In the shadow of the Drakensberg lies this Custodian of the Battlefields Region of the Zulu Kingdom. With its deep river gorges, wetlands and valley bushveld it is set to be a growing Eco-Resource Production Region
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UMZINYATHI DISTRICT
BY NUMBERS

568 284
POPULATION

8,652km²
LANDSIZE

GENDER
♀ 54.3%
♂ 45.7%

EDUCATION
NO SCHOOLING 52,128
MATRIC ONLY 67,060
MATRIC & DEGREE 5,662

66% SHARE BELOW LOWER POVERTY LINE
29.4% UNEMPLOYMENT

4238 COVID-19 INFECTIONS
(17/6/2020)

HOME TO ISANDWLWANA,
THE HISTORIC ANGLO-ZULU
WAR BATTLE SITE

ECONOMIC DRIVERS
COMMUNITY SERVICE
FINANCE 2
TRADE 3

NEXT BIG THING
Effective agrarian practices and enterprise development programmes that focus on natural resource restoration and custodianship.
1. Executive Summary

The uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24) is one of the ten districts of KwaZulu-Natal. The municipality shares a boundary to its north with the Amajuba district municipality, uThukela district municipality to the west, to the south west uMgungundlovu district municipality, to the south east iLembe district municipality and King Cetshwayo district municipality to the east. The district consists of four local municipalities, namely Endumeni, Nquthu, Msinga and uMvoti.

In 2019, uMzinyathi district municipality has a population of 568 284 an increase from 561 378 in 2018. The population growth rate of 1.2%, a decrease from the previous years. The district had its lowest growth rate in 2012 at 1.0%. This changed from 2013 when the growth rate recovered at 1.1%.

The district had a total number of 126 790 households and 74 726 (58.9%) women headed households. uMzinyathi has 2 230 child-headed households and 32% of the child-headed households are headed by females. 57% of the child-headed households are in traditional dwellings.

Within uMzinyathi district, the leading illness is HIV/AIDS in adults (15-64). The number of HIV positive people have increased since 2006 by just 1% to 14% in 2016. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death for the 5-14 age group at 15.8%, 15-34 age group at 22.0% and the 25-64 age group at 24.9%.

As at 17 June 2020 there were 4 238 confirmed cases as well as 73 deaths and 2 133 recoveries in KZN. There are four quarantine facilities in uMzinyathi district with 47 beds combined and all of the sites have been activated as at 29 May 2020.

Using the lower poverty line, there are 66.0% of the population whom are living in poverty in uMzinyathi district. The most poverty-stricken areas in the district are found in Nquthu (75.2%) and Msinga (71.9%).

The main economic drivers in the district were community services (32.0%), finance (17.3%), trade (14.4%) and transport at 9.4%.

The district municipality together with Endumeni local municipality have been placed under section 139 intervention.
2. Brief overview

2.1. Location

The uMzinyathi District Municipality (DC24) is one of the ten districts of KwaZulu-Natal. The municipality shares a boundary to its north with the Amajuba district municipality, uThukela district municipality to the west, to the south west uMgungundlovu district municipality, to the south east iLembe district municipality and King Cetshwayo district municipality to the east.

The municipal area is 8079 km² and is characterised by extensive variation with deep river gorges, rolling grasslands, extensive wetlands, hills and valley bushveld. These characteristics make the development of infrastructure difficult and costly particularly in the steep terrain.

The district consists of four local municipalities, namely Endumeni, Nquthu, Msinga and uMvoti.

- **Endumeni local municipality**, is the smallest of all the local municipalities and unlike the other local municipalities, there is no tribal authority land. The town of Dundee is the seat of uMzinyathi district and has the main economic activities ranging from retail trade, tourism and farming. Glencoe serves as a secondary
centre to Dundee. Tourism in the municipality based on the cultural heritage of the Zulu Kingdom and “Battlefields” sites.

- **Nquthu local municipality**, Nquthu is an isiZulu name meaning ‘the back of the head’. The municipality is home to the Isandlwana, the historic Anglo-Zulu War battle site. Nquthu is predominantly rural in nature, with expansive rural settlements. It is mainly accessed through the R68 linking Ulundi to Newcastle/Dundee.

- **Msinga local municipality**, is predominantly rural, with 70% of its area being traditional authority land held in trust by the Ingonyama Trust. It is based on subsistence economies with cultural heritage areas that attract some tourists but need to be substantially developed. The main towns are Pomeroy and Tugela Ferry.

- **uMvoti local municipality**, comprises five traditional authority areas and the main town in the municipality is Greytown. Umvoti is the agricultural centre of the district and contributes substantially to the economic viability of the district.

uMzinyathi district municipality, in conjunction with its north western neighbour Amajuba municipality, is branded as the “custodian” of the “Battlefields region of the Zulu Kingdom”. The “Battlefields of the Zulu Kingdom” are located in the hinterland
and lie “in the shadow” of the majestic Drakensberg mountains spanning the western boundary of KwaZulu-Natal. This branding is of international and regional significance.

The district lies between the main N3 corridor between Durban and Gauteng and the Coastal Corridor, running along the east coast.

The Ingonyama Trust Board (ITB) owns approximately 40.11% of uMzinyathi district municipality land amounting to 344,479 hectares. Prospective land developments on this land require approval from the ITB and relevant Traditional Authorities.

uMzinyathi is characterised by complex and intricate land tenure reform challenges. These include farm dwellers whose land rights are protected in terms of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act. These are households that are established within commercial farms but their members are no longer providing labour to the farm. Although these households may not be evicted unless an ESTA process has been followed, their land tenure remains insecure. Approximately 860.43ha of land has been acquired for land tenure reform (DRDP 2018).

UmVoti is the agricultural centre of the district and contributes substantially to the economic viability of the district.

3. Social Development

3.1. Key Demographics

3.1.1. Population and Household Profile

In 2019, uMzinyathi district municipality has a population of 568,284 an increase from 561,378 in 2018. The population growth rate of 1.2%, a decrease from the previous years. The district had its lowest growth rate in 2012 at 1.0%. This changed from 2013 when the growth rate recovered at 1.1%.

The population within the uMzinyathi district is unevenly spread with Msinga local municipality having the highest population numbers of 184,494 (33.3%), Nquthu with
a population of 171 325 (30.9%), Umvoti with a population of 122 423 (22.1%) and Endumeni at a population of 76 639 (13.8%).

The district had a total number of 126 790 households and 74 726 (58.9%) women headed households. uMzinyathi has 2 230 child-headed households and 32% of the child-headed households are headed by females. 57% of the child-headed households are in traditional dwellings.

3.1.2. Age and Gender Profile

uMzinyathi district has a median age of 19 years. There are more females at 54.3% than males at 45.7%. The largest share of the population is within the young children (0-14 years) age category with a total number of 222 883 (39.2%). This share is larger in uMzinyathi compared to South Africa 29.1%. The age category with the second largest number of people is the young working age (15-34 years) age category with a total share of 31.5%, and the retired/old age category (65 years and older) at 6.04%.

The majority of the people that live in the uMzinyathi district municipality are Africans (97%) while the other population groups (Coloured, Indian/Asian and White) are at 1% each. 92% of the population speak isiZulu, followed by English at 2%, Sesotho at 2% and Afrikaans at 1%. 
3.2. Health

The morbidity rate is the frequency rate at which a disease or illness appears in the population and geographic area. Within uMzinyathi district, the leading illness is HIV/AIDS in adults (15-64). The number of HIV positive people have increased since 2006 by just 1% to 14% in 2016. Although there was a small increase in HIV positive people since 2006, the prevalence rate remains unacceptably high and will negatively impact on households, businesses and social services.

The number of patients that defaulted from the ART shows an increase within the district which could be the why HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of illnesses in uMzinyathi district. HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death for the 5-14 age group at 15.8%, 15-34 age group at 22.0% and the 25-64 age group at 24.9%.

For the elderly, cerebrovascular disease, such as strokes (20.5%) followed by ischaemic heart disease (10.2%) are the leading causes of death.

In terms of maternal conditions, other maternal (27.8%) and indirect maternal conditions (27.7%) account for the leading causes of death for women in the 15-49 age category. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 100 000 live births) is 70.3, with Endumeni local municipality recording the highest at 117.6.
uMzinyathi district has 51 PHC clinics and 12 mobile clinics for service delivery in the district. Msinga local municipality has the highest number of health facilities due to the high population numbers within this local municipality.

Health facilities are sparsely dispersed in the district due to higher threshold requirements.

3.3. Covid-19

The first case of Covid-19, case Zero, was discovered in South Africa on the 5th of March 2020, in KwaZulu-Natal. The 38-year patient zero had travelled with a party of ten to Italy returning to South Africa on 1 March 2020. On 7 March a 40-Year old male who had returned from Portugal, registered KZN’s first case.

As at 17 June 2020 there were 4 238 confirmed cases as well as 73 deaths and 2 133 recoveries in KZN.

There are four quarantine facilities in uMzinyathi district with 47 beds combined and all of the sites have been activated as at 29 May 2020.

3.4. Poverty and Inequality

Using the lower poverty line, there are 66.0% of the population whom are living in poverty in uMzinyathi district. This is amongst the top 5 districts nationally, with the highest population living in poverty. KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape prominently feature in the top 10 districts.

Within the district’s context, the most poverty-stricken areas are found in some areas of Nquthu (75.2%) and Msinga (71.9%). Endumeni local municipality recording the lowest at 47.3%. The overwhelming majority of people living in poverty are from the black community.
According to Census 2011, the average annual household income is R14 600, with over 30% of the households earning less than the average income and 12% having no income. Households in the lowest income categories tend to be significantly more affected by economic shocks compared to households in higher income categories, hence the significant increase in food poverty levels during the economic crisis.

3.5. Education

In the year 2012 the number of people with no schooling was 56 580 and 55 146 in 2016 this indicates a decrease of 1 434. The number of 20+ years people with Matric only increased from 52 428 in 2012 to 59 938 in 2016 which indicates an increase of 7 510. The number of people who have Matric only is showing a rapid increase it is also important to note that the completion of secondary school education provides very little guarantee of finding any form of formal employment within the district. It also confirms the importance of tertiary education to successfully enter the employment market, even in districts with limited availability of formal sector employment opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2006-2016 growth rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No school</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>37.6%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary school</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: uMzinyathi Local Economic Development Strategy 2017

According to the Education Management Information System (EMIS), there are 498 public schools and 7 independent schools in uMzinyathi district municipality.

In terms of higher education, there is only one Further Education and Training College (Mthashana FET College) that has a campus based in Nquthu. Mthashana College is located in the Northern region of KwaZulu-Natal and serves the uMkhanyakude district municipality, uMzinyathi district municipality and Zululand district municipality. It is a rural college that provides an important gateway to skills and employment for those in the impoverished area. The college offers NC(V) programmes in utility and business studies and engineering studies.
4. Economic Drivers

The main economic drivers in the district were community services (32.0%), finance (17.3%), trade (14.4%) and transport at 9.4%.

4.1. Primary Sector

4.1.1. Agriculture

The agriculture sector contributed 7.9% to the GVA of uMzinyathi district. The Agricultural sector itself has shown a decline from 15% to 10.8% between 2000 and 2011. The agricultural sector has been based on primary production while opportunities and profits lie in processing. In addition, the sector has shown stagnation and job loss with lower profit levels due to rising costs of agricultural inputs. More funding needs to be pumped into the sector towards the enhancement of the economy.

The agricultural regions in the district include, Umvoti local municipality (Greytown and surroundings, Muden, Ahrens, Kranskop), Msinga local municipality (Tugela Ferry, Pomeroy), Endumeni local municipality (Glencoe, Dundee, Wasbank) and in Nqutu local municipality (Nqutu Town and surroundings, Nondweni).

The municipality has extensive grasslands in the north supporting the primary agricultural sector, based on cattle ranching for beef, small scale sheep and mixed farming and maize cultivation. In the southern areas substantial forestry is prevalent. Sugar cane and smaller scale fruit farming such as avocado and kiwi fruit cultivation also occur.

The main town in the Umvoti Local Municipality is Greytown. It is the agricultural centre of the district and contributes substantially to the economic viability of the district. Some challenges identified in the Agricultural sector include,

- Farmers have insufficient capacity to deal with health care issues, for example, goats and sheep suffer from ticks and worms;
- Land and environmental degradation is prevalent, therefore there is a need to improve soil conditions. Poor environmental practices including overgrazing, inappropriate disposal of waste, lack of sanitation facilities and alien plant invasion, have led to serious environmental degradation;
- Significant potential to increase crop production through improved farming management and agricultural support systems;
• Need for farmer support programmes to improve stock management; agricultural and business skills;

• Roads and infrastructure;

• Erratic nature of rainfall makes it risky to invest in crop production if alternative irrigation schemes are not available

The Agricultural sector has been based on primary production while opportunities and profits lie in processing. In addition, the sector has shown stagnation and job loss with lower profit levels due to rising costs of agricultural inputs. More funding needs to be pumped into the sector towards the enhancement of the economy.

THE EXTENSIVE GRASSLANDS IN THE NORTH SUPPORTING THE PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, IS BASED ON CATTLE RANCHING FOR BEEF, SMALL SCALE SHEEP AND MIXED FARMING AND MAIZE CULTIVATION.

4.1.2. Mining
The mining sector contributed 3.2% to the GVA of uMzinyathi district and is one of the weakest sectors in the local economy. Coal and metal ores are the mineral deposits found in the district. Coal is being mined at a large scale in Endumeni local municipality. There is a long mining history around the Glencoe and Dundee area. Mining was the reason for the establishment of Dundee in the 19th century. Mining played an important role in the local economy until the mid-eighties when most of the mines closed. A small amount of stone quarrying also occurs in the district. The coal mining industry is undergoing a restructuring process. There is a decline in corporate interest in the industry, however there is interest in the small scale regeneration of the coal belt for SMME development. A small amount of stone quarrying occurs in the district.

There is currently only one active mine in the area although mining continues north of uMzinyathi district in the Dannhauser and Newcastle areas. The mine offices and washing plant for Slater Coal are located in Dundee on the R33. Stone quarrying also occurs in the district on a small scale. There are still substantial reserves of medium
mining potential around Glencoe and Dundee. There are currently prospects of increasing mining activities but long-term demand for coal might prove otherwise.

4.2. Secondary Sector
4.2.1. Manufacturing

Manufacturing contributed 8.0% to the GVA of uMzinyathi and has a dominant role in the economic output of the district. The manufacturing regions are mainly in Glencoe, Dundee and Greytown. The Integrated Development Plan, has identified the underdevelopment of agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and mining economic sectors. Despite the dominant role of manufacturing in the economic output of the district, it only provided 10.8% of the district formal sector employment. The only other sectors with notable increases in formal sector employment were the community and social services sector (increasing from 7 272 to 8 535) and the manufacturing sector (from 2 698 to 4 692).

4.3. Tourism

Within uMzinyathi, the tourism regions occur along Battlefields with historical cultural significance as well as the natural scenery and biodiversity in the district. The “Battlefields of the Zulu Kingdom” form a vital role in the spatial economy of the Province from a tourism perspective. The district is home to the Islandlwana Nature Reserve and Fugitives Drift Nature Reserve. Both these reserves are undeveloped and play no significant role in tourism. The Umvoti Vlei Nature Reserve, which protect a wetland south of Greytown and further south the Blinkwater Nature Reserve covers a substantial indigenous forest area (uMzinyathi district SDF, 2012).

The concentration of tourism facilities is mainly around Dundee and Nquthu. It is estimated that 75% of visitors to the battlefield sites are domestic tourists. Nquthu and Msinga local municipalities are rural based subsistence economies with cultural heritage areas that attract some tourists but need to be substantially developed.

The range of tourist attractions are not being adequately harnessed for their job creating opportunities across the district. Challenges in the tourism sector include,

- Poor roads (some roads to sites and accommodation facilities are not tarred);
- Limited tourism budget in the IDP;
- Poorly managed nature reserves;
- Lack of investors in the tourism sector;
• Lack of marketing and advertising;
• Lack of tourism strategy/plan that can guide development of the sector

4.4. Informal Sector

The employment opportunities provided by the informal sector increased from 11,416 in 2012 to 13,364 in 2016, whilst the formal sector with an increased from 36,484 to 41,555 in 2016. The municipality is also looking into developing an informal economy policy as well as an investment retention policy to make sure economic drivers are sustainable and remain within uMzinyathi district.

Municipalities in the district must identify and implement programmes and projects targeting the informal economy. Municipalities further also need to develop, adopt and implement an Informal Economy Policy and a Business Investment and Retention Policy. Municipalities must also upscale initiatives for SMMEs and Cooperatives. There is a need for incubation programs. There is also a lack of specialised LED officials in Municipalities to drive the specific sectors.

The KZN Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), established Informal Economy Chambers at local municipality level as a platform for government to interact with the informal sector. In uMzinyathi district, all the local municipalities were successful in establishing Informal Trader Chambers with the exception of Msinga local municipality which has an Interim structure.

The Nquthu Local Informal Traders’ Chamber is the most functional of the existing chambers. Due to the non-functionality of the other Chambers, it is not possible to set up a functional District Informal Economy Chamber which was meant to be constituted by Chairpersons of the Local Chambers.

Challenges experienced by informal trade include,

• Lack of trading facilities (trading stalls / kiosks, informal traders market, demarcated sites);
• Lack of water, electricity, refuse removal services and ablution facilities;
• Lack of business support (capacity building, marketing, market information);
• Difficulties in obtaining trading licence/permit;
• Narrow view of informal economy;
• Lack of synergies between municipal officials and informal traders;
• Low skills / education levels-lack of technical/business skills.
5. Service Delivery

5.1. Human Settlements

The district has a total number of 126,790 households and 49% of the households are in traditional dwellings made of traditional materials which reiterates the inherent tradition and culture which is instilled in uMzinyathi. The majority of the traditional dwelling households in the district are located in Msinga local municipality (22%). 39% are in a house, 5% in a backyard and 3% in an informal dwellings (shack).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography hierarchy 2016 by Geography type for Household weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC24: Umzinyathi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN241: Endumeni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN242: Ngqutu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN244: Msinga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KZN245: Umzoti</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: LED, Super Cross data: Stats SA

uMzinyathi district has identified the Endumeni local municipality as an area that will benefit most from inclusionary housing policies as the municipality is currently the economic hub of the district and, in recent years moved more towards tertiary and quaternary economic sector investment. Endumeni municipality has for long been a half way rail stop between two major centers (JHB and DBN), inclusionary housing will therefore be necessary, as it will allow for the migration of professional and skilled workforce.

5.2. Water and Sanitation

The 2016 Community Survey, reveals that 69.3% of the population were getting water from a regional or local service provider.

In uMzinyathi district municipality, 127,368 (23%) of the population are getting piped water inside the yard, 111,858 (20.2%) are getting piped water from a community stand and a total number of 84,191 (15.2%) from a river.

The water supply backlog is at 25,688 households. The total funding requirements for the entire district to eradicate water backlogs is estimated to be R4,009,344,842.72.
The water funding requirements for each of the local municipalities are as follows, Umvoti - R 460 815 151.83; Nquthu - R 852 645 160.75; Msinga - R 1 425 533 087.65 and Endumeni - R 17 584 989.49.

In terms of sanitation in uMzinyathi district, only 27.7% of the population do not have access to flush or chemical toilets. 330 368 (59.5%) of the population use a pit toilet, 86 486 (15.6%) use flush toilets and 67 443 (12.2%) use chemical toilets.

The sanitation backlog is at 7 191 households. The total funding requirements for the entire district to eradicate sanitation backlogs is estimated to be approximately R 420 296 215.00. Sanitation funding requirements per municipality are as follows, Umvoti - R 34 224 703.00; Nquthu - R 263 601 338.61; and Msinga - R 122 470 174.00.

**Weaknesses in water and sanitation include,**

- Shortage of funds for infrastructure development,
- Huge infrastructure backlogs,
- Lack of bulk infrastructure for new/proposed developments,
- Roads (lack of access roads in rural areas, road maintenance),
- Ageing infrastructure resulting in water losses and expensive maintenance,
- Illegal connections,
- Lack of skills and training for operations staff,
- Slow progress on implementation of bulk projects,
- Low water tariffs,
• Technical staff posts not filled,
• 28% Water losses.

5.3. Waste Management
The district also has a number of small landfill sites, buy back centers, garden and refuse, as well as transfer sites for temporary storage. 15.5% of the population are getting refuse disposal from a local authority, private company or community members and 65% are using their own dump.

5.4. Electricity
Large parts of the district still do not have access to electricity despite electricity being a driver of the economy. The sprawling nature of rural settlements contributes partly to this problem. The district has experienced destructive public protest related to complaints on electricity.

Increase of electricity costs lead to electricity theft mainly due to high levels of unemployment. This leads to a loss of income for local municipalities. There is a need for alternative energy sources and solutions in order to be less dependent on Eskom.
6. Governance

For the 2018/2019 outcomes, Msinga, Endumeni and Nquthu local municipalities received an unqualified with matters opinion, while uMzinyathi district had a disclaimer. The audit opinion was not yet released for Umvoti by mid-February 2020.

6.1. Municipal Performance

For the 2017/2018 audit outcomes, Msinga, Endumeni, Nquthu and Umvoti local municipalities received unqualified with findings audit opinion while the uMzinyathi district had adverse findings.

The district municipality has been placed under section 139 intervention for the following reasons, (1) failure to spend infrastructure grants (2) stopping of funds by National Treasury (3) poor cash flow (4) SCM challenges (5) poor audit outcomes (6) maladministration (7) failure to appoint senior management.

Endumeni local municipality had been placed under section 139 intervention for the following reasons, (1) poorly functional (2) lack of consequence management (3) SCM challenges (4) maladministration (5) failure to appoint senior management. The intervention period was concluded by 30 November 2019 as matters had been satisfactorily resolved.

6.2. Municipal Capacity

The Local Government assessment indicates that in terms of vacancies, Endumeni local municipality currently has no senior management vacancies. Nquthu currently has 1 senior management vacancy. Umvoti currently has the position for 1 Ward Councilor vacant. The Municipal Manager at uMzinyathi is currently suspended however processes are underway to fill the vacancy.

The Technical Services Units Skills Audit, all the local municipalities have under-representation of females and people with disabilities. Endumeni, Umvoti and Msinga have officials at the levels of Managers, Professionals and Technicians with Matric or below educational levels. uMzinyathi district, together with Nquthu and Msinga have no officials with a registration with Professional Bodies.

The Finance, Budget & Treasury Offices Skills Audit, reveals that Endumeni, Nquthu, Umvoti and Msinga have officials with educational levels of Matric and below. Nquthu, Msinga and Umvoti have officials with no registration with Professional Bodies. Nquthu and Msinga have officials with competences below the required level.
In terms of capacity support the town planning capacity within the district is adequate and Endumeni local municipality. Support is required in Nquthu, Msinga and Umvoti. The Development Planning Shared Service (DPSS) assist the municipalities by providing support with regards to planning and GIS, the shared services staff are shared amongst the district and the local municipalities within the district. This is to close the capacity or skills gap within the municipalities. The DPSS officials include a Chief Town Planner, a GIS Specialist and a GIS Technician. The district also has capacity support through MISA in the form of one Engineer, a Town Planning intern and one official from the Department of Environmental Affairs in the form of an Environmental Officer.

6.3. Participation of Traditional Leaders in Municipal Activities
The Constitution of South Africa recognised the role of Traditional Authorities and facilitates their involvement through COGTA. Traditional Authorities play an important social and economic role in the District. In each Local Municipality there is a traditional body that communicates with the local ward committees and council forming part of the decision-making body in the area. As land owners, Traditional Authorities directly shape the economic conditions of the area. Without consultation and permission of Traditional Authorities there can be no coordinated development within the district municipality.

There are 18 Traditional Councils in uMzinyathi. No Traditional Authority areas fall within the jurisdiction of the Endumeni local municipality. The participation in Council meetings increased from 44% attendance in 2018 to 54.54% attendance in 2019 for the district.

“Traditional Authorities play an important social and economic role in the District.”
7. Projects to Diversify and Grow People and The Economy

The Draft National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) has identified areas in the uMzinyathi district as a mixture of eco-resources production region and agri-enterprise and small-scale farming resource region with protected areas.

In terms of being an Eco-Resource Production Region, the NSDF proposes the following:

- Enhance the productive capacity, environmental and livelihood quality, cultural heritage, and natural resource-access of these regions through effective agrarian practices and enterprise development programmes that are focussed on natural resource restoration and custodianship.
- Discourage further land and settlement development, and carefully manage existing settlements and land uses in productive agricultural regions that play a crucial role in national strategic water production, national food security and rural livelihoods.
- Pursue effective management and custodianship of national strategic water source production regions.
- Ensure efficient rural-to-rural connectivity in rural regions, to enhance the prospects of making a life in these areas.
- Rehabilitate degraded land and ensure effective land use management, settlement consolidation, improved rural connectivity and an eco-resource related enterprise focus, to provide opportunities for livelihoods and industry development, and support national water availability.

The NSDF proposes the following with regards to Agri-Enterprise and Small-Scale Farming Regions:

- Productive use of high value agricultural land to support national food security.
- Rehabilitation of degraded land and effective land use management.
- Improvement of rural-to-rural connections, market accessibility and key agricultural production infrastructure.
- Enhancement of connectivity through well planned infrastructure investment and settlement consolidation in well-connected regional development anchors.

In terms of the National Protected Areas the document proposes the following:

- Protect ecological resources and national heritage areas.
National spatial development is well-planned and well-managed to enable protection, as well as the effective use and beneficiation of national protected areas in accordance with the relevant regulations. (Source: NSDF)

7.1. Spatial Development
In the Provincial Spatial Development Framework (PSDF), tertiary nodes identified for uMzinyathi are mainly centres, which should provide service to the sub-regional economy, and community needs and is represented by the town of Dundee.

Greytown in Umvoti municipality has been identified as the quaternary nodes for uMzinyathi, which is mainly centres which should provide service to the local economy and community needs.

The Rural Service Centres identified for uMzinyathi are envisaged to serve as the lowest level of provincial nodes and could typically be established around existing traditional administration centres as well as other accessible rural points identified as periodic markets. These will be identified in consultation with the district municipalities and should serve as first access to basic services within rural areas. These rural service centres will include, and some have already emerged to include, a combination of the following activities:

- Traditional administration centre,
- Taxi/ bus stop,
- Informal trading / market area,
- Social facility (clinic, library etc.),
- Skills development centre (mainly local schools),
- Mobile services point (mobile clinics, pension pay points, mobile library etc.),
- Small commercial facility, and
- Recreational facility such as a sport field.

7.2. Infrastructure Projects
Catalytic interventions current and planned,

- Umvoti Bulk: SDBIP 2018/19: Budget: R 40 000 000
- Regional Airports (Dundee Regional Airport): DGDP 2015 Budget : TBD
• Upgrade of R33 to improve access through the district from north to south (Road from Dundee to Greytown: District Service Delivery Plan (DGDP, 2015) Budget : R80 700 000
• KZN Broadband: To roll out the backbone and access networks broadband infrastructure to all 51 municipalities of the province so that broadband services: PSDF & District Service Delivery Plan (DGDP) Budget : TBD

“THE SHARED SERVICES MODEL OFFERS A KEY MECHANISM TO PROVIDE SHARED SKILLS IN KEY DEVELOPMENTAL FIELD.”

8. Key Recommendations
• The district municipality is under Section 139 Intervention. The municipality needs to implement and report on a monthly basis, to the Administrator and COGTA, on the Intervention Action Plan.
• COGTA to monitor the implementation of the Administrator terms of reference and its effectiveness.
• There is a need for closer working relationships with Traditional Authorities and ensure their active participation in municipal activities.
• Planning within municipalities should include the development of Traditional Settlement Master Plans which are integral for engaging with Traditional Councils in terms of understanding their needs, current development patterns, and future requirements.
• The Shared Services model offers a key mechanism to provide shared skills in key developmental field.
• Issues raised by the Auditor General require urgent attention.
• The staffing requirements and skills of municipal officials in key departments requires attention, particularly in the forward planning, budget, infrastructure, and Town Planning departments.