for the industry.

“WEEE are iLembe” will be a platform for engagement and build a base from which multi-stakeholder partnerships can be formed to drive collaborative projects and interventions. By broadening e-waste awareness and supporting policy harmonisation, the partnership aims to encourage the controlled release and safe collection of increased volumes of WEEE to create new opportunities for SMMEs and increase recycling of WEEE in iLembe.

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Please find a downloadable version of the policy development baseline study on the SRI website: <https://www.sustainable-recycling.org/reports/ilembe-weee-landscape-report/>. The study documents the WEEE policy development journey for South Africa so far. This includes a comprehensive analysis of stakeholders and applicable key legislation, guidelines and strategies to be taken into account for the development of the policy. The report also provides a review of international approaches to policy development thereby summarising key lessons and takeaways from policy processes in other African countries.

If you are interested to be registered as an “Interested and Affected Party” (I&AP) to be able to contribute to the ongoing National WEEE policy development process and/or the establishment of WEEE Operator/Facility based Norms and Standards for South Africa, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the SRI National Coordinator Susanne Karcher (envirosense@xsinet.co.za) for electronic copies of these documents.



Rapid increases in property values have led to an increase in rates at Ballito, sparking calls to manage the rates more effectively

Chamber comments on KwaDukuza Medium Term budget

iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism comments on KwaDukuza Local Municipality draft Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework budget.



The iLembe Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism (ICCIT) has made detailed recommendations to the KwaDukuza Local Municipality on its draft 2023/24 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework budget.

The draft MTREF budget was tabled by the KwaDukuza Local Municipality in March 2023 and published for public comment.

The iLembe Chamber has responded to the draft budget on behalf of the organised business sector and investors within the wider iLembe district.

The Chamber recommendations to the KwaDukuza Local Municipality include:

- Improving operating surpluses and ensuring that all revenue is billed and the projected operating expenditure is not exceeded, creating capital reserves to fund the capital budget from own revenue.
- Reducing the budget for electricity revenue due to affordability constraints and consumers using alternative energy.
- Implementing efficiency measures to reduce operational costs to reduce the burden on the ratepayers for refuse.

- Reviewing the property register to recover revenue due from an additional 5 000 properties.
- Releasing uncommitted cash reserves to fund part of the budget and reduce the burden on the consumers and ratepayers.
- Maintaining the high collection rate by implementing the planned revenue enhancement measures and the debt collection and credit control policies.
- Reviewing operational expenditure to conform to the zero-budgeting principle and reducing staff costs.
- Generating operating surpluses and collecting revenue to maintain funding of the capital expenditure from own revenue.
- Ensuring the maintenance of existing infrastructure.
- Reducing the electricity connection costs while implementing measures to reduce the electricity distribution losses.
- Avoiding increases in refuse charges for 2023/24 and implementing minimal increases for the outer years.
- Adopting a policy on the development contributions that ring-fences the financial contributions to be directed to specific pre-identified and complementary development unlocking projects.
- Taking advantage of the positive financial position and exploring alternative funding mechanisms for strategic infrastructure development including PPPs, alternative forms of borrowing and introducing incentives that attract development.

It proposed that the municipality quantify the related rates revenue increases that related to property value increases and consider using that as a buffer to curtail the proposed 7% increase in property rate.

The Chamber's submission reflected on the rapid appreciation in property values, which had the unintended consequence of raising the rates payable.

It proposed that the municipality quantify the related rates revenue increases that related to property value increases and consider using that as a buffer to curtail the proposed 7% increase in property rate.

The Chamber also identified several infrastructure projects which required specific attention in the budget. These included improving the electrical system and the Dukuza sub-station, upgrading the Ballito Taxi Rank and building the proposed underpass for pedestrian traffic.

Other recommendations included providing for the revitalisation of the Umhlali and Shakaskraal CBDs.

The CEO of the iLembe Chamber, Cobus Oelefse, said the Chamber anticipated that its comprehensive input would receive consideration and enrich the process and quality of the final budget to be approved by the Council.

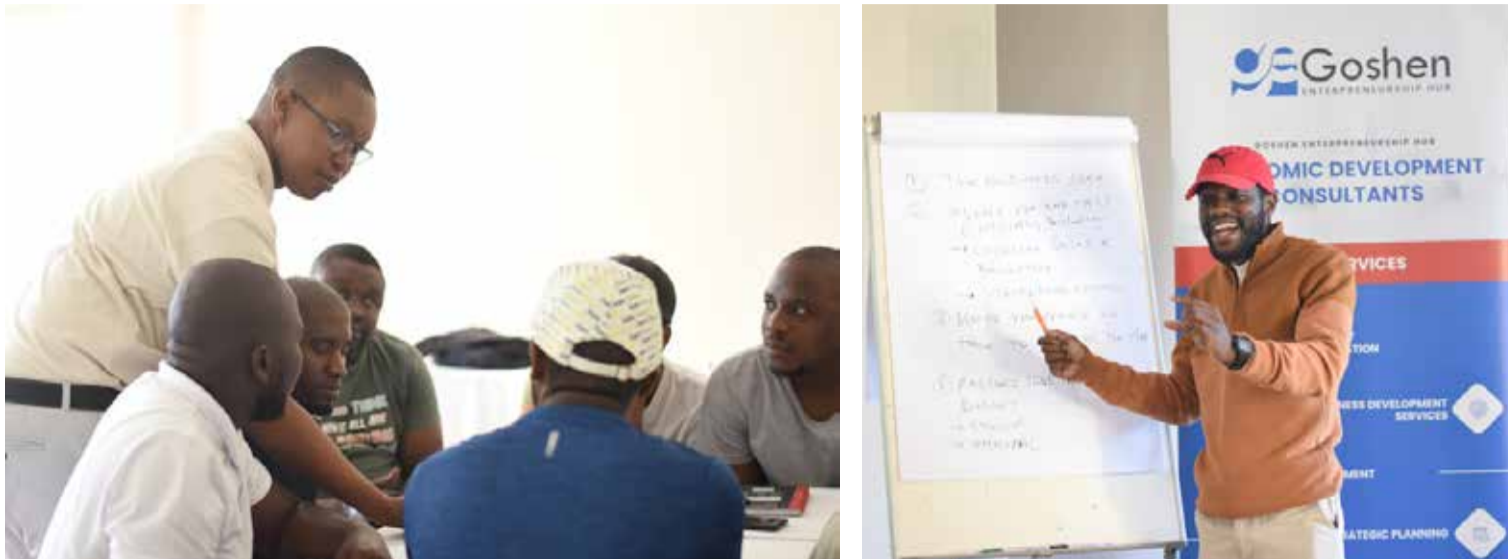
"The next step is to get our submission to the Department of Cooperative Governance and the Provincial and National Treasury to ensure that the process of participative government at local level is honoured," said Oelefse.

The draft MTREF budget was tabled by the KwaDukuza Local Municipality in March 2023 and published for public comment.

Vuthela Entrepreneurship Support Programme

Putting wings on purpose driven dreams

A group of young entrepreneurs in KwaDukuza Local Municipality is benefitting from intensive training and mentorship designed to take their small businesses to the next level of success.



Left: Training facilitator Lindokuhle Tembe taking entrepreneurs through the programme.

Right: Sanele Mthethwa is expanding his welding business after acquiring skills for growth.

Today, this group of 20 young entrepreneurs is learning how to refine their skills, grow their small businesses and give wings to their aspirations.

Tomorrow, one of them could be a business leader who will open doors for others to follow their path to success.

A batch of 20 young entrepreneurs is benefitting from an intensive support programme designed to take their businesses to the next level, which was kickstarted by a boot camp held recently in Ballito by the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme.

The entrepreneurs, who operate in KwaDukuza, were invited to apply for the programme, and the final group of 20 was selected from 59 applicants.

Facilitator Lindokuhle Tembe said entrepreneurship offered opportunities to support livelihoods against a background of high unemployment and weak conditions for economic growth in the region.

“The youth of South Africa have many great ideas to start businesses that serve their communities, but they need support to get going and to keep going,” says Tembe, who is an economic development consultant attached to the Goshen Entrepreneurship Hub, the service provider appointed to implement the programme on behalf of Vuthela.

“The first phase of this course was held to get the entrepreneurs into gear with foundational training on issues like acquiring licencing, developing business plans and testing ideas to make sure the business is on the right track and will be sustainable in the long term,” says Tembe.

Modules included training around business leadership and economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

“This boot camp will get the entrepreneurs ready for the intensive six-week period of one-on-one mentorship and more practical training which relates directly to their own businesses.

“We will establish milestones for each business and help them to achieve each one, so they have a clear growth path into the future.

“The programme will include site visits and one-on-one follow ups on issues which emerge, like branding, marketing and developing a digital presence, which will all take them to the next level.”

One of the participants, 39-year-old Zamani Mthethwa, is the owner and operator of Emoyeni Car Wash-Restaurant-Pub.

He started a small car wash operation after an accident left him confined to a wheelchair.

“People asked for something to eat while they waited for their cars to be washed, so I started preparing meat. Then they wanted something to drink, and I started selling cold drinks. Now we have a full pub and the whole place offers everything you need to entertain yourself and your friends.

“We have no competition. Nowhere else in this area can you get your car washed and have something nice to eat and drink.”

Zamani says the support programme has so far taught him the value of discipline and teamwork in business, and he now has the skills to add more revenue streams to improve and sustain his business.

“This course has been a great benefit to me,” he says. “I will be applying what we learnt in the business as soon as I get back.”

Another entrepreneur, Ndumiso Phakathi, owns a catering company that specialises in preparing food for weddings, funerals, meetings, and school events.

The bootcamp has enabled him to develop a six-month plan to grow his business.

The plan includes providing catering services to at least one wedding and one funeral every weekend for the next six months and getting more contracts from government for municipal meetings and events.

Upgraded branding and an improved presence on Twitter and other digital platforms are also on the way



Left: Catering company owner Ndumiso Phakathi has big plans for growth. Right: Zamani Mthethwa turned a car wash into a leisure centre – now he plans to go even further

following the training.

His company recently bought a food trailer to access new markets, but the permit application process was taking too long. Short-term plans now include purchasing a new vehicle and upgrading food preparation equipment.

Ndumiso was offered some sound advice from other trainees during group discussion on his ideas, including: “Work with the funeral parlours if you want to grow the business.”

Sanele Nkomo, who owns a welding company, makes security gates and burglar guards for his community at Groutville.

Following the bootcamp, his growth plan now includes stocking up on steel in bulk to save costs and finding bigger premises to

expand operations.

After analysing his business as part of the training, he is now determined to make several changes. He will now manufacture gates in standard sizes so customers can buy them off the shelf without having to wait for their gate to be produced, create a showroom to exhibit his products, and extend the product line to other steel items needed in the home.

He will be revamping his Facebook page and using additional digital platforms to market his products.

Yoyo Khetshane operates a small construction company and now plans to supplement his income by adding a tool and plant hire service.

“This will help us to keep going when we don’t have construction jobs, and we can hire the tools to our competitors who got the jobs that we did not get,” says Yoyo.

Growth plans include investing in tools and equipment for hiring out and visiting construction sites to look for work as sub-contractors to large companies.

These entrepreneurs are opening the way for many others to follow, says Tembe.

“We want to get these young people ready to take up opportunities as they emerge and to convert them into business success,” he says.

“Every young entrepreneur that benefits from the programme and grows their business successfully gives hope that this can be done, and this will inspire others to become entrepreneurs in the future.”



New Municipal Act will formalise application of development charges

Municipalities must align their development charges policies with the soon to be enacted Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Act, writes Zama Soji, Key Expert for the Public Finance Management Component of the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme.

Amendments to the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Act (MFPFA) relating to development charges will ensure a win-win situation for municipalities, developers and rate-payers.

The Government is moving ahead with the finalisation of amendments to the MFPFA which will formalise the levying of development charges by municipalities.

Development charges are a once-off capital payment made by developers, on approval of a land development application submitted to a municipality, to cover the costs of providing bulk engineering services to service new developments, whether on greenfield sites, or re-development of existing properties. Development charges will ensure that municipalities are able to provide infrastructure assets in a timely and sufficient manner to support land development.

Challenges were experienced by municipalities when there were disagreements on the approach and manner of levying development charges within their areas of demarcation. However, after a process of finalising amendments to the MFPFA, it will be signed into law soon.

Some municipalities that levied development charges to developers for the provision of bulk infrastructure were challenged by developers who asserted there were issues around equity, fairness, and lack of transparency in the computation of these charges. Developers were critical about the lack of consistency and standardisation. This resulted in some developers preferring to invest in areas where development charges policies were sound, easy-to-understand and cost effective.

Municipalities play a significant role in the provision of infrastructure required for development. However, due to limited resources, they may not be able to meet the demands of developments as this may mean risking their finances and this could have a negative impact on service delivery. Thus, development charges can play a significant role in bridging that gap.

Once the MFPFA is enacted into law, policies and by-laws must be developed by municipalities to ensure that developers and other ratepayers as well as the municipalities benefit from these levies. They will have to follow all due processes prior to adopting their policies consistent with the Act in levying development charges.

The Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme has assisted iLembe District Municipality and the local municipalities of KwaDukuza and Mandeni in the drafting of development charges policies which are aligned with the MFPFA. The finalisation of the MFPFA amendments will require municipalities to review and amend their policies to align them with the soon to be enacted Act.

During a policy and practice seminar on development charges that the Vuthela Programme hosted towards the end of 2022, it emerged that developers are willing to pay development charges if the process is fair, equitable and transparent.

National Treasury has appointed a service provider, PEGASYS, that will assist municipalities with the following:

- Introduction to the amendments to the MFPFA;
- Capacity assessment process and method; and
- The assessment tool to gather information for development charges training and capacity development.



Zama Soji, the Public Finance Management key expert at the Vuthela iLembe LED Programme

The Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme has assisted iLembe District Municipality and the local municipalities of KwaDukuza and Mandeni in the drafting of development charges policies which are aligned with the MFPFA.

According to PEGASYS, the following are the benefits to stakeholders following the implementation of development charges policies as articulated by National Treasury.

Benefits to the municipality

- Enhanced revenue streams for financing strategic municipal infrastructure;
- Ability to provide infrastructure in a timely and sufficient manner to support land development; and
- Uniformity in application of development charges eliminates unfair competition and/or treatment of developers.

Benefits to developers

- Predictability - can accurately estimate liabilities;
- Certainty - can hold municipalities to account for the timely delivery of required infrastructure;
- Fairness - pay only for the infrastructure investments from which benefit will be derived;
- Equity - all developers will be treated equally according to the same set of rules;
- Transparency - transparent allocation of the costs of the infrastructure installed and its quality; and
- Timing - development charges speed up the provision of infrastructure to unlock development.

Benefits to other ratepayers

- Will not bear the cost of infrastructure serving new developments through increased rates and tariffs; and
- Will provide additional funding to not divert existing municipal capital funding away from planned renewal and upgrading projects for existing consumers.

The successful implementation of development charges policies aligned with the Act will see a decrease in legal battles between developers and municipalities, and will reduce delays caused by non-availability of funding for bulk infrastructure which must be provided by the municipalities and accelerate development.



Profile: Mariswe

A specialist project management and infrastructure planning company behind the Vuthela Programme Co-ordinating Unit (PCU)

Specialising in project management, infrastructure planning and consulting engineering practice, Mariswe is the Implementing Agent of the Vuthela iLembe Local Economic Development Programme. **Nonkululeko Sindane, CEO of Mariswe (Pty) Ltd, speaks of the company's role in the Vuthela Programme.**

Mariswe was appointed as Implementing Agent for the Vuthela iLembe Local Economic Development Support Programme.

Who is Mariswe?

Mariswe (Pty) Ltd is a South African-based project management, infrastructure planning and consulting engineering practice with more than 50 years of experience. The company is 100% employee-owned, more than 55% black-owned and almost 30% women-owned.

With a strong core of successful projects, the company has built a proud tradition of excellence in providing engineering solutions with integrity across sub-Saharan Africa. Mariswe prides itself on the teamwork within and between its four self-sufficient regional operations spread across eight offices in South Africa to service national, provincial, and municipal government.

What has been the involvement of Mariswe in the Vuthela Programme and what has this entailed?

Mariswe has been involved from the start of the Vuthela Programme, firstly to assemble the team of sector experts and appointment of the Programme Manager, and secondly in setting up the local office and communication structures for ease of "doing business" in the programme area.

Furthermore, Mariswe has been involved in setting up the institutional and governance structures as proposed for the implementation of this multi-faceted, complex programme that involves role-players from various organisations, mostly public sector, but also from the private sector.

Mariswe further provides the back-office support for the Vuthela Programme to streamline project and programme administrative and financial management as well as activities such as supplier registration, programme invoicing, project (supplier) invoicing and managing the Implementing Agent team's financial support.

How has Mariswe's support led to the effectiveness of the Vuthela Programme and its impact through the five inter-related components, i.e. Public Finance Management; Municipal Infrastructure; Private Sector Development; Building Inclusive Growth; and Partnership and Co-ordination?

As stated, Mariswe provides the back-office support for the Vuthela Programme to ensure efficient and effective use and application of document and information management, sound financial management and communication management amongst other functions. These can only be achieved by having internationally recognised business processes that are implemented and

adopted by all Mariswe staff, but also, our team in the Programme Coordinating Unit of the Vuthela Programme.

Mariswe also has very experienced personnel in contract management, and in the development of Service Level Agreements and performing the negotiations that go along with such processes.

How have challenges been dealt with in the programme and what has Mariswe's role been in providing support?

As can be expected when dealing with so many different institutions and especially in the public service sector, there are challenges. Mariswe applies both informal and formal mechanisms of communication and we find it especially important that clear, concise communication informs decisions. Again, the interests of all parties need to be considered and this has resulted in not only participants on the programme gaining valuable experience in this aspect, but all the signatories to the Vuthela Programme as well.

What insights has Mariswe developed on local economic development through the Vuthela Programme?

There are many learnings and insights that Mariswe has gained as the Implementing Agent of such a complex programme, such as:

- That it takes time, years in fact, to implement change. The programme design is a multi-faceted process, but importantly there needs to be allowance for flexibility as circumstances and conditions change – from the initial programme design to the time it takes for establishment of the implementing unit, to development of terms of references, followed by procurement, then of projects being implemented;
- It requires inputs, commitment, and active and meaningful participation from public and private sectors;
- You need capable drivers, in the driver seat of the programme and of its projects; and
- Good, efficient leadership can drive change.



The Vuthela Programme has been a unique set of development and capacitation initiatives.

What lessons can be drawn from the Vuthela Programme as a model for replication based on local context?

The Vuthela Programme thus far has been a unique set of development and capacitation initiatives being implemented in local government, having in mind it relates to four local municipalities and its district municipality, across the main functions of finance and infrastructure delivery and in the context of public and private actors. It takes dedicated commitment from the programme participants, not only in developing the design of the programme, but also its implementation. Therefore, maintaining momentum is key along with embedding activities in the day-to-day as well as overall operations of the participating organisations.

Understanding the local context is key. Defining a common vision between participants can assist to direct effort, energy, and financial resources to achieve the desired outcomes.



“WEEE are iLembe” – the partnership begins

Establishment process

Towards establishing the partnership, the SRI team first approached all key e-waste industry stakeholders to gain input and support, and thereafter sought approval from the SRI Steering Committee for the “WEEE are iLembe” initiative, which was granted in October 2022.

Since the start of 2023, the local team has been busy formalising the establishment of the partnership. Currently underway is the development of a corporate identity for “WEEE are iLembe”. This includes the brand design, a website to act as a central repository of all things e-waste in iLembe, and social media pages. The website and brand development process is scheduled to be complete in May 2023 in line with the official launch of “WEEE are iLembe”.

Additionally, a first roundtable discussion was hosted on 29 March 2023 in Ballito with all key partners including provincial and local government, iLembe business and resident’s associations, WEEE recyclers, NGOs, representatives of waste pickers, and Producer Responsibility Organisations (PROs).

Through an interactive session, most partners noted that their organisations are willing to collaborate and contribute because they see value for their organisation in the partnership. In rating the objectives, the following were highlighted as priorities to become the partnership core objectives:

1. Encourage enhanced WEEE collection;
2. Enhance education and awareness; and
3. Build partnerships and collaboration.

While still currently in draft format, partners contributed to elements of the vision which is “to promote zero e-waste to landfill in iLembe by encouraging collaboration, enhancing awareness and promoting increased collection that will lead to an increase in compliant e-waste recycling, new economic opportunities and environmental sustainability”.

Partners also voted towards a preferred brand for the

partnership and provided input into the projects that have been proposed to initiate the partnership.

“WEEE are iLembe” projects

A handful of initial projects have been identified that will be facilitated by “WEEE are iLembe” under its brand. These projects will be implemented collaboratively along with relevant partners.

A primary research study is currently being initiated to better understand both the cause and magnitude of current household and business e-waste stockpiles and disposal practices. This survey will be shared with all residents and businesses in the district in May 2023, and we encourage everyone to keep an eye out for this survey and participate. The findings of this study will assist the team to better understand trends and preferences in e-waste management and guide the development of a needs targeted and location specific awareness campaign.

An e-waste awareness campaign will be launched that will focus on sharing information about the proper management of e-waste, including the different types of e-waste, how and where to correctly dispose of e-waste, and who collects and recycles e-waste in the area. This information will be shared via the website and social media pages, and through other marketing and promotional activities that will be determined as the year unfolds. One such activity that has been identified is a future iLembe WEEE collection drive event, which

will encourage the disposal of e-waste through various mechanisms coordinated by existing waste management companies and recyclers. Residents, schools, and local businesses will be actively encouraged to take part in this district-wide initiative.

The team will also provide support to local municipalities. Currently, there is a lack of resources, capacity, and technical skills to implement municipal recycling initiatives, and a lack of enforcement of municipal by-laws. Support to municipalities will be two-fold. Firstly, they will be assisted to align their by-laws and Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs) with national legislation, including the draft National WEEE policy; and secondly, most municipalities in the district are currently planning to implement waste drop-off and/or buy-back centres. SRI will be providing technical support to these municipalities to assist integrating e-waste as a key component of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and as a waste stream that is accepted as part of their offering.

It is hoped that through the awareness campaigns and other projects to be implemented by the “WEEE are iLembe” partnership, compliance by residents and businesses will be improved and greater volumes of e-waste will be released for recycling in the region. This will lead to the creation of new business opportunities and assist to create a cleaner, more healthy environment.

Call to keep an eye out and get involved

We urge all residents and businesses within iLembe to get involved and assist us to create a more sustainable environment and resilient local economy.

1. <https://mg.co.za/environment/2021-10-18-new-electronic-waste-management-regulations-will-take-effect-in-november/>



iLembe Business Directory launched

Recently launched, the iLembe Business Directory, a project by Enterprise iLembe with support from the Vuthela iLembe LED Support Programme, is aimed at promoting local business growth, networking opportunities and assisting government-to-business communication.

With easy registration and access via computer, mobile device or tablet, the directory creates a platform for business-to-business and business-to-consumer connections, and enables municipalities to have government-to-business information.

Through the directory, local businesses will be able to attract potential customers to discover and connect with them. Business owners will also be able to access monthly analytics to assess their views and reach of their listing on the directory.

Through the directory, local businesses will be able to attract potential customers to discover and connect with them.

A feature which integrates social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn ensures the opportunity to expand business online presence to a larger audience. Search engine optimised, the listing will increase visibility in search results.

To register, local businesses are encouraged to upload their company profile, details, photographs and location which will then be verified by Enterprise iLembe before going live on the website. Once their listing is live, businesses will be able to update their details and latest offerings to ensure all content is up-to-date.

Exciting News for iLembe Businesses!

The iLembe Business Directory is launched!
We encourage all businesses to sign up today and showcase your services and products to a wider audience for **FREE!**

With expanded business descriptions, interactive contact details, and location on Google Maps, the Directory is the perfect platform to boost visibility, strengthen credibility, and improve your online search ranking. **Other local business owners are already taking advantage of this opportunity, so don't miss out!**



Sign up now!

Sign up now and start reaching more customers

directory.enterpriseilembe.co.za



#iLembeDirectory

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 43 contracts, 25 have been completed, 11 are in implementation, two are subject to transfer to municipalities and five have been formally 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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