


04/52

ILEMBE

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY KZN



ILembe, motivated by a favourable climate, available land, and strategic location is poised as South Africa's re-invention of agriculture underpinned by renewable energy.

PROFILE AND ANALYSIS
DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT MODEL



cooperative governance
& traditional affairs

Department:
Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





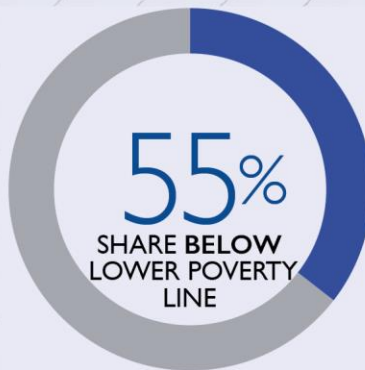
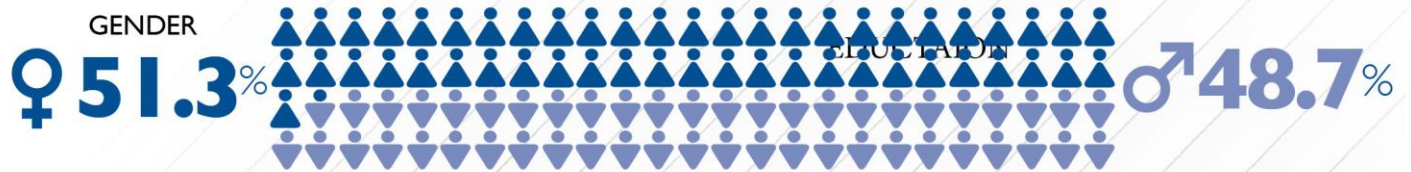
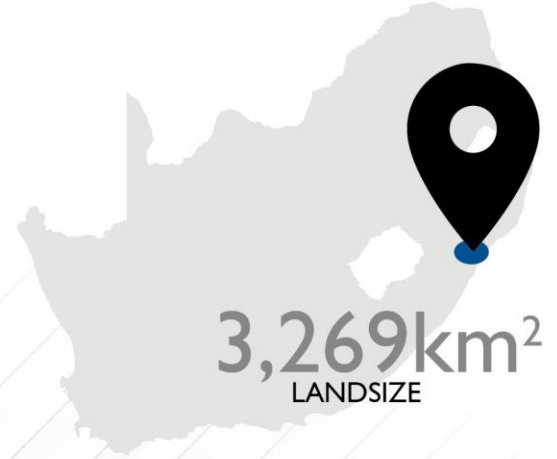
Contents

1. Executive Summary	6
2. Introduction: Brief Overview	8
2.1 Location	8
2.2 Historical Perspective	9
2.3 Spatial Status	9
2.4 Land Ownership	10
3 Social Development Profile	11
3.1 Key Social Demographics	11
3.1.1 <i>Population</i>	11
3.1.2 <i>Gender, Age and Race</i>	12
3.1.3 <i>Households</i>	14
3.2 Health Profile	14
3.3 COVID 19	15
3.4 Poverty Dimensions	16
3.4.1 <i>Distribution</i>	16
3.4.2 <i>Inequality</i>	17
3.4.3 <i>Employment/ Unemployment</i>	17
3.4.4 <i>Crime</i>	18
3.5 Education and Skills Profile	19
4. Drivers of the Economy	21
4.1 Structure of the Economy	21
4.2 Primary Sector	22
4.3 Secondary Sector	24
4.4 Tertiary Sector	29
4.5 Informal Sector	30
5. Service Delivery	31
5.1. Water and Sanitation	31
5.2 Human Settlements	31
5.3 Sanitation Management	31
5.4 Roads and Transport	32
5.5 Electricity	32
6 Governance and Management	32
6.1 Municipal Performance	32
6.2 Municipal Capacity	33
6.3 Traditional Affairs Governance	34
7 Projects to Diversify and Grow People and the Economy	35
8 Key Recommendations	37

ILEMBE BY NUMBERS

678,048

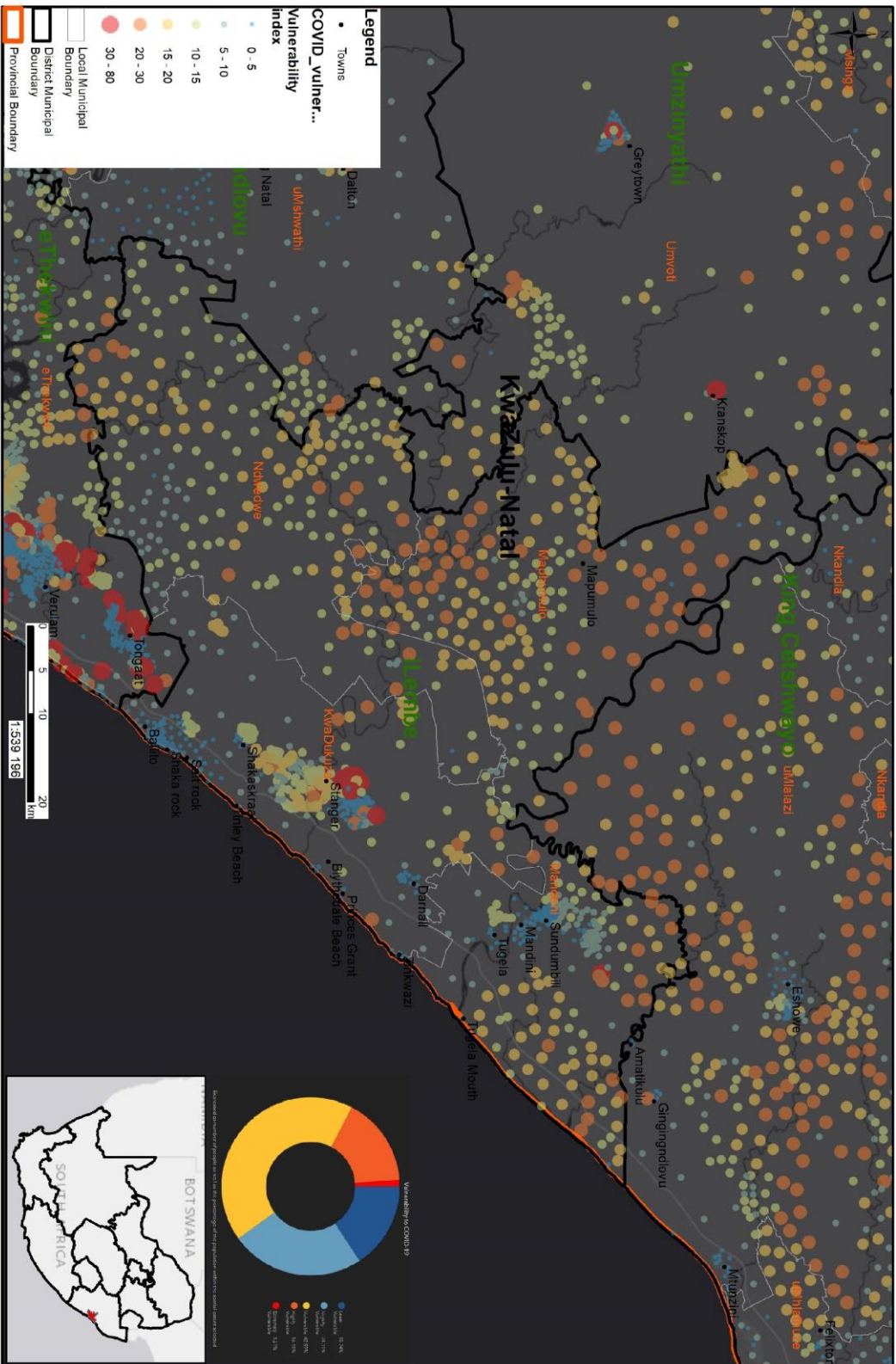
POPULATION



ILEMBE
HOME
AND HQ
OF HIS
MAJESTY
KING
SHAKA



High Value Agriculture
Export & Agro-Processing
incorporating Biofuels



COVID-19 Vulnerability Index

Ilembe

Source: CSIR/NCDM

1. Executive Summary

The iLembe District Municipality (DC29), once housed the headquarters of his Majesty King Shaka ka Senzangakhona and was once the home to Africa's first Nobel Peace Laureate iNkosi Albert Luthuli as well as Mahatma Gandhi. It lies on the east coast of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), between eThekweni Metro to the south and King Cetshwayo District to the North. The District's population grew by 1,7% between 2011 and 2019 with approximately 678,048 people. 52% of the population are women and 48% are men.

iLembe is bordered by the Districts of uMgungundlovu and uMzinyathi, as well as the eThekweni Metro.

iLembe District is constituted by four Local Municipalities: Mandeni, KwaDukuza, Ndwedwe and Maphumulo. KwaDukuza is largely urban driven by commercial agriculture. Mandeni has substantial urban areas, but with traditional settlement areas and agriculture. Ndwedwe is substantially a traditional settlement which over time has developed some commercial farming and forestry. Maphumulo as a substantially traditional settlement.

In total there are 191 369 households in iLembe up from 157,692 in 2011. The average household size has reduced from 3.8 to 3.4 over the same period. The percentage of female headed households has risen from 45.8% to 47.1%, between 2011 and 2016, which is above the national average of 41%. There are about 614 child headed households in iLembe, the majority are in Ndwedwe and Mandeni.

As at 12 June 2020, the COVID 19 cases were 3 573 cases as well as 64 deaths and 1 572 recoveries in KZN. 715 of these cases were from iLembe, however of concern is the fact that although eThekweni Metro has the highest number of cases provincially, iLembe District has the highest infection rate of 55.6 per 100 000.

One is more likely to be poor if one lives in a more rural municipality with a quarter of the people living in Maphumulo being poor in 2011 (now just under 20% of them are poor) and 13,8% of those living in Ndwedwe being poor. In contrast only 7,2% and 7,9% of those living in Mandeni and KwaDukuza, respectively are poor.

The main economic sector in iLembe is agriculture, which directly contributes 4,47% to the economy. However, manufacturing as well as the finance, real estate and related business services sectors are the largest sectors respectively contributing 18,1% and 18,35%. The commercial sector which includes financial intermediation, insurance, real estate, and business services, wholesale and retail trade, community, social and personal services 51,41% of the employed in the District. There has been a general decline in unemployment in the District which had decreased by 17,4% between the two censuses from 48% in 2001 to 30,6% during the 2011 census. Youth unemployment also decreased by 18,6% from 55,8% to 37,2%, during the same period.

Only 23% of the citizens have access to flush toilets. 45% of the population still rely on pit toilets and 2,3% of the population has no access to any toilets. Only 30,4% of the households are receiving refuse disposal from either a local authority, private company, or some community members.

From a service delivery perspective, whereas 75,1% of the population are getting water, only 18% of the households have piped water inside the dwelling. 22% get water in the yard, 26% rely on communal taps and 17% fetch their water in a river.

To get iLembe on a sustainable growth path the economy must be diversified, and the rural/urban divide should be closed. This needs to be anchored on agriculture, manufacturing, real estate, and tourism, supported by construction, finance, and ICT.

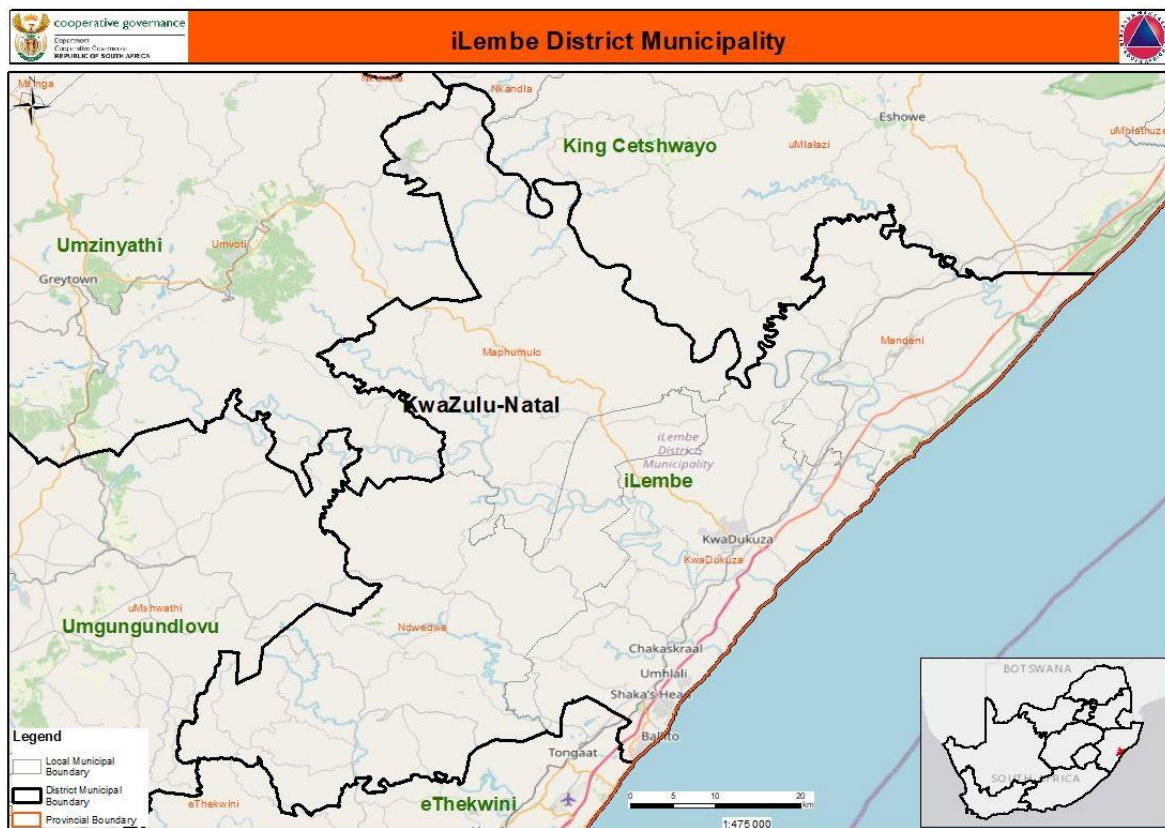
*“THE MAIN ECONOMIC SECTOR
IN ILEMBE IS AGRICULTURE,
WHICH DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTES
4,47% TO THE ECONOMY.”*

2. Introduction: Brief Overview

2.1 Location

iLembe District lies on the east coast of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), between eThekweni Metro to the south and King Cetshwayo District to the North. To the west, iLembe is bordered by the Districts of uMgungundlovu and uMzinyathi. At 3 260km², it is the smallest of the 10 District Municipalities of KZN. The seat for the District Municipality is in Stanger in KwaDukuza.

According to the Stats SA Community Survey (2016) iLembe has a total population of 657,612 people, which makes it the fastest growing population in KZN between 2007 and 2016. The district is constituted by four Local Municipalities with 76 wards: Mandeni, KwaDukuza, Ndwedwe, and Maphumulo. The majority live in the more urban KwaDukuza (38,1%), followed by Ndwedwe (23,21%), Mandeni (22,75) and Maphumulo (15,94%).



2.2 Historical Perspective

The seat of the iLembe District Municipality is in KwaDukuza (place of the Lost Person), a town founded by King Shaka Ka Senzangakhona as his headquarters. The name was derived because of the capital's labyrinth of huts, which His Majesty established in 1825 after relocating from kwa Bulawayo in the Zululand hinterland. The settlement was massive and oval shaped with a central cattle enclosure with the massive royal hut built along the small spring and stream with a large rock further down-stream where his majesty had his throne upon a rock under a fig tree, which now stands behind his memorial. It was here he received his first gift from the traders, of blue crane feathers, which had been acquired from Pondoland.

The District's name also derives its name because it was here that His Majesty built his cow shape strategy, it was here that "*iLembe eleqa amanye amalembe ngokukhalipha*" (strategies to beat other strategies in ingenuity) were formulated. After the assassination of His Majesty, in 1828 the capital was burnt down, only to be re-established by the British as Stanger in 1873, along the same springs and streams as King Shaka. Not far from here the first farm, Compensation Farm, which gives the are the name produced the first sugar cane grown in Natal after being brought from the Reunion Island. The Zulu name of the area is 'Kwa Vulamehlo' which literally means 'eye opener' on account of how the manner the masses got dispossessed of their land.

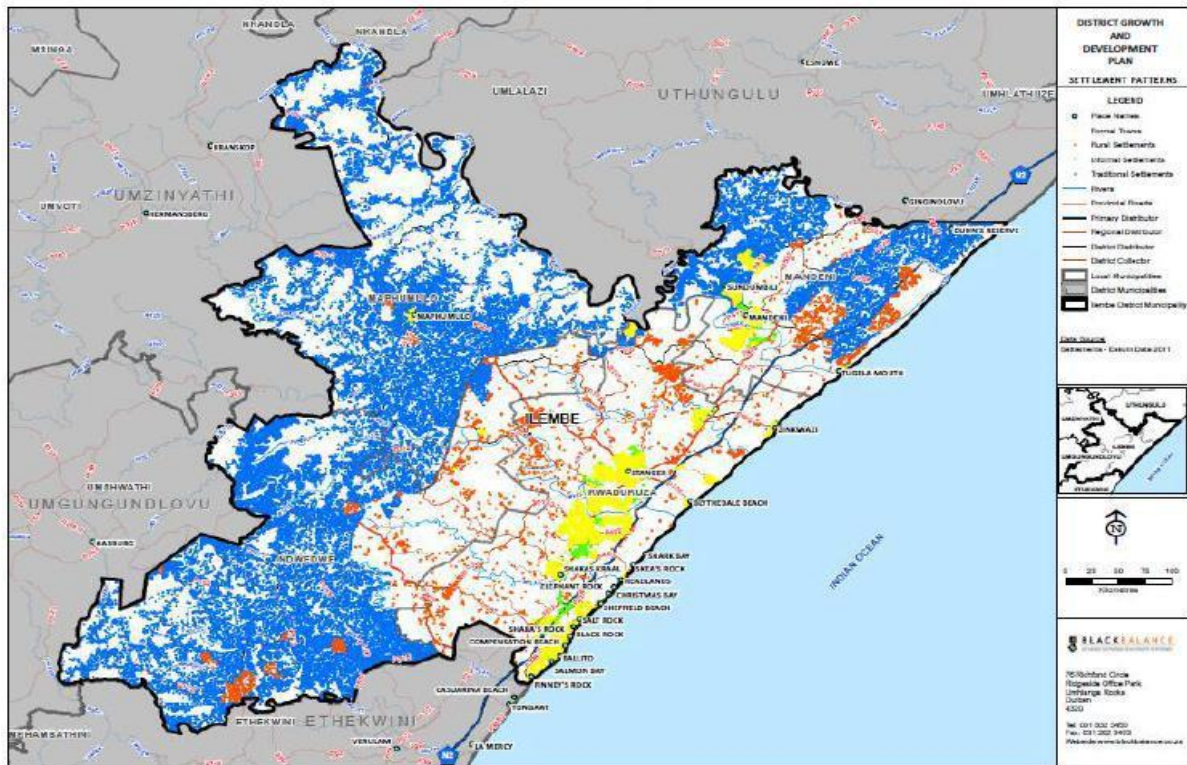
The District has a rich in heritage also having served the home of Africa's first Nobel Peace Laurent iNkosi Albert Luthuli as well as Mahatma Ghandi.

iLembe is located between two of Africa's busiest ports, Durban and Richards Bay, on the primary economic development corridor in the province, and is well positioned not only to local, but also international markets. The King Shaka international Airport and the Dube Trade Port, just a few kilometres from the southern border of iLembe, have amplified what was already a prime investment destination.

2.3 Spatial Status

iLembe is predominantly a rural District Municipality, with: (1) KwaDukuza largely having a more urban population with commercial agriculture; (2) Mandeni having some urban areas, but with traditional settlement areas and agriculture; (3) Maphumulo being a substantially traditional settlement, and (4) Ndwedwe being a substantially traditional settlement with some commercial farming.

“IT WAS HERE THAT “ILEMBE ELEQA AMANYE AMALEMBE NGOKUKHALIPHA” (STRATEGIES TO BEAT OTHER STRATEGIES IN INGENUITY) WERE FORMULATED.”



Spatial Settlement Patterns. Source District Growth and Development Plan. February 2019

Taking into consideration the recommendations made in the Regional Spatial Development Plan, iLembe should essentially comprise of a series of Urban growth Boundaries to manage growth over time. This could mitigate against ‘urban sprawl’ and can facilitate for planned growth and development.

2.4 Land Ownership

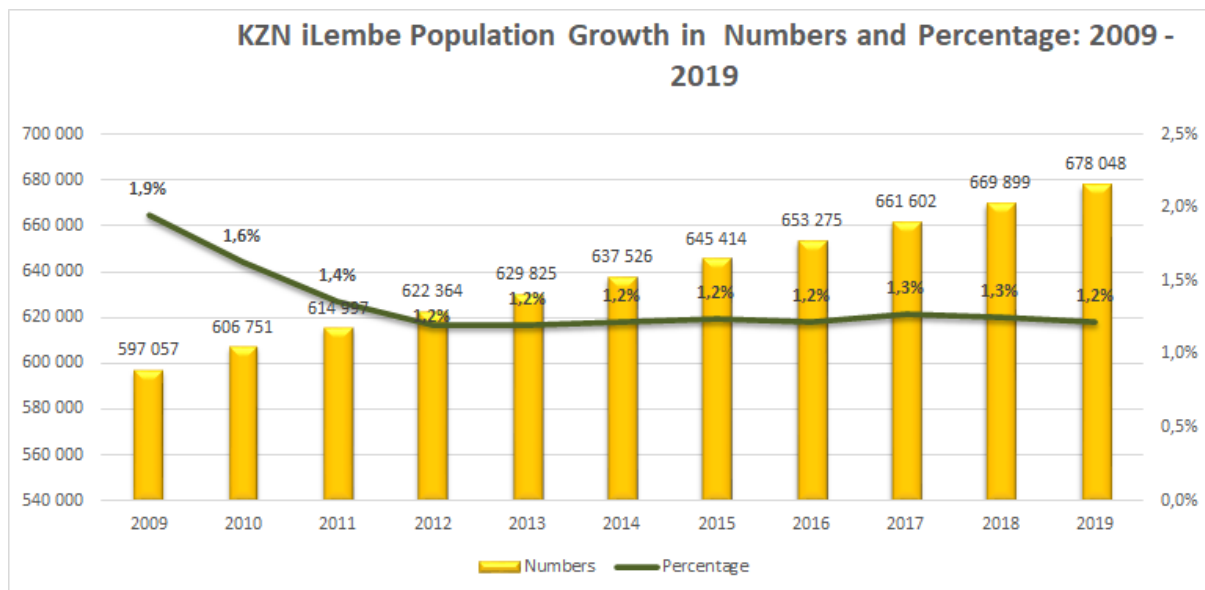
Approximately sixty (60%) percent of land is under the jurisdiction of traditional leadership, administered under Ingonyama Trust. Much of the land is within Maphumulo, Ndwedwe, Mandeni and at the north west of KwaDukuza. Of the 307 Traditional Councils in KZN 38 are in iLembe which has 34 traditional leaders 8 of them being landless leaders.

3. Social Development Profile

3.1 Key Social Demographics

Population

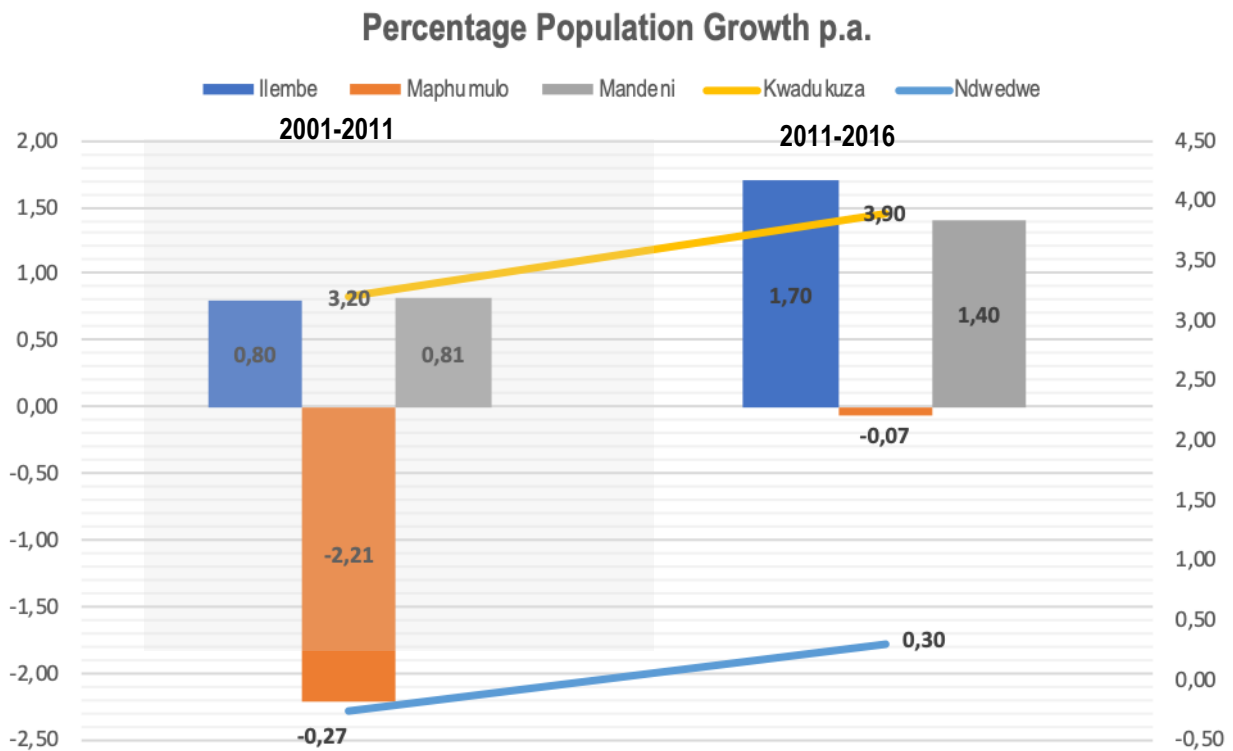
The 2019 Community Survey shows that the population in iLembe District has grown to 678,048 people. Currently by computation from figures from Global insights, the population has grown on average of 1,47% between 2009 and 2019. Which according to the KZN Citizens Satisfaction Survey (2018) makes iLembe the fastest growing population in KZN between 2007 and 2016. It has 15,7% share of the population changes in the province. This is significant since eThekwini’s share to growth has decreased by 0.9%.



In the 2016 municipal election there were 324 369 registered voters of which 64,7% turned out to vote in the 76 wards of the municipality. 29 are in KwaDukuza, 19 in Ndwedwe, 17 in Mandeni, and 11 in Maphumulo. The voter turn-out was higher than KZN’s average 61,48% and South Africa’s 57,95%.

Population dynamics within the District also show that when comparing data between 2001 and 2016, the rural municipalities of Maphumulo and Ndwedwe have seen a decrease in population. However, Ndwedwe is now experiencing an increase, but Maphumulo remains on a downward trajectory. Further, the rate of population growth has increased per annum in three of the four local municipalities

of iLembe, the overall growth rate having increased from 0.8% per annum to about 1.7% per annum. The long-term projections are that the district will register a 2% population growth rate meaning that there will be 883 663 people by 2030 and over 1,3million people by 2050.



Source: Stats South Africa Census 2001, 2011 & Community Survey 2016

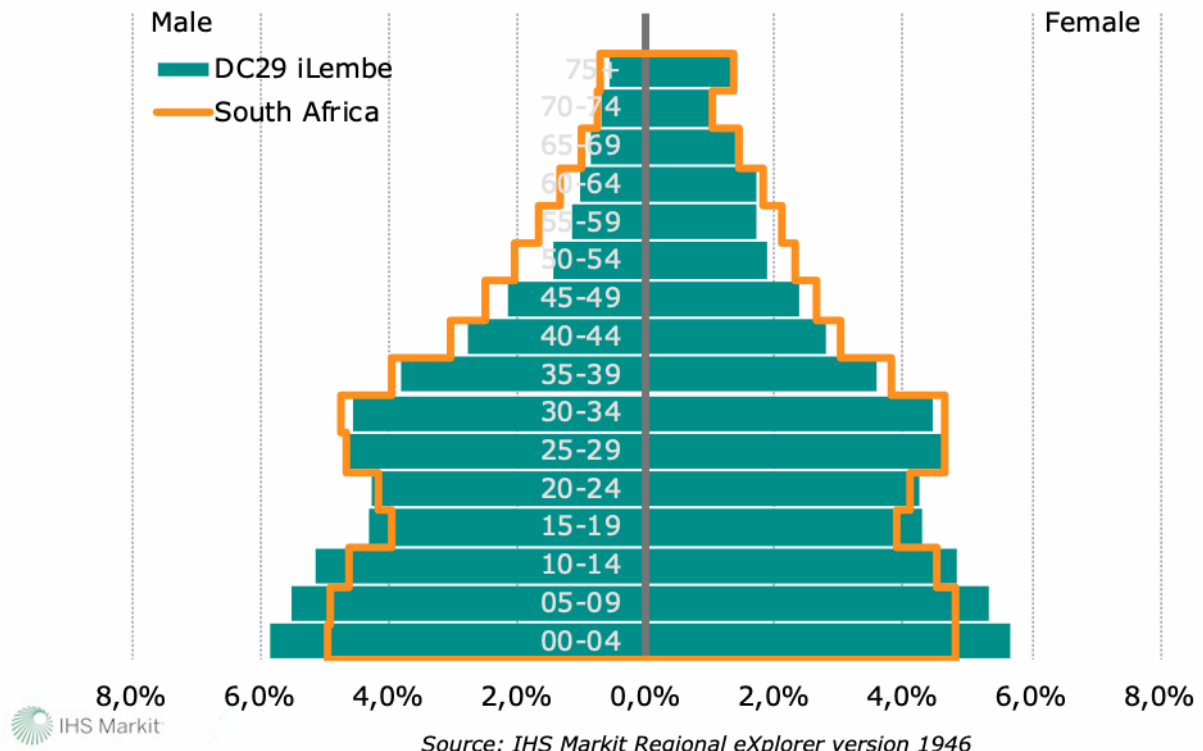
Gender, Age and Race

51,3% of the population are women, meaning that for every 100 females there are 92 males. KwaDukuza is the most even at almost an equal split between gender groups, Maphumulo is the most uneven with only 81 males for every 100 females.

**“ILEMBE THE FASTEST GROWING
POPULATION IN KZN BETWEEN
2007 AND 2016”**

Population structure, Total, 2019

DC29 iLembe vs. National



In iLembe 35,5% of the population is under the age of 15. KwaDukuza has the lowest percentage at 29% of those under 15 and Maphumulo has the highest percentage of the population under 15 years at 40%. The majority (59.9%) of people within the District are of working age.

In general, when comparing 2011 and 2016 statistics, the proportion of children under the age of 15 has declined, young people between 15 and 24 years have remained constant, youth between 25 and 34 have increased, those below sixty but above 35 have declined, and the age group of 65+ has risen.

Within the District, the percentage of black African people has shown a slight decrease than in 2001 declining for 91% to the present 89,2%. The white population is steadily increasing from 1,9% in 2001 to 3.4% in 2016. Between 2001 and 2011 the Asian population declined slightly, however between 2011 and 2016, the percentage has shown an increase from 6 to 6.9%. The Coloured population remains constant at 0.5% of the population.

Households

According to the Community Survey 2016, the number of households within iLembe District has risen to 191,369 from 157,692 in 2011. The rate of growth is 4.3% per annum. 73,9% of the citizens live in formal dwellings, 16,8% live in traditional dwellings and 8,5% are in informal dwellings. Whereas 87% and 86% of those living in Mandeni and KwaDukuza live in formal dwellings only 54% and 44% of those living in Ndwedwe and Maphumulo live in formal dwellings. 10% of the citizens living in KwaDukuza live in informal settlements, and 54% of those in Maphumulo live in traditional dwellings.

The District has also experienced an increase in the number of households which is not commensurate with the quantum of increase in population size, perhaps it is a result of the decrease in the average size of households, which shows a decrease from 3.8 to 3.4 between 2011 and 2016. The percentage of female headed households has risen from 45.8% to 47.1% which is above the national average of 41%. There are also about 614 child headed households in iLembe, the majority are located in Ndwedwe and Mandeni.

Municipality	Number of Households	Household Growth (% p.a.)	Average Household Size (2016)	Female Headed Households (%) 2016	Child Headed Households (2011)	
	(2016)	(2016)	Size (2016)	(%) (2016)	Number	%
iLembe	191,369	4.3%	3.4	47.1	614	0.4%
Maphumulo	20,524	0.6%	4.4	61.6	115	0.6%
Mandeni	45,678	3.9%	3.2	51.1	167	0.4%
KwaDukuza	91,284	6.0%	3.0	39.1	113	0.2%
Ndwedwe	33,883	3.2%	4.2	54.6	218	0.7%

Household statistics. Source: Stats SA 2011 Census & community survey, 2016

3.2 Health Profile

The leading cause of death for the those under 14 years of age are diarrheal diseases. 24% of the deaths of those aged between 15 and 64 are caused by TB. The second leading cause of death for those in that age category are HIV and Aids related deaths. The leading cause of death for the above 65 is Cerebrovascular disease (24,2%), this includes strokes. Lower respiratory infections feature one of the top ten causes of death in all age categories in the District.

There are 3 District hospitals which service iLembe. Two of them are in Maphumulo, uMphumulo and uNtanjambili, the latter shares a boundary with uMzinyathi. The other is Montebello in Ndwedwe which shares a boundary with uMgungundlovu District. Amatikulu Sick Home caters for TB patients and is run by the provincial government. There are two Community Health Care facilities one in Mandeni and the other in Ndwedwe, with one regional hospital in KwaDukuza (Stanger Hospital). There are two private health care hospitals one in KwaDukuza and the other in Mandeni. With a medical aid coverage of about 7,9% this underscores the deep inequality in the District. There are no tertiary hospitals in the district. In total there are 34 clinics with 11 in Maphumulo, 9 in KwaDukuza, 7 in Mandeni and 7 in Ndwedwe.

3.3 COVID 19

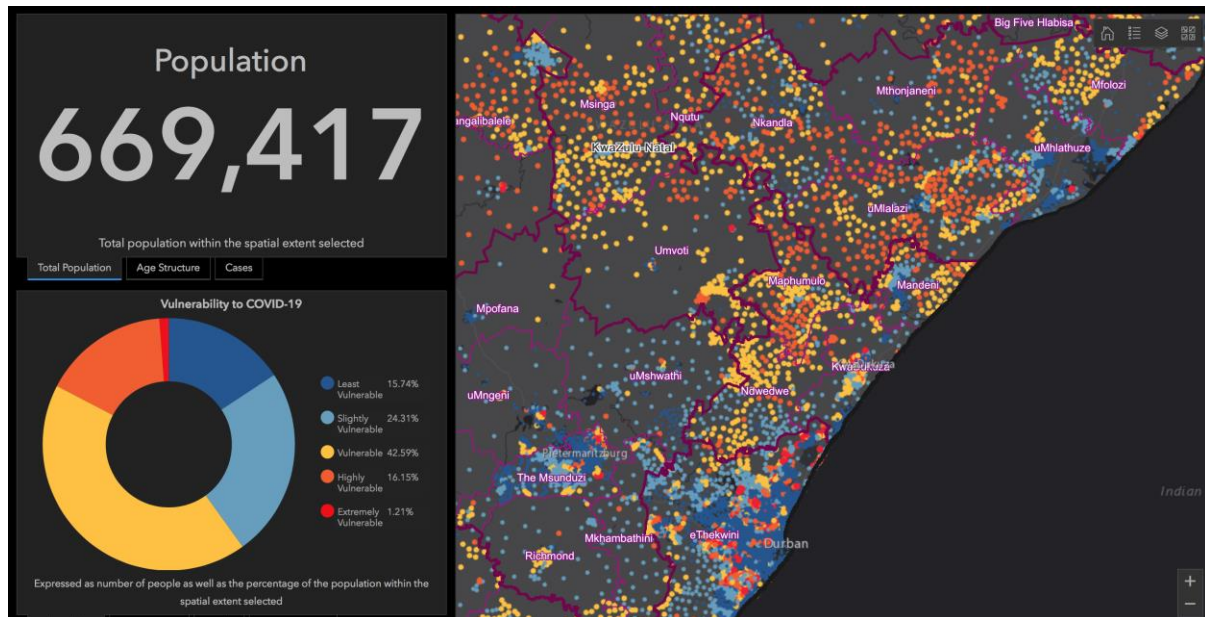
On the 12th June 2020, KwaZulu-Natal Province recorded 100 new cases, 30 cases less than what was reported a day before (11 June 2020). The province contributed only 3% of the new cases reported nationally.

As at 12 June 2020 there were 3 573 cases as well as 64 deaths and 1 572 recoveries in KZN. 715 of those cases were from iLembe, however of concern is the fact that though eThekweni Metro has the highest number of cases provincially, iLembe District has the highest infection rate (55.6 per 100 000 population) of the active cases.

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 Francis Baard vulnerability profile is presented

below. The map shows low vulnerability areas (blue dotted areas) versus areas with higher vulnerability (red dotted areas)



The area around KwaDukuza shows extreme vulnerability on account of it being the main economic hub. Area specific live GIS vulnerability maps are available courtesy of CSIR at:

<https://pta-gis-2-web1.csir.co.za/portal2/apps/opstdashboard/#/390a74fb10844c7a85396e60555a866d>

The district has one public quarantine facility at General Justice Gizenga Mpanza Regional Hospital, in Stanger, which has 113 available beds. The District Command Council is fully operational meeting at least once a week.

3.4 Poverty Dimensions

3.4.1 Distribution

Utilising the Upper Bound Poverty line of R1 227 per person per month 55% of the people in iLembe live below the poverty line. Living in a less developed and more rural area in iLembe means one is more likely to be poor with 70,6% of those living in Maphumulo and 70,3% of those living in Ndwedwe living below the line. In contrast those living below the line are 42,8% in KwaDukuza and 54,6% in Mandeni.

Nonetheless there has been a decrease in the number of people living in poverty over time. Maphumulo and Ndwedwe local municipalities have been experiencing some high levels of outward migration and focussed development attention,

consequently the poverty head count has decreased by about 5% between 2011 and 2016, but they still have the highest number of people living in extreme poverty. Mandeni and KwaDukuza have only decreased by less than 2 percent over the same period indicating the impact of population growth and inward migration flows.

3.4.2 Inequality

iLembe District is yet another display of the ‘African paradox’ with persistent inequality amid plenty. The Gini Coefficient Index is 0,61 and fortunes are largely dependent on where one lives (urban or rural). Taking into account the average Household size (3.4) and the food poverty line (R561 per person per month), means that over 63% of the households are living below the food poverty line. Over 84% of the wealth is with the hands of the top 8% of the population. Although the District Growth and Development Plan says up to 40% of citizens have no income, 13% of the population reported themselves as having no income according to the Census.

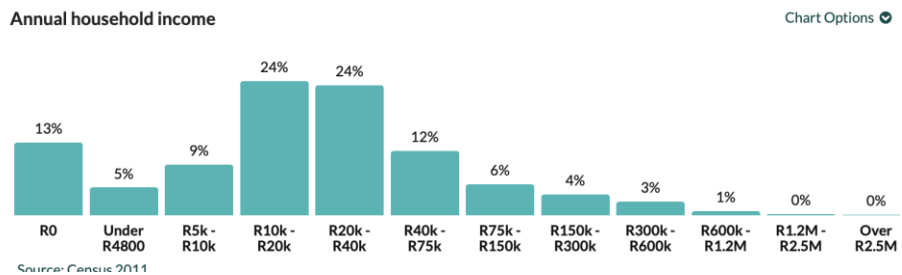
Annual household income

R14 600

Average annual household income

about half the amount in KwaZulu-Natal: R29 400

about half the amount in South Africa: R29 400



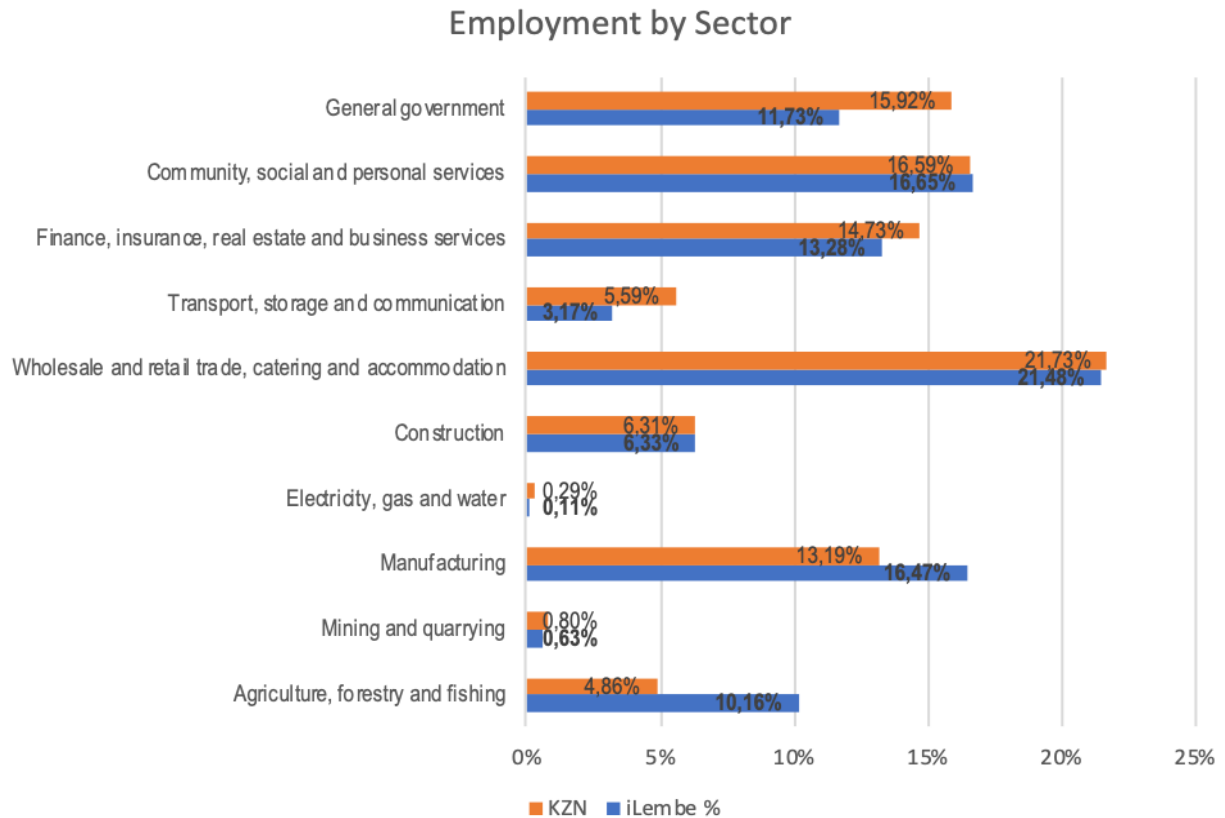
It is also significant that grants and subsidies constitute an average of 69,8% of total household income in the district, according to Stats SA. These grants and subsidies contribute 91,7% of household income in Ndwedwe, 80,8% in Maphumulo, 68,4% in Mandeni and only 15,6% in KwaDukuza.

3.4.3 Employment/ Unemployment

The unemployment patterns within the district closely mimic those of the province. There has been a general decline in unemployment in the District which had decreased by 17,4% between the two censuses from 48% in 2001 to 30,6% during the 2011 census. No other up to date figures exist. Youth unemployment also decreased by 18,6% from 55,8% to 37,2%, during the same period. Because and in line of the apartheid spatial design patterns youth unemployment is greatest in the more rural Maphumulo and Ndwedwe Municipalities at above 58% in both.

The employment rate in iLembe is 30.9% of the economically active population which is like KZN’s 31,5% and about 80% of South Africa’s employment rate of

38,87%. 47% of the population is not economically active and 8% are discouraged workers, which is 10% higher than KZN and about 1,5 times higher than the South African average. The combined Community services and government sector employs over 28% of the population. The wholesale, retail, trade, catering and accommodation sector is the biggest employer in the District.



Employment prospects are better in the more urban municipalities of KwaDukuza and Mandeni. 71% of the employed are in the formal sector, 19% are in the informal sector and 8% work in the domestic sector.

3.4.4 Crime

There are nine police stations situated in iLembe. The police stations have large areas and access is difficult for remote rural areas. The status quo has implications for vulnerability to criminal activity which adversely affects the quality of life in communities as well as economic development. KwaDukuza has by far the most incidence of reported crimes with the majority being burglary in residential areas. It also has the highest incidence of sex crimes and murder. There are also a higher number of drug related incidence in that police station. Stock theft is highest in the rural Maphumulo area.

“THERE ARE NINE POLICE STATIONS SITUATED IN ILEMBE”

Police Station	Murder	Tot sex crimes	Att Murder	Assault GBH	Common Robbery	Robbery Aggrav circum	Burglary non - res	Burglary res	Theft motor vehicle/cycle	Stock Theft	Illegal possession of weapons	Drug related crime	Car-jacking	Robbery at residential premises	Robbery at non - resident premises
Kwa-Dukuza	68	219	74	500	94	500	151	756	132	14	100	698	50	79	26
Glendale	0	16	6	41	2	11	4	27	7	6	7	46	1	5	2
Mandini	2	25	17	49	13	68	18	115	9	7	15	75	7	35	3
Maphumulo	23	51	19	126	34	55	28	159	11	110	39	25	3	31	8
Ndwedwe	18	84	18	229	24	86	38	110	20	35	35	76	7	44	8
Newark	7	27	10	28	1	16	3	47	9	5	9	36	1	5	5
Nsuze	18	42	11	98	16	60	60	81	13	35	54	76	5	36	5
Nyoni	13	34	8	105	16	57	62	79	5	16	41	52	4	17	4
Sundumbili	34	73	42	192	31	120	40	215	21	26	94	145	6	50	11
Umdlali	36	103	27	234	33	129	76	434	125	5	37	224	10	43	15
	219	674	232	1602	264	1102	480	2023	352	259	431	1453	94	345	87

3.5 Education and Skills Profile

According to Enterprise iLembe, about 46% of the population is unskilled or semi-skilled, 39% are skilled, 15% are highly skilled. According to the Census data, 32,4% of the citizens in iLembe have completed matric or have higher qualifications. 2% are in possession of an undergraduate degree and only 1% have higher. 15% have no education at all and 16% have some primary education.

Educational level

57.3% (191 537)

Completed Grade 9 or higher

about 90 percent of the rate in KwaZulu-Natal: 64.25% 3,770,328L

about 90 percent of the rate in South Africa: 65.83% 20,846,052L

32.4%

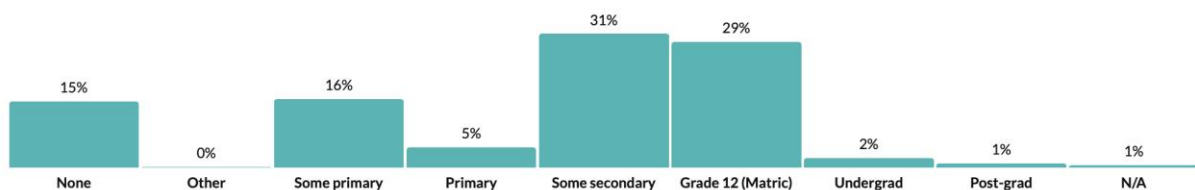
Completed Matric or higher

about 80 percent of the rate in KwaZulu-Natal: 39.31%

about 80 percent of the rate in South Africa: 39.34%

Population by highest educational level

Chart Options



* Universe: Individuals 20 and older
Source: Census 2011

There are three education circuits (Maphumulo, Ndwedwe, and Stanger) covering the 4 local municipalities of iLembe. There are 171 784 learners in 431 schools in the district. This constitutes 6,05% of learners and 6,98% of schools in the province. Three of the schools are private schools with 1 255 learners. There are 5 585 educators in the district, which constitutes 5,94% of educators in the province, 85 of them are in the private schools. There are 11 137 learners in Grade R which is offered in 288 facilities. In 2019 the iLembe matric pass rate was 80,9% which is an improvement from the 71,1% registered in 2018.

There is no university in the district but there are 3 further education and training facilities.

- (1) Umfolozi TVET College is a public institution which runs three campuses in iLembe offering:
 - (a) National Certificates and Diplomas in Clothing Production, Electrical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Fitting;
 - (b) Training in Electrical Infrastructure Construction, Auto Repair, Welding, Fitting & Machining, Millwrights, Office Administration, and Process Plant Operations;
 - (c) Skills and Artisan Training in Rigging, Electrical, and Fitting & Turning.
- (2) The Shakaland Technical College is a privately-run institution in KwaDukuza offering Mechanical, Electrical & Civil Engineering; Business, Public & Human Resources Management; and ECD.
- (3) KwaDukuza Technical College is privately run and offers Engineering Studies.

The iLembe Chamber of Business undertook a skills audit and requirements research amongst its members in July 2019, and it found that there was a big challenge “around technical skills and whose top priority in upskilling was of a technical nature. Priorities in terms of:

- (1) Trades are Millwrights: Electricians especially light current with electronics; Tool and Die Makers; Fitters, Riggers; and Injection Moulding Machine Setters;
- (2) Technical Professionals: Process Controllers (various sectors)
- (3) Professionals: Mechanical Engineers and Industrial Engineers

4. Drivers of the Economy

4.1 Structure of the Economy

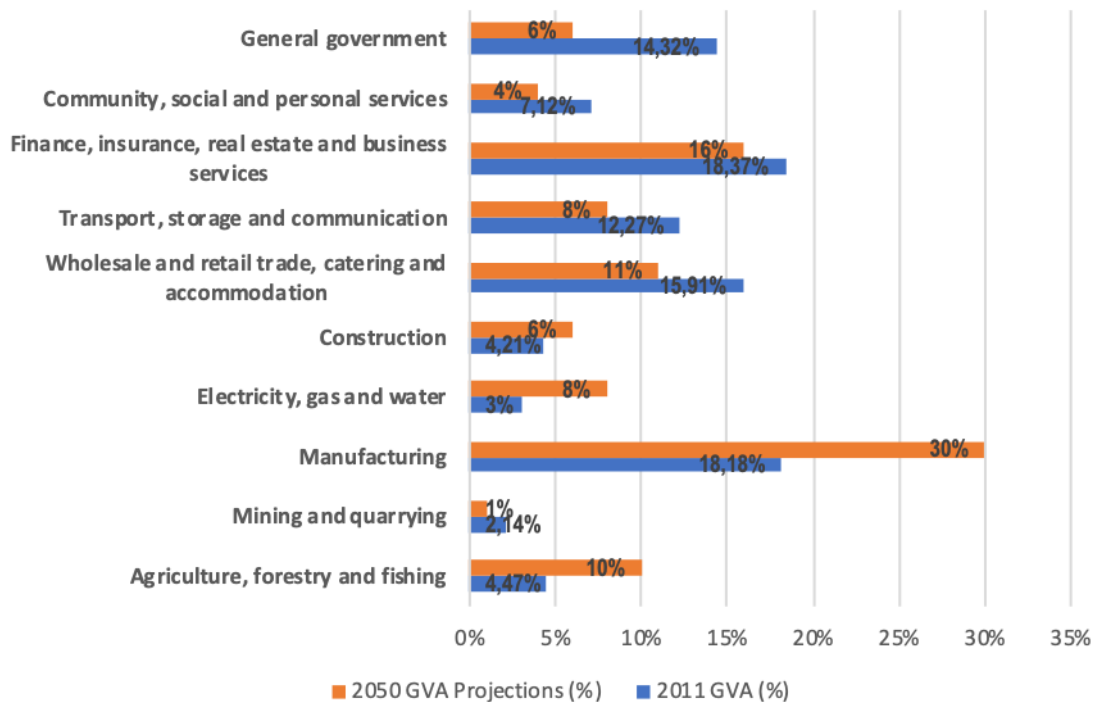
iLembe is located immediately to the north of the KZN economic powerhouse of the eThekweni Metro which contributes 52,8% to the KZN economy. Outside eThekweni, iLembe is the fifth biggest district economy of the ten district economies, contributing 8,15% to the KZN economy. The district is strategically located between two major African ports of Durban and Richards Bay. It is also dissected by the N2 National Highway which connects Durban and Richards Bay as well as the province to Swaziland and Mozambique. With King Shaka Airport and the Dube Trade Port within 10 kilometres of it is strategically located to drive trade especially when considering its four main economic drivers, which are:

- (1) Agriculture with its two distinct commercial and subsistence sub sectors.
- (2) Manufacturing which comprises of the (a) primary sector heavy industries with industries such as sugar and paper mill production in iSithebe Industrial Estate in Mandeni; and (b) secondary sector which includes light industries.
- (3) Tourism which is a consistently growing sector comprised of cultural and heritage, beach, and nature-based tourism.
- (4) Commerce and services which are concentrated in KwaDukuza and Ballito in the areas such as wholesale, transport, communications, finance, real estate, business services and government services.

Cardinal to the iLembe economy and its prospects is Agriculture which, sector contributes 10% of the jobs and 4,4% in value of the economy of the District. The General Value Add (GVA) of the manufacturing sector is about 18% which is lower than the provincial average of 22% and is like the eThekweni 18%. However, the bulk of manufacturing in the province happens in the neighbouring eThekweni.

**“ILEMBE CONTRIBUTES ABOUT
8% TO THE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL
YIELD OF THE PROVINCE.”**

GVA By Sector



The main urban cluster in the iLembe Region, is the coastal strip of Ballito, which according to the AfrAsia Bank SA Wealth Report for 2019 has named the Durban-Umhlanga-Ballito corridor as the fastest growing wealth market in South Africa with a 25% growth trajectory over the last decade. In comparison, Cape Town saw a 11% and Johannesburg a 9% wealth growth rate in the same period. This means that corridor is fast becoming a destination of choice for High Net Worth Individuals who are investing in property in the main. However, the wealth creation has not spread throughout the district with some trickles reaching the coastal areas of Mandeni, with limited or no consequence to Maphumulo and Ndwedwe.

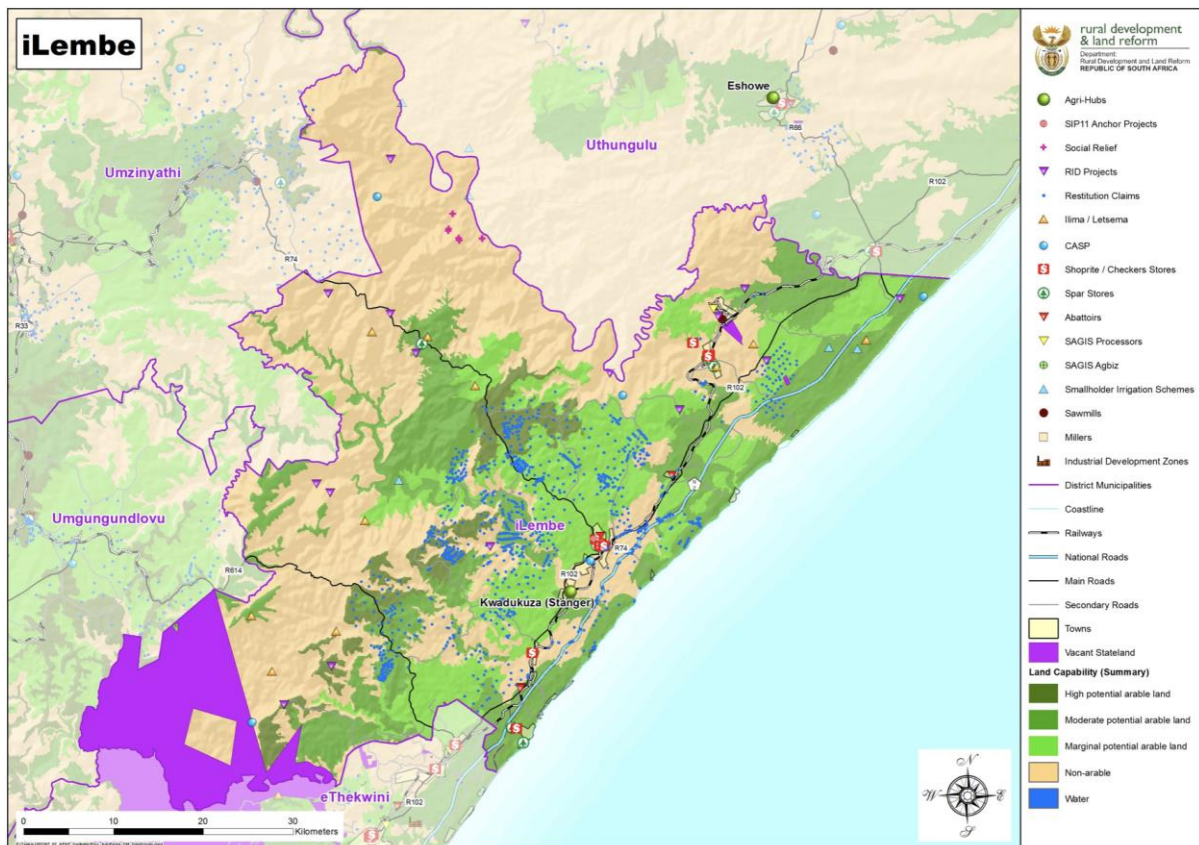
4.2 Primary Sector

Agriculture and Mining

According to the Economic Situation Overview of the province iLembe contributes about 8% to the total agricultural yield of the province. eThekweni contributes the most at 21%, whilst iLembe is joint fifth together with the Districts of uThukela and Ugu. The agriculture sector in iLembe is dominated by the large commercial sector which is largely based on sugar cane farming. This accounts for the shrinkage of the sector overtime since the sugar cane industry has been facing sustained contraction. Most of this activity happens in the flatter surfaced east end of the district with a concentration in Mandeni, extending to the west of Stanger and Groutville.

Other agricultural activities in the district include forestry, fruit and vegetable farming, tunnel farming and fresh cut flowers. Farmers are also diversifying into other crops, especially sub-tropical fruit and macadamia nut crops. There is also a drive to promote emerging farming in the area of nurseries. Other more specialised agricultural activities are to be found in the district such as aquaculture, essential oils related projects and cut flower production.

Due to the proximity of the area to the Dube Trade Port and eThekweni, there is potential to turn the marginal to high potential arable land to full production capacity. Unfortunately, the bulk of this land stretches the already developing coastal line along KwaDukuza and Mandeni locality, with some limited impact on the worse off Maphumulo and Ndwedwe. This implies the need to mobilise cooperative and community farming in those districts and available state land. Such an approach will require a skilling and focussed attention cooperative farming and financing, utilising the 35 cooperatives that are currently registered in the database of Enterprise iLembe. This could be enabled by ringfencing the supply of fruits and vegetables to cooperatives to the 428 public schools and 37 health facilities, amongst other government departments and service centres.



Source: http://www.dla.gov.za/phocadownload/Agri-parks/Agri-Hub_Toolkit/4-KwaZulu-Natal/Map17_iLembe.jpg

Other projects that may require further scaling up and support are largely driven by Enterprise iLembe, include, the (1) Vineyard and winery; (2) Agri-hubs projects- All four local municipalities are now home to hydroponic projects that focus on high value crops such as peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes; (3) Eight hydroponic greenhouses are being erected with co-operative management for vegetable growth; and (4) Biofuels production prompted by the decline of the sugar cane industry.

Through re-inventing the agricultural industry iLembe will benefit from continued growth in production and employment. Through investing in inventive ways to utilise rural assets such as land and labour, iLembe will be able to spread the benefits of this growth spatially. Through guided, strategic market interventions that are not based on push-factors but rather planned in due course, SMMEs will be empowered to take up opportunities created through value-adding. This will require the capacity building of emerging farmers.

4.3 Secondary Sector

Manufacturing, Construction, Tourism, Transport

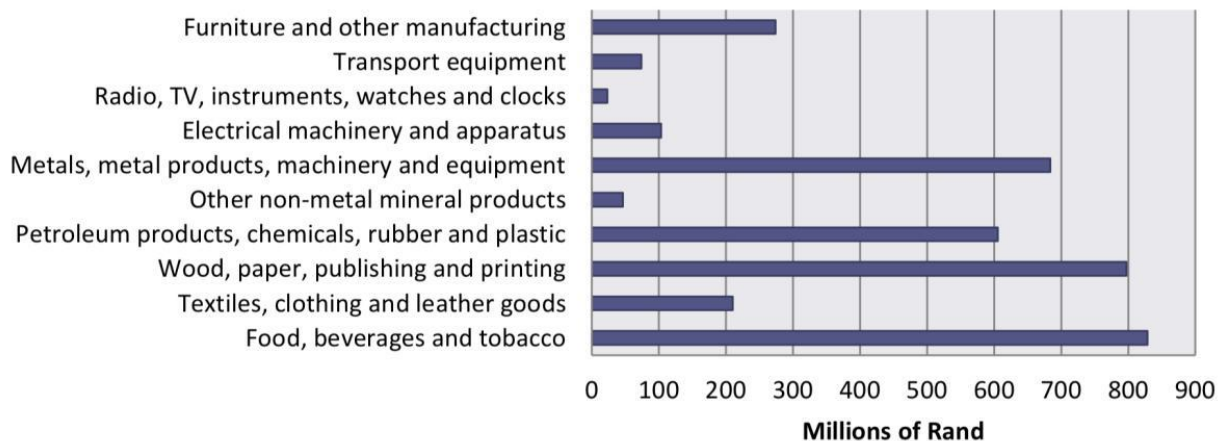
Manufacturing contributes 18,8% to the iLembe economy making it the second highest contributing sector following finance and real estate. Having been the leading sector the sector has been declining over the past ten years. The sector is also the third highest employer with 16,47% of those employed being employed in the sector, behind wholesale and retail (21,4%) and community and personal services (16,65%). The district is ideally placed on the Durban-Richards Bay corridor to benefit from manufacturing but is not spared from the prevailing national and international market conditions.

There are a number of industrial areas including the Ballito Business Park, Shaka's Head Industrial Park (Ballito), Shaka's Kraal Industrial Development and Stanger Industrial Development (Extension 15) with Agri-processing related industrial complexes, viz Darnall Sugar Mill, Mandeni Tugela Mill-Sappi Craft etc. Almost 45% of the 262 manufacturers in the District are in Isithebe, with a further 25% located in Stanger. This makes Mandeni the hub of manufacturing complexes in the district.

'Food, beverages and tobacco', followed by 'wood and paper'; 'metals and machinery'; and 'petroleum products, chemicals, rubber and plastics' are the biggest contributors to the manufacturing sector.

About 17 % of the manufacturing firms in the district are related to the textiles and clothing industry with 11% involved in furniture manufacturing and 10% being in timber related manufacturing.

Manufacturing, iLembe (2010)



Maphumulo and Ndwedwe are only responsible for 12% of this manufacturing whereas KwaDukuza produces 48% and Mandeni 40% of all manufacturing in the district. 70% of all textiles are manufactured in Mandeni while 67% of food products are manufactured in KwaDukuza. Other products are evenly split between Mandeni and KwaDukuza.

There are plans to proclaim a new industrial division of Isithebe – linked to the Richards Bay Special Economic Zone³. Based on new foreign investment. This will act as a huge catalytic project to stimulate further economic activity in the district.

The Compensation/Ballito area north of the King Shaka International Airport has been identified as a likely economic opportunity zone, especially for light industry due to its proximity to the Dube Trade port and Durban.

KwaDukuza town and its surroundings have been identified areas for medium sized industry. Mandeni has been proposed as a development area for heavy industry. It is also the site of the Isithebe Industrial Estate, which continues to be an effective manufacturing hub, offering cost-effective production space to prospective investors. The Sappi Paper Mill is the largest single manufacturer in Mandeni. Critical to these plans is the integration of the plans of eThekwini and uMgungundlovu as these would be the immediate markets beyond the district market.

iLembe is neighboured by eThekweni which is the third most visited city behind Johannesburg and Cape Town. In 2018 eThekweni received an estimated 4,9million visitors with 3,7million of them being overnight. In the period between July 2018 and June 2019 iLembe received 1,09 million visitors, up from 828 000 in the previous year. 790 528 of them were overnight visitors and 300 979 were day visitors.

On average overnight visitors spent R4 135.70 per stay and day visitors spent R500 per visit. Thus, total expenditure by visitors was R3,42 billion. 62,2% of the visitors came on holiday, 12,2% were Visiting Friends or Relatives. The rest came for shopping, weddings, business and conferencing in that order. The day visitors came for shopping in the main. 69% of the visitors were domestic tourists, 18% were international tourists and 13% were from KZN. 64% of the domestic tourists came from Gauteng, 17% came from KZN, 7% came from the Free State, 4% came from the Eastern Cape and 4% came from Mpumalanga. 20,45% of international visitors came from Germany, 20% the UK, 10,7% from the Netherlands, 10,2% from the USA, and 10,2% from China. Only 4,4% came from India. From an African perspective 7,6 came from Swaziland, 7,1% came from Mozambique, 4,4 from Zimbabwe, 4% from Lesotho, and 3,6% from Botswana.

**“THE KING SHAKA HERITAGE ROUTE
SHOULD CONNECT WITH OTHER
ATTRACTIONS FURTHER INLAND.”**

The key tourism attraction falls in the rubric of the KZN Tourism established product known as the North Coast/Dolphin Coast which stretches from Zimbali to the Thukela River. Tourism activities are generally concentrated along the coast in nodes such as Ballito and Salt Rock. The tourism in KwaDukuza is largely driven by real estate, which explains the occupancy rates of B&Bs at peak season. Consequently, the average discerning visitor into the district prioritises privacy. Thus, there is significant private sector investments in tourism and residential related development along the coast, with landmark developments such as Zimbali, Simbithi, Nonoti Mass Beach Resort and Blythedale Beach, all of which posture as environmentally friendly developments. Nonetheless, developments are still limited to KwaDukuza but are slowly moving northwards with planned developments such as the Blythedale Coastal Resort and Nonoti Mass Beach Resort leading the way.

The pristine beaches and sites along the Dolphin Coast, fishing excursion on the Tugela Mouth, Nkwazi and Shaka's Rock are some of the main attractions. As are the two nature reserves; the Harold Johnson and Amatikulu Nature Reserves. The District also hosts many heritage sites, which includes the King Shaka Heritage Route (which includes the burial site of King Shaka, the Ultimatum Tree and the battle ground for the fight between Princes Cetshwayo and Mbuyazi) and the Chief Albert Luthuli Museum. These routes are complemented by sporting tourism with the anchor event being the Mr. Price Pro Surfing Competition hosted in Ballito. The Tugela Mouth also services as a fishing paradise. The district also has many world class golf courses including the Umhlali Golf Resort, Fairmont Zimbali Resort, and the Prince's Grant Golf Estate.

However, most of these serve the higher end of the market, which unfortunately has not impacted on the rural hinterland. It is important that east-west linkages are created in order to attract tourists from the coast to the inland areas. Consequently, the current routes need to be expanded inland in order to create opportunities for SMMEs with regard to accommodation, arts and crafts retail and food outlets. Development of the King Shaka Route should link in with other cultural routes such as the Bambata Heritage Route in Ndwedwe. Other tourist attractions that need to be marketed along these routes include the Shembe pilgrimage, Impi meeting sites, Kwa Loshe Forrest and Kwa Shu Shu hot springs.

These will require route development as well as entrepreneurial and tourism guide training which should be boosted by increased access to information through information Kiosks, amongst others. The King Shaka Heritage Route should connect with other attractions further inland. Adventure tourism routes should be created with trained tour guides. Information centres should be linked so that tourists are properly informed at all times. A north-south inland road will aid connectivity. Opportunities exist for off-road adventure tourism such as 4x4, motorbike, and hiking trails. Tours of traditional farming practices and lifestyles could also be given. Guides need to be trained up to take guests on walking trails, rural tours, and to each of the attractions mentioned above.

Arts and crafts are currently being collected from all the local municipalities and sold at a satellite hub that is located in Sangweni Centre, Ballito. This hub is strategically located as Ballito is one of the booming tourist destinations in the North Coast. The tourism sector is growing in the region and has offerings such as cultural and beach tourism as well as nature-based tourism.



Thugela Mouth, Ilembe

4.4 Tertiary Sector

Finance, Commerce and Business Services

The commercial sector is mostly concentrated in the KwaDukuza, Ballito and Mandeni/Sundumbili areas with limited development of the sector in the rural service nodes of Maphumulo and Ndwedwe. The redistribution of commercial services in the District is an opportunity area for the growth of the commercial sector in the district. The status quo is characterised by unequal distribution of the sector with rural residents facing various obstacles. These range from road conditions, distance to nodes as well as cost and time in accessing commercial services.

The tertiary sector contributes the highest to the gross value add (GVA) within the district followed by the secondary sector and lastly the primary sector. Manufacturing contributed the highest to gross value add at 29.17% in 2010 followed by the Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business services sector at 19.85%. This, however, changed in 2011 with the latter sector contributing 18.37% and the manufacturing sector 18.18% indicating a decline in the manufacturing fortunes within the period. iLembe's best manufacturing performance is in Radio, TV, instruments, watches, and clocks products and in non-metallic mineral products. Within services, finance and insurance is the fastest growing sector.

Although the transport, storage and communications sector is predicted to decline from contributing 12,27% to 8% by the year 2050, its strategic importance to the economy of the District should not be underestimated. The SEACOM submarine telecoms cable systems which connects South Africa to the rest of Africa has only two landing points in the country one of which is located in iLembe and the other is in the Western Cape. This gives the district access to high speed internet and makes for viable distribution. Enterprise iLembe has also launched a broadband project using access to undersea fibre optic cabling to provide fast internet to inland areas in Maphumulo and Ndwedwe. This will enable the building of ICT hubs in rural areas that give the students access to the internet for, among other things, job searching purposes and provision of IT training opportunities.

Already ICT businesses are locating themselves in the Ballito area. This cabling allows for Ballito and the North Coast to become an information technology hub. Other high-end techno businesses will tend to cluster in this area. Ballito and its surroundings have the potential to become a research and development hub, with emphasis on ICT. However, this ought to be complementary to the province's planned technology hubs in Pietermaritzburg, Newcastle, Port Shepstone and

Richards Bay, given that iLembe is also located on the SIP 2 corridor together with Port Shepstone and Richards Bay.

The absence of a university in the area could be met through the development of a higher education centre focussed on ICT and innovation, either through the extension of current institutions in the province or the formation of a new institution which should maintain links with the existing FETs. Consequently, linkages should also be created with the Moses Kotane Science and Technology Institute which is located in La Mercy and established to address skilling in the ICT, Leadership and Maritime sectors as well as the Durban University of Technology which is a trail blazer in the province in the ICT sector.

Through strategic marketing, the North Coast has the potential to become an ICT mecca. Emphasis should be placed on attracting research and development, and high-end technology businesses to business parks which will be the first choice to businesses due to their strategic clustering, proximity to King Shaka International Airport, high speed fibre optic cabling, and access to a coastal lifestyle.

4.5 Informal Sector

The District Growth and Development Plan and Strategies recognise the need to close the rural/urban divide. The settlement patterns of the region are unsustainable and inefficient. Formal commercial and industrial activities are concentrated in KwaDukuza/Stanger, Ballito, and Mandeni area. Both KwaDukuza and Ballito continue to benefit from rural areas of other small towns of the district as they perpetually move to search for better life and economic opportunities. The district has in the past 3 years attempted to capture the intricacies around livelihood strategies, growth and development in small towns and nodes by introducing promising stimulus as reflected in the regional spatial plan (2013) and more recent attempts to define the spatial intricacies embedded or underpinning the nature of rural towns and nodes.

In contrast the rural areas of Maphumulo, Bamshela and Ndwedwe are underdeveloped thus providing an opportunity for spatial economic stimuli to prevent rural sprawl, whilst investing in the industrialisation and diversification in agriculture. This has been partially achieved in Mandeni which was historically deep rural but with sustained investments in industrial production it has inspired and improved the livelihoods for people of Mandeni.

5. Service Delivery

5.1. Water and Sanitation

While 75,1% of the population are getting water, only 18% of the households have piped water inside the dwelling. 22% get water in the yard, 26% still rely on communal taps and 17% still fetch their water in a river. According, to the Universal Access Plan for Water Services in the District 48 533 households need water. Which translates to about 30.78% of households in the district. Significantly, 65.37% of the households in Maphumulo and Ndwedwe need water. The water shortages are exacerbated by the numerous new development applications driven by the property boom in the Ballito area and surroundings. Hopefully, the pilot desalination plant in Ballito can address this in the longer run.

The urban areas have proper water borne sanitation systems, but the peri-urban and rural areas rely on pit latrines or no system at all. This places tremendous strain on the environment and poses a health risk. Only 23% of the citizens have access to flush toilets. 45% of the population still rely on pit toilets and 2,3% of the population has no access to any toilets.

5.2 Human Settlements

The iLembe District is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the province, with Mandeni and KwaDukuza experiencing the highest levels of population growth and Maphumulo and Ndwedwe experiencing population decline. This pattern has a direct impact on the demand for housing especially in Mandeni and KwaDukuza. Because of inward migration into KwaDukuza from other municipalities of the district, and beyond, it faces an estimated housing backlog of 37 000 low income units. In addition to this it is estimated that an additional 16 000 units of affordable housing are required, together with 10 000 units of social housing and community residential units. 5 000 units are also required for the elderly.

5.3 Sanitation Management

Only 30,4% of the households are receiving refuse disposal from either a local authority, private company, or some community members. The Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) has been drafted in all Local Municipalities, which intends

to provide the extension of waste management services to areas which are not currently serviced by municipalities, notably in rural areas. It is necessary to implement the recommendation as included in the implementation plan of the IWMP.

5.4 Roads and Transport

Only 49km of roads have been built or replaced since 2011/12, this is even though the municipality must maintain about 449km of roads and construct new roads. In general, 50% of the roads can be deemed to be in good condition, 22% medium, 20% poor and about 8% in very bad condition. The apartheid legacy persists in this regard, since 70% of the roads located in KwaDukuza are in good condition, in contrast most of the roads in Maphumulo are rural roads and are of inferior quality.

5.5 Electricity

According to the Household Survey, 70% of the households have access to electricity through an in-house prepaid metre and 11% still have a conventional in-house metre. 15,3% of the households still do not have electricity which is double the South Africa average and 1,4 times the KZN average.

“THE ILEMBE DISTRICT IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PROVINCE”

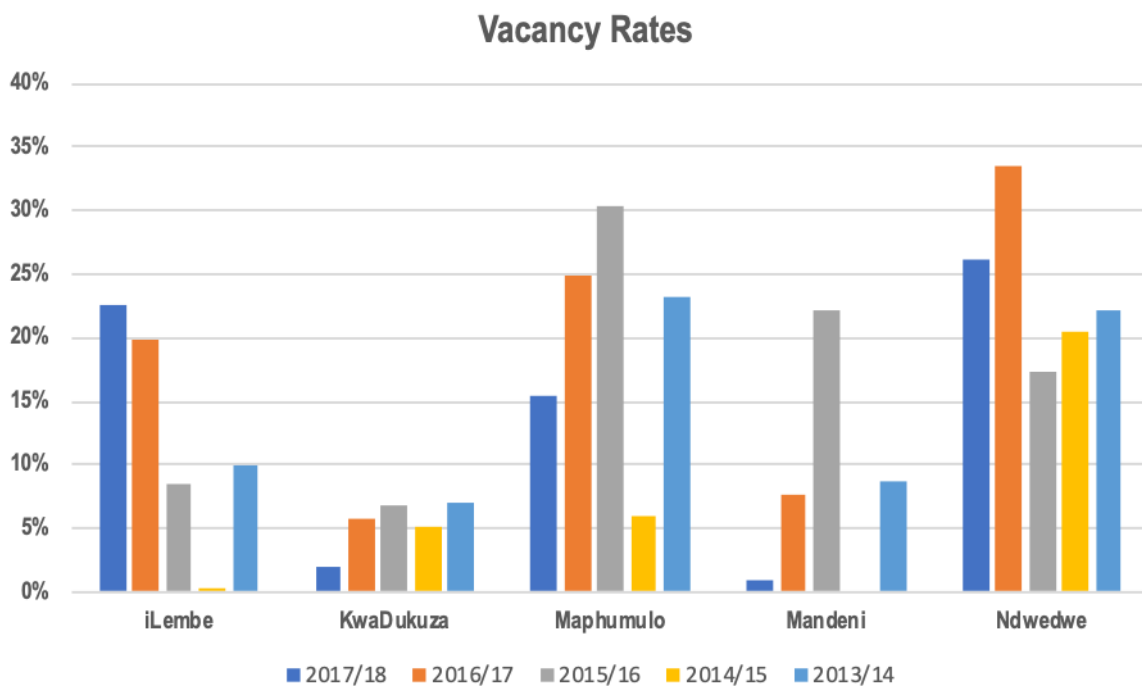
6. Governance and Management

6.1 Municipal Performance

In general, the iLembe District Municipality has been relatively well run receiving clean audits in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Financial Years and Unqualified Audits in 2016/17 and 2017/18. The Chartered Institute of Government Finance, Audit and Risk Officers (CIGFARO) awarded iLembe as one of the Best performing District Municipalities in terms of Leadership, Financial and Performance management, Governance, and compliance. The Mandeni Local Municipality received clean audits in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Financial Years and Unqualified Audits in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 Financial Years. KwaDukuza, Maphumulo, and Ndwedwe Local Municipalities have received Unqualified Audits since the 2014/15 Financial Year.

6.2 Municipal Capacity

The 2018 annual report for the District Municipality shows that from an establishment of 766 employees there is a growing vacancy rate at 22,58%, up from the 0,367 recorded during the 2014/15 Financial Year. The highest vacancies are in the Finance and Administration Departments at 68 out of the 263 existing posts, giving a 25,8% vacancy rate. The highest vacancy rate is at the executive administration level where 3 of the 5 (40%) positions have been filled. This is followed by the Community and Social Services area with a 35% vacancy rate.



In general, the 2014/15 financial year showed the better performance in the District and across municipalities in relation to vacancies with all municipalities recording the lowest vacancy rates with Mandeni recording zero vacancies and the District Municipality showing a 0,37% vacancy. Maphumulo and Ndwedwe show the highest vacancy rates, which is consistent with the thesis that rural municipalities find it hard to attract and retain skills.

KwaDukuza has the largest workforce with 1 002 employees. It also has the second lowest vacancy rate at 1,9%. Its highest vacancy rate is in the Road Transport Departments with only 8 vacancies from the 44 positions (4,5%). The highest vacancy rate (26,25%) in the District are in Ndwedwe with 118 positions filled from the 160-employees establishment. The highest vacancies are seen in the Public Safety (75%) and Electricity (62%) Divisions of the Ndwedwe Municipality.

A skills assessment and skills audit exercise needs to be undertaken in the District and its municipalities. This would assess the planned and required growth strategies against the skills and experience available to the district. Key will be skills in relation to engineering, transport management, environment management and community and social services which seem to be lacking in the district and most of its localities.

Such an assessment will also consider experience and skills related to (1) Development Planning; (2) Economic and Social Development, (3) Coastal Zone Management and Rural Planning experience; (4) Sound experience in working with Traditional Authorities; (5) Sound Participatory Planning experience; (6) Thorough understanding of strategic planning process, and Design; (7) Proven Regional Plan compilation experience; (8) Understanding of the interrelationship between social, economic, land development, transport and environmental issues; (9) Sound GIS proficiency; (10) Project Management; (11) Facilitation and translation skills; (12) Research, analytical, writing and communication skills; (13) Strategic planning and execution and (14) Development Communication Media and innovative approaches.

6.3 Traditional Affairs Governance

There is a key challenge is the implementation of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA), since, a significant amount of the land is tribal land.

The District has a Local House of Traditional leaders consisting of thirty-eight (38) traditional councils. All the local houses of traditional leadership have meet once a quarter so do EXCOs.

***“KWADUKUZA HAS THE
LARGEST WORKFORCE WITH
1 002 EMPLOYEES”***

7. Projects to Diversify and Grow People and the Economy

7.1 Social Development Projects

iLembe District Municipality as a government sphere that is closest to the citizens has several programmes that promote social cohesion and nation building. Such programmes include the SALGA Games programmes for the youth, the Golden Games for Senior Citizens of the district. In the area of sports development, the district also continues to assist various sporting confederations with transport, meals, attires and registration fees to partake in both local and International tournaments.

iLembe District Municipality, in promoting nation building and social cohesion of its citizenry, also supports cultural events such as the annual Umkhosi we Lembe, Eid, Diwali, Reed Dance, Indigenous Games to mention but a few. The various programmes that are being implemented for the vulnerable groups seek to contribute towards nation building and create social cohesion.

7.2 Spatial Development

Kwazulu-Natal's economic development strategy advocates for iLembe to be a regional industrial Agro-economic hub with renewable energy elements as it focuses on smart technology manufacturing, high-end tourism, and information technology. Key Catalytical projects include the Resort Corridor Development; High Value Agriculture for Export and Agro-Processing incorporating Biofuels. From a tourism generation perspective, the development of Eco, Battlefields and Cultural Heritage Tourism Routes is prioritised. This will require Industrial Regeneration, Small Town Regeneration, Infrastructure investment, and Rural Development. Fortunately, a solid governance and accountability environment exists with the District Municipality and its locals having consistently received clean or unqualified audits since the 2014/15 financial years.

7.3 Infrastructure Projects

Central to the development of the economy and to the role of local government in the LED environment is the provision and development of key economic infrastructure projects and their continued repair and maintenance. In June 2018, the iLembe Growth and Development Summit identified several important infrastructure issues

and made recommendation in addressing those aspects. The following key focus areas were identified:

- Intermodal Facilities (Mandeni and KwaDukuza).
- Roads Infrastructure.
- Rail Transport and Infrastructure.
- Water and Sanitation.
- Energy.
- ICT and Broadband.

7.4 Economic Projects

To get iLembe on a sustainable growth path the economy must be diversified, and the rural/urban divide should be closed. This needs to be anchored on agriculture, manufacturing, real estate, and tourism and supported by construction, finance, and ICT. This will require a clustering of economic opportunities which can support sustainable economic diversity. Clustering will rationalise land use for sustainable energy and waste treatment, whilst creating a base for SMMEs. In line with District's Spatial Development Framework (SDF) this must also ensure that iLembe is connected, attractive, sustainable, and well managed.

7.5 Environmental forecasts

For years environmental education has been used a strategy to promote sustainability principles and environmental management within the District. The iLembe District Municipality working with different sector departments which provide education, awareness, and capacity building programmes within the District, has developed an Education and Awareness Plan to conduct awareness activities. These sectors include Umgeni Water, Environmental Affairs, Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Department of Water and Sanitation, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Working on Water, Working on Fire, Department of Education. The planned initiatives are gearing towards strengthening the knowledge base of environmental management across all societal groups and sectors throughout the District. The plan is attached below:

The environmental calendar days have been included in the district-wide plan to ensure that there are education activities taking place during these environmental special days in the district as a form creating awareness on environmental related matters. These are, amongst others: Arbour day, Wetlands Week, Water Week,

Environmental Week, International Coastal Clean-up, Arbour Month, Desertification day, Weed buster Week, Recycling Day, Marine Month, etc.

Efforts have been made on environmental education and awareness, to date the focus has been on Schools. It important to include other partners such as the community, Amakhosi, and other Community Based Organisations to:

- Promotion of land stewardship and food growing programs.
- Implementation of local tourism projects.
- Implementation of sustainable production of traditional medicines.
- Implementation of local waste collection/recycling initiatives.
- Implementation of the recommendations of the fishing harbour study.
- Supporting alternative business models such as cooperatives and community associations.

**TO GET ILEMBE ON A
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH PATH
THE ECONOMY MUST BE DIVERSIFIED,
AND THE RURAL/URBAN DIVIDE
SHOULD BE CLOSED.**

8. Key Recommendations

8.1 Prioritise Integrated Development Plan

The critical importance of the One Plan for the iLembe District Municipality space will be to ensure that there is joint action on how government respond to the developmental challenges in the area. In this regard, iLembe in positioning itself as an agriculture hub will have to make trade-offs with the eThekweni metro which is currently the largest agriculture contributor to the KZN economy. This will require that it complements the production in eThekweni by emphasising on its competitive areas such as manufacturing (Agro-processing and technology) and specialising in key

areas such as the fruit, cut flower and other niche agriculture sectors whilst investing in the bio fuel and energy space. These would also form a building block towards complementing the economy in the equally important and strategic Richards Bay.

The KZN Growth Strategy seeks to bring about these trade-offs and specialisations. To this end in also exploring its ICT role the District ought to explore complementary roles it can play with other further of municipalities and towns, such as Newcastle which has been identified as an ICT hub. Planning in the context of this district requires collaborative building. One such opportunity is presented by the 57-month programme with the Swiss government, iLembe Chamber of Commerce, KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), National Treasury, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), which adopts a programmatic approach for Local Economic Development.

