Rich in history, from King Shaka’s military victories to the sacred mountain Magudu, the Zulu rain queen’s home. This district contains the most diverse concentration of wildlife sanctuaries in South Africa.
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ZULULAND BY NUMBERS

868,031
POPULATION

14,799 km²
LAND SIZE

GENDER
♀ 53.3%
♂ 46.7%

EDUCATION
- No Schooling: 50,876
- Matric Only: 125,152
- Matric & Degree: 12,784

69.6% SHARE BELOW LOWER POVERTY LINE
28.2% UNEMPLOYMENT

4238 COVID-19 INFECTIONS (18/6/2020)

ECONOMIC DRIVERS
- Finance: 2
- Community Service: 1
- Trade: 3

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
ABAQULUSI
NAMED AFTER THE MIGHTY ABAQULUSI IMPI/BARRACK WHICH WAS LED BY KING SHAKA’S AUNT UMKABAYI KA JAMA.

NEXT BIG THING
The Agro-processing hub and logistic hub of the province.
COVID-19 Vulnerability Index

Source: CSIR/NCDM
1. Executive Summary

Zululand district municipality is situated in the north-eastern part of KwaZulu-Natal. The district shares its boundary with Umkhanyakude district municipality to its west, King Cetshwayo to its south, Umzinyathi to its south west and Amajuba district municipality to its west. To its north west, Zululand shares a boundary with Mpumalanga province and a border with the Kingdom of Eswatini to the north.

The district is approximately 14 810 km², and consists of five local municipalities namely, Abaqulusi local municipality, eDumbe local municipality, Nongoma local municipality, Ulundi local municipality, and uPhongolo local municipality. The main access to the district is via the N2 from Gauteng in the north-west, which connects to Durban in the south.

The Zululand district municipality has a population of 868 031 amounting to 7.8% of the total KZN population after uMgungundlovu and King Cetshwayo. Zululand’s total population contributes 22% to the provincial population.

The district has a total number of 178 516 households with an average of 5 person per household. The average largely reflects those in rural areas, since a majority of the households are located within the rural areas of the municipality. 53.8% of the households are headed by women. There are 2 034 child headed households and 33.4% of the child-headed households have women as their head.

As at 17 June 2020 there were 4 238 confirmed cases as well as 73 deaths and 2 133 recoveries in KZN. There are seven quarantine facilities in Zululand with 194 beds combined. Four of the facilities have been activated as at 29 May 2020.

The economy of Zululand district is driven by the tertiary sector, with community services having the highest contribution at 31%, followed by finance at 18% and trade at 12%. This can be attributed to the presence of government departments in Zululand district.

The draft National Spatial Development Framework, identifies Ulundi in the Zululand district as a national network of regional development anchors, seeks to prioritise and strengthen strategically located regional development anchor towns in productive rural regions and priority national development, trade and transport corridors to provide a range of services within the specific towns/cities and surrounding network of settlements and productive rural regions.
2. Introduction: Brief Overview

2.1. Location

Zululand district municipality DC26 is a category C municipality situated in the north-eastern part of KwaZulu-Natal. The district shares its boundary with Umkhanyakude district municipality to its west, King Cetshwayo to its south, Umzinyathi to its south west and Amajuba district municipality to its west. To its north west, Zululand shares a boundary with Mpumalanga province and a border with the Kingdom of Eswatini to the north.

The Zululand District Municipality is one of 10 district authorities within the KwaZulu-Natal Province, which is situated on the northern boundary of the KwaZulu-Natal Province. The district is the biggest in the province, making up 16% of the provincial geographical area.

Zululand has a rich history that is woven into the surrounding landscape. The district contains the most diverse concentration of wildlife sanctuaries in South Africa and has a diversity among the animal, bird and plant life. The sacred mountain of Magudu is the site of a historical village that was once the home to Magudu, the Zulu rain queen.
2.2 Historical Perspective

The district is part of a larger historical area also known as Zululand. The area received prominence during the 19th century and built its homestead in the areas surrounding the district, and beyond. This extended from the Tugela River in the south to the Pongola River in the north. The Zulu are Nguni-speaking people and originally settled near the White Umfolozi River.

Under the rule of King Shaka, the nation rose to power through militaristic strategies. Shaka’s successors clashed with the Afrikaner boers in 1838, and around 3000 Zulus were killed at the Battle of Blood River.

In 1879, the British Empire invaded and started the Anglo-Zulu war. The Zulu were victorious at the battle of Isandlwana, but the British eventually won and defeated the Zulu at the battle of Ulundi. The Zulu's were annexed in 1887 and became part of Natal in 1897.

The Battlefields Route has a number of significant battle sites in the immediate vicinity.

KwaZulu became a province of the Union of South Africa in 1910. The South African government made Native Reserves independent areas through the Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act of 1959, and the area in which the Zulu resided was made the ‘Zulu homeland’. It was soon renamed KwaZulu [land of the Zulus] after it was established in 1970. KwaZulu was made up of isolated tracts of land, forming only a part of historical Zululand, and was neither geographically unified nor territorially homogeneous. The area north of the Tugela River, where the largest tracts of Zulu territory lie, formed the hub of KwaZulu. KwaZulu was nominally self-governing from 1977 and Ulundi became its capital in 1980.

2.3. Spatial Pattern

The district is approximately 14,810 km², and consists of five local municipalities namely, Abaqulusi local municipality, eDumbe local municipality, Nongoma local municipality, Ulundi local municipality, and uPhongolo local municipality. Zululand district is predominantly rural with commercial farmland surrounded by protected areas, towns, and scattered rural settlements within Traditional Authority Areas. The majority of these rural settlements are dense and small, making service delivery to these remote areas extremely costly. This poses a challenge since it becomes very difficult for the various municipalities to build a proper tax base, which can be utilised for the provision and maintenance of services.
Abaqulusi Local Municipality derives its name from the brave AbaQulisi Impi/barrack which under King Shaka was led by his aunt uMkabayi ka Jama. Historically, they were not drafted into ordinary ‘amabutho’ regiments but rather into a royal section. The town of Vryheid which is situated in the centre of the AbaQulusi region has its origin in an agreement entered into by the Boers and the Zulus. The municipality occupies the central and western parts of the district, extending 4 314km². It is the largest of the five municipalities in the district, making up a third of its geographical area. Key towns are Louwsburg and Vryheid. The main economic activities are wholesale and retail trade (18-20%), manufacturing (14-16%), finance (14%), general government (12-14%), agriculture and forestry (12%), transport, storage and communication (10-12%), and community and social services (4-6%).

eDumbe Local Municipality derives its name from the mountain range of the same name which is in the area. The mountain is named after amadumbe which is a type of potato found there. The municipality is situated in the northwest part of the district and shares boundaries with the Mpumalanga Province in the north. It is the smallest of the five municipalities at 1 943 km², accounting for 13% of its geographical area of the district. The location of the head office is in Paulpietersburg, which is 50km north of Vryheid and 59km south of Mkhondo (previously Piet Retief). The municipal area of jurisdiction is demarcated into eight wards that are predominantly rural in nature. Key drivers of the economy are agriculture, forestry and fishing (22.42%), wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation (15.38%), mining (14.76%), general government services (13.30%), finance and business services (9.93%), manufacturing (8.07%), community, social and personal services (7.39%), and construction (6.44%).
The Nongoma Local Municipality is named after the original name of Inkosi Zwide’s kraal who reigned over the Ndwandwe tribe during King Shaka’s era. Inkosi Zwide’s grave is in the CBD of Nongoma. Located in the east of the district, the municipality has two secondary corridors, which run from Ulundi to Pongola and from Hlabisa to Vryheid. It shares boundaries with uPhongolo in the north, Ulundi in the south, the uMkhanyakude District in the south and east, and Abaqulusi in the west. It is one of the five municipalities in the district and has three tribal authorities, namely Mandlakazi, Usuthu and Matheni. It is the most populated municipality in Zululand spanning over 2 182km². Its main town is Nongoma where his Majesty King Goodwill Zwelithini also resides. The main economic activity is agriculture.

“THE NONGOMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IS NAMED AFTER THE ORIGINAL NAME OF INKOSI ZWIDE’S KRAAL WHO REIGNED OVER THE NDWANDWE TRIBE DURING KING SHAKA’S ERA.”

Ulundi Local Municipality derives its name from isiZulu which meant ‘the high place’ on account of King Cetshwayo choosing it as his capital in 1873, following the death of his father King Mpande ka Senzangakhona in 1872. Ulundi is situated in the heart of the province, lying amidst the rolling hills and meandering valleys of Emakhosini, where many of the Zulu Kings lived and are buried. Ulundi is a place steeped in tradition and it also a place of superb natural splendour. Ulundi takes up almost a quarter of the extent of the district at 3 250km². Ulundi is the power hub of central Zululand. It is rich in cultural, historical and wildlife experiences. The Ulundi Museum is just a few minutes from the centre of town, and the R700 leads to the Ondini Cultural Reserve. In addition, the eMakhosini Ophathe Park lies only 10km out of town, and the Hluhluwe/Mfolozi Game Park is accessible through the new Cengeni Gate a mere 35km away. The main economic activities are agriculture, commercial and retail.

The uPhongolo Local Municipality is named after the river that flows through the municipality carrying the same name. The name means ‘the trough’ because of its long, deep pools with steep sides. The municipality is located in the north of the Zululand District. It lies adjacent to the eSwatini Border and the Mpumalanga provincial boundary. It is one of five municipalities in the district. Main access to the municipality is via the N2 from Gauteng in the north-west and Durban in the south. The municipality provides regional access to a wide range of tourist activities outside its own boundaries. Main rivers in the municipality are the Mkuze River in the south and the Pongola River in the north, the latter feeds into the Pongolapoort Dam located on the eastern boundary of the municipality. Together with the fragmented and sometimes
dramatic topography of the area, the municipality contains, in overall terms, very low settlement densities. It also has substantial recreational and tourism opportunities.

The overall aim in terms of integrated development planning and land use management is to provide a secure environment for investment within the uPhongolo Municipality. The focus is on the investment in social and economic infrastructure and services, which will enable all the people of uPhongolo to make a contribution to the future sustainable development of the area. The main economic activities are agriculture and tourism.

2.4. Land Ownership

Ulundi and Nongoma municipalities consist almost entirely of Traditional Areas, with scattered settlements and villages. The uPhongolo and eDumbe municipalities houses a number of traditional councils. The Nongoma municipal area includes vast tracts of land registered in the name of the Ingonyama Trust and falling under the jurisdiction of Traditional Councils. About 99% of the land is owned by Ingonyama Trust Board and 99% of the land is under Traditional Councils.

About 80% of the land within AbaQulusi Municipality belongs to the white population group. The national government has a target of 30% of the land must be transferred to Black communities by 2014. This makes AbaQulusi area to be considered under huge land claims by the Department of Land Affairs (DLA). This poses huge challenges to AbaQulusi Municipality due to lack of internal capacity, skills and adequate financial resources to deal with new infrastructure in the areas under land redistribution by Department of Land Affairs (IDP 2019/20).

“ZULULAND IS HOME TO KING GOODWILL ZWELETHINI, ONE OF THE MONARCHIES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND HIS ROYAL PALACES ARE AMONG THE MAIN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN THE REGION”
3. Social Development Profile

3.1. Key Social Demographics

3.1.1. Population

In 2019, Zululand district municipality had a population of 868 031 amounting to 7.8% of the total KZN population after uMgungundlovu and King Cetshwayo. Zululand’s total population contributes 22% to the provincial population.

The population growth rate is similar to that of its neighbouring districts ranging between 1.4% and 1.6%. The population growth between 1996 and 2001 was 2.4%, declining to 0.3% between the period 2001 and 2011. This followed the rise between 2011 to 2019 from 0.6% to 1%. The latter growth rate is likely to maintained at least up to 2024.

Abaqulusi local municipality has the highest population in the district at 28.0%, followed by Ulundi at 23.7%. eDumbe local municipality has the lowest at 10.32%.

“THE POPULATION GROWTH RATE IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF ITS NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS RANGING BETWEEN 1.4% AND 1.6.”

3.1.2. Gender, Age and Race

Gender proportions indicate that there is a higher proportion of females 462 625 (53.3%) compared to males 405 406 (46.7%). Women are heads of household in the absence of partners due to migration to seek employment in other urban centres. The
district has a median age of 18 years, with over 51% of the people being under the age of 18 years.

Age

18

Median age

about 80 percent of the figure in KwaZulu-Natal; 22

about three-quarters of the figure in South Africa: 25

The share of children between the ages of 0 to 14 years is larger (38.83%) in Zululand compared to South Africa (29.1%). Demand for expenditure on schooling as percentage of total budget within Zululand district municipality will therefore be higher than that of South Africa. There is a significant smaller share of young working age people aged 20-34 (23.6%) in Zululand, compared to the national picture (28.0%). This picture persists even for both males and females up to the age of 70.

The African population had the largest group at 99%, followed by the White (1%) and Coloured (0.3%) population group. 95% of the population speak the isiZulu language at home, followed by Afrikaans and English at 1% each.
3.1.3. Households

The district has a total number of 178,516 households with an average of 5 persons per household. The average largely reflects those in rural areas, since a majority of the households are located within the rural areas of the municipality. 51% of these households are in formal structures, 32% are in traditional dwellings and 5% live in a backyard dwelling.

53.8% of the households are headed by women. There are 2,034 child-headed households and 33.4% of the child-headed households have females as their head.

3.2. Health Profile

The top two leading causes of death for children below the age of 5 is diarrhoeal diseases (24.3%) and lower respiratory infections (15.8%). For the elderly, cerebrovascular disease, such as strokes (18.9%) followed by Tuberculosis and lower respiratory infections both at 9.6% were the leading causes of death.

In terms of maternal conditions, indirect maternal conditions (28.9%) and hypertension (19.9%) account for the leading causes of death for women in the 15-49 age category. Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births) is 75, Ulundi had the highest at 129.4 and Nongoma lowest at 19.8.

The HSRC South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey 2019, states that there were 7.9 million people living with HIV in South Africa and over 2.1 million were in KZN. HIV prevalence varies geographically.
across South Africa, ranging from 12.6% in Western Cape to 27.0% in KwaZulu-Natal. The Zululand districts recorded the highest HIV prevalence at 48.4%. Tuberculosis (23.4%) and HIV/AIDS (16.8%) are the leading causes of death in the 15-24 age group.

Zululand district is rural and poor with high HIV/AIDS infections rates. With 2 034 child headed households, a number of the children in the district come from indigent homes or have been orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS. In eDumbe municipality, at least 17% of the population is already infected with HIV.

Health facilities are distributed inequitably in Zululand. Ulundi sub-district is adequately resourced with 24 clinics and 6 mobiles. The district does not have Regional and Tertiary institutions. There are 5 district hospitals, 2 specialized hospitals and 3 state aided hospitals.

Mobile health services have been provided in remote rural areas. The topography of some areas, which is grossly rural with mountainous areas, and the very poor road infrastructure pose many challenges and make certain areas inaccessible even through mobiles.

Source: Zululand District Health Plan 2019/2020 – 2021/22
3.3. Covid-19

As at 17 June 2020 there were 4,238 confirmed cases as well as 73 deaths and 2,133 recoveries in KZN. 25 confirmed cases were in Zululand with no deaths. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Albert Luthuli Centre for Responsible leadership have developed a set of COVID-19 Vulnerability Indicators using available data and knowledge. It identifies vulnerabilities present in communities and identifying areas in need of targeted coordinated interventions and early response. The purpose of the indicators is intended to support the early prevention/mitigation and preparedness phase of the disaster management cycle and informing disaster management decision making. It is not based on epidemiological modelling but a response to highlighting intervention areas due to underlying situation. The composition of the index follows two main factors, namely: transmission potential and health susceptibility.

Transmission potential areas identify areas that prevent social distancing to be practiced and where limitations of practicing good basic hygiene. The health susceptibility index denotes areas where large number of people are potential more susceptible to being adversely affected by COVID-10 due to factors such as age and underlying health conditions. The Zululand vulnerability profile is presented below. The map shows low vulnerability areas (blue dotted areas) versus areas with higher vulnerability (red dotted areas).
The area generally has moderate vulnerability however areas of high deprivation and density show extreme vulnerability. In the case of Abaqulisi this is Boomlaer and Sikame. Area specific live GIS vulnerability maps are available courtesy of CSIR at: https://pta-gis-2-web1.csir.co.za/portal2/apps/opsdashboard/#/390a74fb10844c7a85396e605555a866d

There are fifteen quarantine facilities in Zululand with 184 beds combined. Four of the facilities have been activated as at 29 May 2020.

### 3.4. Poverty Dimensions

#### 3.4.1 Distribution

In 2019 there were 722 000 people living below the upper bound poverty line of R1 227 per person per month, this is just above 83% of the population and 70 000 more people than in 2009, showing an 1.82% increase. Using the lower poverty line of R810 per person per month 69.6% of the population are living in poverty. This is the third highest nationally, following Alfred Nzo district municipality (71.5%) and uMkhanyakude district municipality at 70.3%. Zululand’s poverty rate is higher than the provincial rate which is at 53.4%.

In terms of its municipalities, eDumbe poverty rate was at 74.8%, Nongoma at 72.2%, uPhongolo at 71.8%, AbaQulusi at 64.4% and Ulundi recording the lowest at 69.7%. The traditional and rural areas are the most poverty stricken.

#### 3.4.2 Inequality

The Gini-co-efficient for the district sits at 0.57, indicating a comparatively more equal distribution. This is lower than the national and provincial total which both sit at 0.63. The average annual income is R15 000 which is about half of the KZN and South Africa averages, with 16% of the households reporting no income and 66% of them reporting that they earn less than R40 000 per annum.

#### 3.4.3 Employment/Unemployment

Only 159 930 people are considered economically active, however only 33% of the working age population are engaged in actual employment or are actively seeking
work. This level of labour force participation is very low. The implication of this finding is that there are probably a large number of discouraged work-seekers in the economy. This is typical of an economy in which there are high and persistent rates of unemployment. Of those employed 71% are in the formal sector and 19% are in the informal sector. The biggest employer is the community services sector which employed 27% of the employed. The trade sector employed 20.5%, the electricity sector 0.4%, and mining sector 0.6%.

**Total Employment Composition**

Zululand, 2019

![Diagram showing employment composition]

The unemployment in the district was 28.2% in 2019; this is similar to the national rate at 28.2%. The district experienced an average 3.42% increase in the number of unemployed people between 2016 and 2019.

Unemployment in Zululand is unsustainably high and is having the negatively impact of discouraging people from spending the time and money to actively search for jobs. Nongoma recorded the smallest labour force participation rate (24.7%), indicating that there are few people involved in the labour force within the municipality which may be due to scarce economic opportunities.

AbaQulusi has the largest number of unemployed people in Zululand, with 13 316. However, the municipality has the second smallest unemployment rate at 26.4% after uPhongolo at 26.1%. Nongoma (38.6%) and Ulundi (38.7%) have the highest unemployment rate, higher than the district average (31.4%).
3.4.4 Crime
For the period 2008/2009 to 2018/2019 overall crime has decrease at an average annual rate of 0.81% within the Zululand District Municipality. Violent crime decreased by 1.03% since 2008/2009, while property crimes increased by 0.78% between the 2008/2009 and 2018/2019 financial years.

According to the Growth and Development Plan for the district, there are 14 police stations within the Zululand District, with a further 149 required. With the district being predominantly rural, access to the police stations becomes a challenge.

The Ncome Prison is the main medium/maximum security prison located in Vryheid. The prison has an official capacity of 1 359.

“ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNITY SURVEY 2016, IN KWAZULU-NATAL, ABOUT 16.8% CITIZENS HAVE NO FORMAL EDUCATION”
3.5 Educational Skills Profile

According to the Community Survey 2016, in KwaZulu-Natal, about 16.8% citizens have no formal education, while only 5.8% attained a higher education qualification. In 2016, 12% of the population of Zululand (aged 20 years and older) has no education, while 4% of the population has completed primary schooling. 67.4% has completed grade 9 of higher and 39.8% of the population have Matric or higher. In 2019, Zululand district municipality obtained a 79.1% Matric pass rate.

According to the Education Management System (EMIS) 2016, reflects that there are 292 628 learners and a total of 9 244 educators. 6 424 of the total educators are female. There are 759 schools in Zululand with 744 schools being public whilst 15 are private/independent. Most of the learners in the rural areas of the district travel long distances to access educational facilities. The inaccessibility of schools results in low attendance that contribute to the poor educational standards in the rural areas.

Most of the local municipalities not only face the problem of a lack of educational facilities, but also shortages of teachers, limited career guidance, and/or poor quality of facilities e.g. libraries, laboratories, sports fields etc. – which is more pronounced in the rural areas of the district.

In terms of higher education, there are limited tertiary education facilities that exist within the district, which hinders the progress of school leavers within some of the localities as they have to leave the local areas for tertiary education.

The Mthashana TVET College, is the only tertiary education facility in the district. Located in Vryheid, Mthashana TVET College offers tertiary courses on a part-time or full-time basis to about 650 students. Vryheid plays an important regional educational function and draws pupils from the whole sub-region.

Mthashana TVET College has a total of 9 campuses with one located in uMkhanyakude district municipality and another uMzinyathi district municipality. The
college offers NCV courses in Utility and Business studies and Engineering studies as well as National N Diploma courses in Engineering and Business studies.

The District Skills Audit reveals that there is a low rate of start-up of small enterprises and a low rate of success for start-ups. This is due to factors such as a lack of business management, financial and technical skills; incorrect targeting of markets; strict lending criteria by formal financial institutions and a general lack of economic opportunities. There is insufficient growth and stability of small and medium-sized business entities. These are the entities that provide significant job creation in developing countries and form crucial parts of supply chains in all industries.

4. Drivers of Economy

4.1. Economic Drivers

The economy of Zululand district is driven by the tertiary sector, with community services having the highest contribution at 31%. This is attributed to the poor and rural nature of the district, and the need for social interventions. eThekwini metro’s contribution to KwaZulu-Natal’s GVA output is approximately 25 times more than the contribution made by Zululand.

Zululand makes a contribution of about 3% to KwaZulu Natal’s Gross Value Added and has the slowest growing GVA of all district municipalities. The most significant challenges in the economy of Zululand are:

- the region is somewhat isolated from the national economy due to its location, in relation to transportation routes and its distance from the major centres of Durban, Johannesburg, and Richards Bay.
- No economic benefit to local and regional community, because of low investment
- GVA growth is in decline in the district,
- Out of 11 districts, Zululand is number 7 in terms of its contribution to the provincial economy.
Gross Value Added (GVA) by aggregate sector
Zululand District Municipality, 2019

Source: IHS Markit Regional eXplorer version 1946
AbaQulusi local municipality is the main economic hub of the Zululand district which contributes over 40% to the district’s Gross Value Added. Ulundi local municipality is the second largest economy, which can be attributed to the presence of government departments and the fact that Ulundi is the administrative seat of the Zululand district.

The level of economic growth in Zululand is not equally distributed amongst its local municipalities. AbaQulusi, the biggest municipality in terms of economic contribution, recorded a growth rate of 0.1% in 2015. Of note, growth in 2015 was very poor across all municipalities, in line with both national and provincial weak growth of 1.3% and 0.6% respectively.

The spatial economic imbalance is not only unique to this district but rather a prevalent phenomenon across districts in the province. The stark disparities in economic output contribution can also be noted between the provincial districts.

4.2. Primary Sector

The agriculture sector contributed 6% in 2019. The agricultural sector’s share in the district dropped from 8.8% in 2008 to 7.9% in 2014. The agricultural sector performance is in decline in terms of production, imports and exports.

According to the District Rural Development Plan (DRDP) the main agricultural activities in the district include livestock (red meat and poultry), forestry (timber), sugarcane, citrus farming, and vegetables. Products produced include timber, field crops, and livestock. Current field crops farmed include maize, groundnuts, soya beans, sunflowers, fruits, and sorghum.

The mountainous feature of the central and north-western parts of the municipal area make it more difficult and expensive to conduct agriculture activity.

The potential for economic growth in Zululand lies in the tourism and agriculture sectors. The highest agricultural potential are in Abaqulusi, eDumbe, uPhongolo, local municipality. eDumbe and AbaQulusi local municipality also has high potential for potato growing. Dry bean production can also be done in Abaqulusi and eDumbe local municipality in the same geographies as potato production.

The mining sector contributed 7% to the GVA of the district. Zululand’s provincial comparative advantage lies in the mining sector. Zululand has coal mines and the only gold mine in KZN (Klipwal). Coal is exported to countries including the United States, Brazil, Spain and Ireland. Zululand lies on the Coal Line corridor which runs from Richards Bay, through Ulundi, AbaQulusi and eDumbe to the mining areas of Mpumalanga. This is an important route in the national rail and road network, and provides an opportunity for the transport of minerals, metals and timber.

Mining activities in the district have decreased in the mid 1990’s, leaving a gap in the economy. The AbaQulusi area is facing the challenge of economic development after
the close down of the mining sector, which was a major boost for the regional economy. This challenge left many ghost towns and hostels in the area, which also require infrastructure development and maintenance.

Opportunities still exist for small scale mining, which include: mine rehabilitation, engineering support, equipment maintenance and support, and preparing Environmental Management Plans.

4.3. Secondary Sector

Manufacturing activity within the District is low. The GVA contribution of the manufacturing sector dropped from 6.5% in 2014 to 6% in 2019. The only agri-processing in the District is the Illovo sugar mill in uPhongola municipality.

Moreover, raw materials required for manufacturing purposes are scarce and raw materials found with the district relate directly to coal and the mining thereof.

Despite the lack of large scale manufacturing in the District a number of interesting ventures have been established and relate to the raw materials and skills available in the District. The ventures include (1) arts and crafts production and marketing, (2) taxidermy, (3) mineral water and (4) charcoal manufacturing for export.

Manufacturing of food, beverages, clothing, textiles, leather products, paper and paper products, printing, and publishing, metal products, machinery, and equipment also occur within the municipal area.

“MANUFACTURING ACTIVITY WITHIN THE DISTRICT IS LOW. THE GVA CONTRIBUTION OF THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR DROPPED FROM 6.5% IN 2014 TO 6% IN 2019”

4.4. Tertiary Sector

The economy of Zululand district is driven by the tertiary sector, with community services having the highest contribution at 31%, followed by finance at 18% and trade at 12%. This can be attributed to the presence of government departments in Zululand district.

The commercial sector is well established in the towns of the District however, it is not easily accessible for the majority of the rural population that currently account for 75% of the district population.
The lack of business support services will, however, limit entry of emerging entrepreneurs into these markets. Some of the opportunities that in this sector include developing the commercial sector in the Rural Services Centres and commercial enterprises focused on tourism market.

The Zululand area is home to a wide range of historical, cultural and natural assets being uniquely located in the “heart of the Zulu Kingdom”. These assets provide the district with good tourism potential. The Natal Spa in eDumbe Municipality is also identified in the district SDF, and is considered as one of the best known attractions in the municipality with facilities comprising a resort and conference centre nine hot and cold mineral water pools.

Qualities of its hot sulphur springs mineral water are well documented. It boasts "triple waters" which means they contain carbonates, chlorides and sulphates. The resort also offers a range of activities including horse riding, tennis and bird tours.

In certain areas of the district substantial work has been done to develop the tourism sector and its assets, however, much still remains to be done for the benefits of the sector to impact significantly on the socio-economic conditions of the communities of Zululand. Some of the key challenges in the tourism sector include:

- the distance of Zululand from major urban centres and routes,
- the ceasing of regular flights to the Ulundi airport,
- the quality of road infrastructure in the district, and
- the lack of coordination in tourism marketing.

It has long been contended that the development of key anchor projects and access routes will open up opportunities in an underdeveloped tourism sector. This includes finalising the construction of the Nongoma – Pongola link road, the large scale development of the Pongola Port Dam area and the eMakhosini Heritage Park.

The Local Economic Development Strategy (revised 2015) proposed some development strategies which are outlined below:

- the development and upgrading of game reserves, dams and nature reserves,
- the establishment and marketing of arts and craft centres,
- the development of the Emakhosini Valley,
- tourism development options that could be pursued with the annual Zulu Reed Dance celebration celebrated at Nsibaya/Enyokeni, and
- providing tourists with a better understanding of the Zulu Royal Family is only one of the opportunities presented.

4.5 Informal sector

In the Zululand district the informal economy employed 28 781 people in 2019. This figure is broken down per sector as follows:
4.6 Economic growth forecast
Agriculture is a major sector within the Municipality and has the potential to contribute to the development of employment opportunities as well as addressing matters related to food security.

5. Service Delivery
5.1 Water and Sanitation
The 2016 Community Survey, reveals that 54.7% of households were reported to have access to safe drinking water. Only 38% were getting water from a regional or local service provider.

Zululand District Municipality has a total number of 92 233 (10%) households with piped water inside the dwelling, a total of 323 751 (36%) households had piped water inside the yard, 92 233 (25%) from a river and a total number of 71 363 (8%) from a communal stand.

Most of the urban communities have access to clean water with severe shortcomings as far as the rural communities are concerned. Rural communities have access to less than 5 litres of water per day. People rely on natural resources for water and are considered to live at survival levels. The quality of the ground water is poor.

In terms of sanitation in Zululand district municipality, a total number population of 391 329 people use a pit toilet (44%), 219 596 (25%) use a chemical toilets and 130 893 (14.7%) use flush toilets.
The urban areas have sanitation systems, but the rural areas rely on septic tanks, pit latrines or no system at all. This places tremendous strain on the environment. The biggest concentration of backlogs for water and sanitation services is located in the Ulundi (36, 8%), Nongoma (58.4%) and uPhongolo (30.2%) local municipalities.

### 5.2 Human Settlements

With 178,516 households, 51% reside in a house, 32% in a traditional dwelling, 5.2% in an informal dwelling (shack), 5% in a flat in a backyard and only 5% in an apartment.

Ulundi local municipality had the highest number of households residing in a traditional dwelling at 36%, followed by Nongoma at 26% and eDumbe (25%). The district records a migratory pool to uPhongolo and AbaQulusi local municipalities, which exerts pressure on housing, especially informal settlements and demand for public service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>178,516</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 10 percent of the figure in KwaZulu-Natal: 2,875,843L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less than 10 percent of the figure in South Africa: 16,923,307L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Households by type of dwelling

- **51%** Households are in a house
- **12.96%** Households are in a flat in a backyard
- **8.55%** Households are in an informal dwelling (shack)
- **5%** Households are in a traditional dwelling
- **5%** Households are in an apartment
- **5%** Households are in other types of dwellings

5.3 Electricity

In 2016 14.8% of the population had no access to electricity. 78% had an in-house prepaid meter, and 6% had an in-house conventional meter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electricity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>14.8%</strong> Have no access to electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about 1.4 times the rate in KwaZulu-Natal: 10.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>about double the rate in South Africa: 7.29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population in the urban areas has access to household electricity, but few in the rural settlements have access to this service. Electricity provision at schools and health facilities are especially critical. In the wake of the looming energy crises faced by this country it is vital that the municipality adopts policy embracing the use of alternative energy sources for new residential and commercial development.
15% of households in the district have no access to electricity. AbaQulusi and Ulundi local municipalities have the highest backlog.

5.4 Waste Management

In 2016, 66% (587 370) of the population remove their refuse personally (own dump) 17% while (147 450) of the population in Zululand district municipality are getting refuse disposal from a local authority, private company or community members.

Nongoma Municipality has the largest backlog of household refuse removal at 95% whilst AbaQulusi has the least backlog at 59.3%. It is clear that all the municipalities in Zululand still have a lot of work to do in dealing with the solid waste removal.

5.5 Transport

The national road, N2 passes through uPhongolo and connects the district to the coastal regions of KwaZulu-Natal e.g. Richards Bay, Durban, Port Shepstone, as well as connect the district with Mpumalanga province to the North.

The N207, connects the N2 via Golela border post to the Kingdom of Eswatini. Border posts with the Kingdom of Eswatini are an important part of the infrastructure available in Zululand district. Road freight on this route includes fuel transported by road from South Africa, as well as Eswatini export traffic comprising of paper, fruit, sugar, and general cargo. The rail traffic crossing the border includes manganese ore which originates in Phalaborwa and transits the Eswatini railway system via Komatipoort, Mananga and Golela. Rail traffic also includes a large amount of Eswatini export traffic and imports from South Africa.

Other railway line include the main railway line from Gauteng to Richards Bay, traversing the district in the west in a north-south direction. This is a coal line which is part of the national network that is used for exporting at the Richards Bay Coal Terminal. Goods transported along this line includes ferro-chrome, granite, chrome, steel and timber. Timber products are loaded in Zululand.

There are two airports in Zululand, namely Ulundi Airport and Vryheid Airport. Ulundi airport could be used to boost economic growth and development in this region.
6. Governance

6.1. Municipal Performance

For 2017/18 financial year, Zululand received qualified audit outcomes. eDumbe and Ulundi local municipality are the only municipalities that have maintained an unqualified audit throughout the three-year period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auditee</th>
<th>Audit Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zululand district municipality</td>
<td>Unqualified audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AbaQulusi local municipality</td>
<td>Unqualified audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eDumbe local municipality</td>
<td>Unqualified audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nongoma local municipality</td>
<td>Unqualified audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulundi local municipality</td>
<td>Unqualified audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uPhongolo local municipality</td>
<td>Qualified audit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audit outcomes Source: municipalmoney.gov.za

For the 2017/18 financial year, the Auditor General noted that the leadership of the municipality did not exercise adequate oversight responsibility regarding financial and performance reporting and compliance with legislation. In this regard, the accounting officer did not design appropriate policies and procedures to support the achievement of credible reporting and compliance with legislative requirements.

Furthermore, management did not diligently undertake routine monthly reconciliations and reviews, to support amounts reported in the financial statements and the annual performance report. This was due to management not fully understanding the requirements of the financial and performance reporting frameworks as well as poor records management.

6.2. Municipal Capacity

The Council of the Zululand District Municipality consists of 36 Councillors, 40% of which are proportionally elected and 60% elected to the district municipality from respective local municipalities.
Strengthening relations between local municipalities and traditional councils in their respective areas is important, given that such a large proportion of the land under rural municipalities is under the custodianship of the Ingonyama Trust.

It is imperative that more effective systems and processes for integrating municipal planning and service delivery in Ingonyama Trust areas be developed. In turn there is a need for enhancement of the participation of members of traditional councils in the processes of municipalities.

“STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES AND TRADITIONAL COUNCILS IS IMPORTANT, GIVEN THAT SUCH A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE LAND UNDER RURAL MUNICIPALITIES IS UNDER THE CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE INGONYAMA TRUST.”

7. Project to Diversify and Grow the Economy

The draft National Spatial Development Framework, identifies Ulundi in the Zululand district as a national network of regional development anchors, seeks to prioritise and strengthen strategically located regional development anchor towns in productive rural regions and priority national development, trade and transport corridors to provide a range of services within the specific towns/cities and surrounding network of settlements and productive rural regions.

Amongst many proposals, the draft NSDF seeks to strengthen the connectivity of traditional areas and rural settlements, by making use of the road and rail network and regional corridor development.

Social infrastructure provision within a regional-rural setting should be planned using the ‘social services wheel’, and use such investment to establish and create well-functioning, compact, lively, rural settlements and regional rural systems.
7.1. Spatial Development

Zululand District Municipality’s Spatial Development Framework (2018 Review) provides the overall district wide spatial guidance and key interventions towards the attainment of the spatial goals for the Zululand District family of Municipalities.

The District Spatial Development Framework identifies the following key spatial/economic factors:

Paul Pietersburg in eDumbe local municipality, is identified as a node which can be generally described as a town that provides municipal wide services and goods. The town also serve as nodes of transportation and distribution linked to other centres within the district.

The node serves as the main activity node for commercial and administrative activities. In order to service the large population concentration, development efforts are focused on economic development & service provision, job creation, government services and provision of basic services.

Nongoma is the second town which is considered Secondary nodes in the district SDF whilst the towns on Vryheid, uPhongola and Ulundi are considered Primary Nodes. These are generally settlements, mostly rural in nature and would include lower order services mostly for the immediate communities.

7.2 Ecological Potential and Biodiversity

The District plans to be in step with the Sustainable Development Goals. Whereby there will be the protection and restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. This will be done by encouraging sustainable practices within the District. As well as, implementation of biodiversity management projects.

Freshwater resources need to be properly managed – including the river catchments. Improving the management of river catchments will help reduce potable water losses. This has to be done in alignment and in conjunction with the relevant authority the Department of Water Affairs.

There are a lot of pressures on the land in the District. People who keep cattle need it for grazing, there are development pressures and the changing climate means there is a need to be vigilant to maintain the biodiversity in the District.

These pressures and issues should be utilised as motivating factors, for officials and for communities to work together to better manage land and protect areas of significant biodiversity.
7.3 Social Development Projects
Social Development of the community sectors, namely women, senior citizens, men, people with disabilities, and children is the core priorities of Zululand District Municipality. One of the community development objectives in the District’s IDP states that Zululand District Municipality is to initiate and implement social upliftment programmes/projects. Over and above the municipal projects and services rendered to ensure that communities of Zululand have an enabling and safe environment to live in, there are currently four major social programmes that the Department of Community Development is implementing to ensure that the quality of life in Zululand is improved.

7.4 Economic and Infrastructure Projects
Involves the cultivation of abundant aloe ferox and processing that in an Aloe Processing Facility to promote social upliftment while preserving this natural resource for the use of medicine, and other products. The project will stimulate small businesses and much needed job creation.

- Employment Potential: Approximately 1 000 jobs
- Capital Investment Required: R25 000 000.00
- Status: Business Plan has been completed. Land has been made available by tribal authority. ZDM is seeking an investor.
- Challenges: Funding constraints and attracting investment

The R33 has been identified as a tourism corridor; provide the primary access to the tourism opportunities within eDumbe Municipality, which are mainly based on the natural environment. The R33 provides access to the Bivane Dam, the uPhongola Bush Reserve and Cultural tourism opportunities within eDumbe Municipality.

The R33 connects Vryheid (AbaQulusi LM) to the Paulpietersburg (eDumbe LM) in the north and also to the province of Mpumalanga to the north of Zululand district. This road is the main trade and transportation route which links up with the R34 and the National Route (N2).

The town of Paulpietersburg is constantly growing and the proposed development of a Shopping Centre and Middle Income Housing (both have currently started) will place additional pressure on the current sanitation system and with the absence of water borne sanitation system in the town, the need and demand for one is forever growing. The water borne sanitation system will also be environmentally friendly and promotes the concept of COP 17.

The town is currently using a septic tank which in return has a negative impact on investment within the town.
The eDumbe Waterborne Sewerage Infrastructure will prove:

- Employment Potential: 300
- Capital Investment Required: R350,000,000.00
- Status: Grant conditions for water do not allow for implementation of this project
- Challenges: Funding constraints

Pongolapoort Dam Development Node is a PPP project which will see contribution across all sectors. The potential development lies in the trans frontier conservation area (TFCA) between Zululand, Mozambique and Eswatini and could serve as major tourist drawcard. The dam and surrounding scenic landscape is the key element. Approximately 10000 temporal jobs and 1500 permanent jobs could be created.

- Employment Potential: Approximately 1500 jobs
- Capital Investment Required: R3 2000 000.00
- Status: Project was taken over by the KZN Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA). Business Plan had been done by Zululand district municipality and registered as a PP with National Treasury
- Challenges: Funding constraints

8. Key Recommendations

- The need to strengthening relations between local municipalities and traditional councils in their respective areas, given that such a large proportion of the land under rural municipalities is under the custodianship of the Ingonyama Trust.
- There is a need to commit adequate financial and human resources to maintain the municipal planning function and engineering services.
- Issues raised by the Auditor General require urgent attention.
- The Shared Services model offers a key mechanism to ensure access to services to rural communities.
- Unlock the potential existing in the national road, N2, coal corridor and the cross border traffic that links to the Kingdom of Eswatini.
- Stimulate economic and tourism opportunities afforded by Ulundi 19 (Intersection of R34 to Vryheid/Newcastle and R66 towards Nongoma and oPhongolo)
- The two airports in Zululand, namely Ulundi Airport and Vryheid Airport could be used to boost economic development in this region.