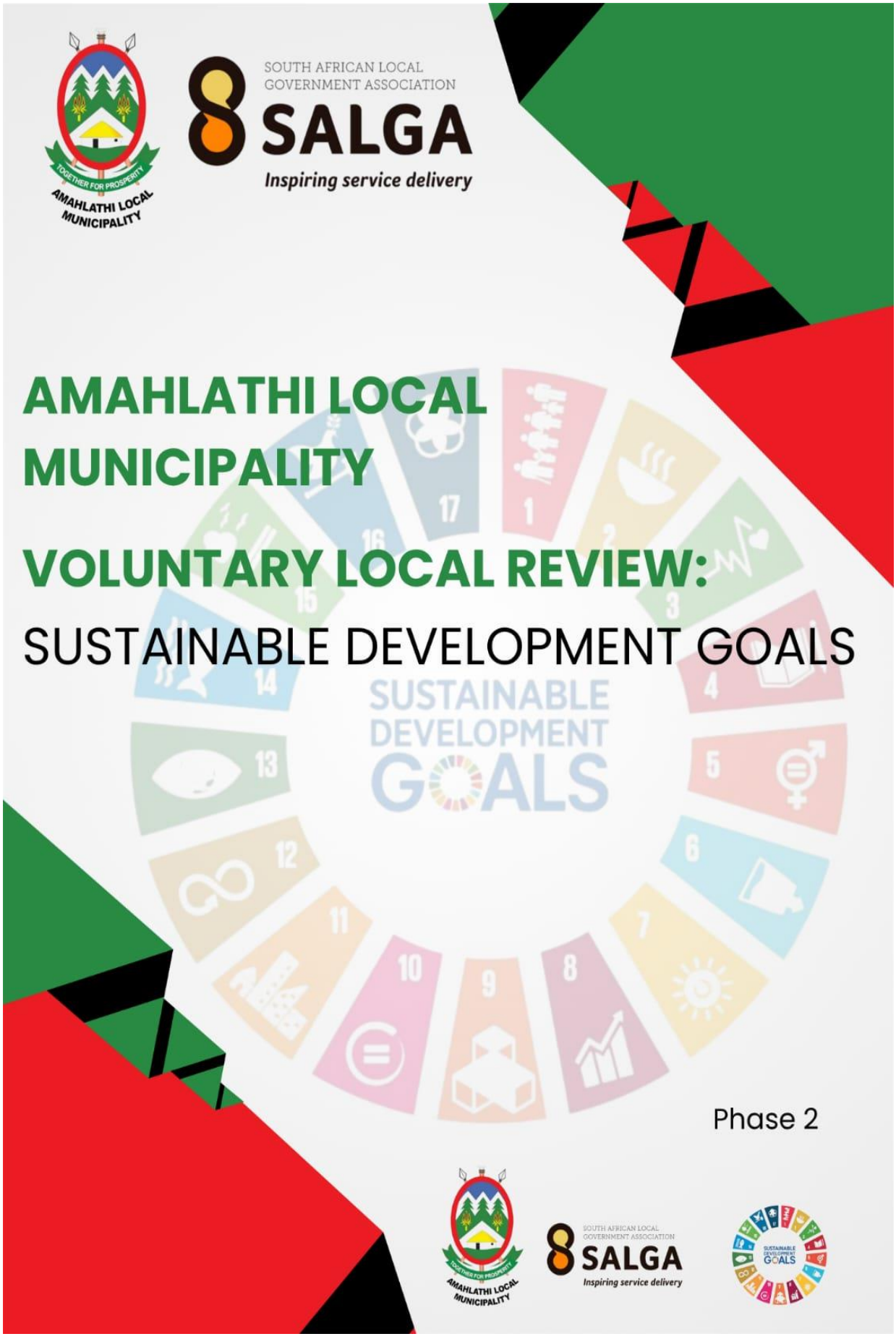
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AMAHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
AMAHLATHI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW:
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Phase 2

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ABBREIATIONS

ADM	Amathole District Municipality
ALM	Amahlathi Local Municipality
CBD	Central Business District
DHS	Department of Human Settlements
ECSECC	Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IGR	Inter-Governmental- Relations
INEP	Integrated National Electrification Program
MIG	Municipal Infrastructure Grant
MVA	Mega-Vault-Ampere
NERSA	National Energy Regulator of South Africa
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperative and Development
OTP	Office of the Premier
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SANRAL	South African National Road Agency Limited
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
VLR	Voluntary Local Reviews
VNR	Voluntary National Reviews

Honourable Mayor: Nomakosazana Nonggazi

MAYOR'S FOREWORD

Amahlathi Local Municipality has made serious strides shaping itself towards a resilient, sustainable and people-centred municipality. This new order was preceded by a terrifying past characterised by violent service delivery protests, political instability and covid 19. It took visionaries, think tanks and active citizenry to reach the current state of the municipality.

The Municipality recognises the role played by several stakeholders in ensuring that quality service delivery is the only tool that can change the lives of our people. The municipality is working tirelessly to meet the mandate of both the United Nations (UN 2030): Sustainable Development Goals and National Development Plan: Vision 2030.

As an attempt of playing our role in meeting the both the international and national mandate, bearing in mind that 2030 is around the corner; Amahlathi Local Municipality entered a partnership with Lamspringe Municipality in Lower Saxony in Germany, under the SKEW program championed by Engagement Global. A total of four SDGs was identified for implementation in this partnership:

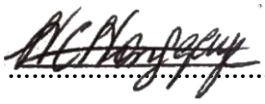
- SDG1 (No poverty)
- SDG2 (Zero Hunger)

- SDG4 (Quality Education)
- SDG17 (Partnership)

As the Mayor of Amahlathi Municipality, I was excited when SALGA issued Expression of Interest for Phase 2 Program, and we made the cut. The Municipality, through the IDP is indeed implementing almost all the SDGs. However, the Council has adopted the Municipal Participation to the SDG Phase 2 program and adopted the following Sustainable Goals:

- SDG 7 (Renewable Energy)
- SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
- SDG 11(Sustainable Cities and Communities)
- SDG 13 (Climate Action)
- SDG 15 (Life on Land)
- SDG 17 (Partnerships)

It is therefore my pleasure to welcome UN Agenda 2030: SDG Phase 2Amahlathi Local Municipality. Our team of technocrats led by the Municipal Manager will work hand in glove SALGA in ensuring successful development and implementation of the VLR program.


.....

Honourable Mayor: Cllr. N.C.Nongqayi

Municipal Manager : Dr Zamxolo Shasha

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S FOREWORD

As the Municipal Manager of Amahlathi, it is with great pleasure to know that Amahlathi Local Municipality (as small as it is, and as rural as it is), is playing a major role in ensuring the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: Vision 2030. This a program that is done for the benefit of the poor residing within the jurisdiction of Amahlathi Local Municipality.

Amahlathi has gone the full circle in terms of service delivery unrest; thus, their participation in the Sustainable Development Goals Program will ensure total recovery from the previous impasse and provide sustainable and resilient service delivery.

Our international partnership with Lamspringe Municipality will be strengthened by our involvement in this program. The choice of six (6) SDGs, plus the four (4) that we have with Lamspringe Municipality in Germany make us to be directly involved in ten (10) SDGs. This is, indeed, a huge achievement for a rural Municipality.

Moving forward, the Sustainable Development Goals will form part of our IDP for 2026/27, which will cascaded down to Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan where the targets and indicators will be aligned.

……

Municipal Manager: Dr Zamxolo Shasha

INTRODUCTION

Amahlathi Municipality is a category B collective executive type with ward participatory system. This locality is situated in the Northern part of the Amathole District Municipality and stretches about 4266.21km2 between Raymond Mhlaba, Buffalo City, Great Kei and Chris Hani District. Amahlathi Municipality has four small towns namely, Stutterheim, Cathcart, Keiskammahoek and Kei Road. Stutterheim and Cathcart are strategically placed along the N6 road with access to the rail and road network. Keiskammahoek is the agricultural hub with a majority of the population active within the agricultural sector. Kei Road is the most underdeveloped town followed by Keiskammahoek.

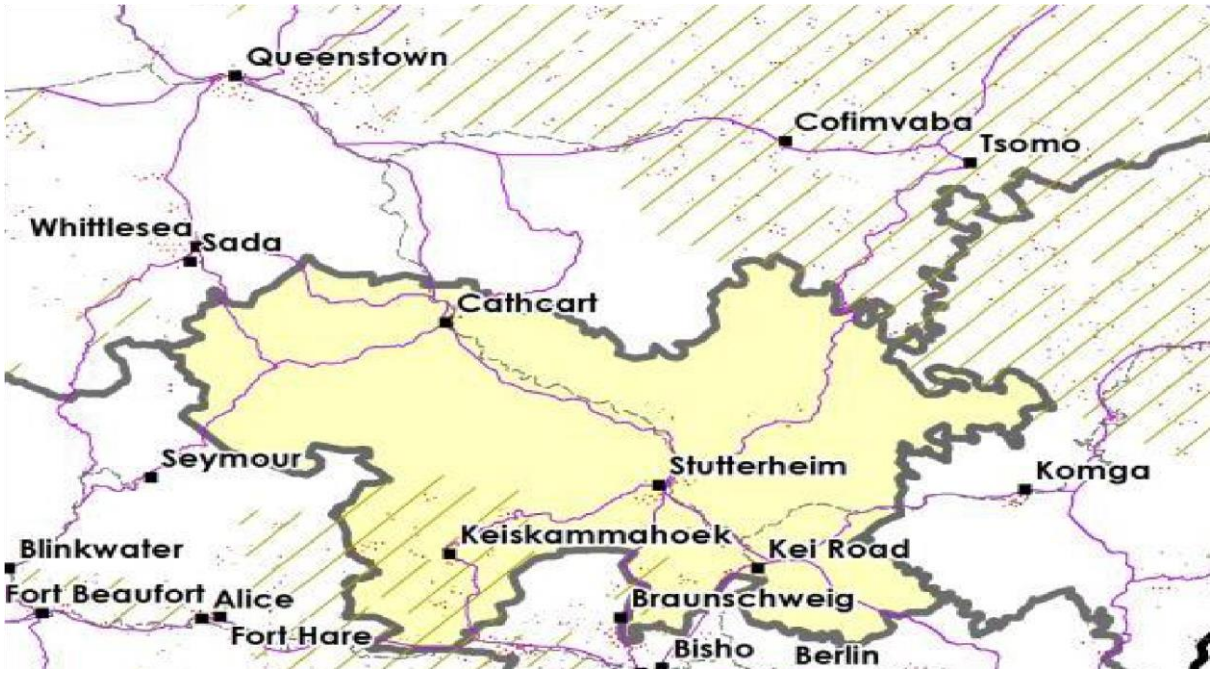


FIG 1. MAP OF AMAHLATHI LM

VISION

A resilient, sustainable, and people-centered local municipality

MISSION

A model municipality in partnership with its community through quality service delivery local economic development and public participation.

CORE VALUES

Accountability
Model
Accessibility
Healthy
Loyalty
Authentic
Trust
Honesty
Integrity

METHODOLOGY

2.1. Overview

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which was adopted by all UN member stated in 2015 is a shared blueprint for global peace and prosperity anchored 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. The primary aim of these goals is to end poverty, protect the planet, ensure gender equality and promote prosperity for all, while leaving no one behind. Fig 1: Sustainable Development Goals

FIG 2: SDGS

Thus, the aspects of the 2030 Agenda are, not in order of priority:

- Seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Integrated Approach
- Leave No One Behind
- Universal applicability
- Implementation and Monitoring.

Through the assistance by South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and United Nations Development Programme known as Localizing the Sustainable Goals through the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR). This is to undertake VLRs as feeders into Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), in turn VNRs enable the development and guidance of VLRs.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Amahlathi Local Municipality has been selected by SALGA to be part of the Phase 2 program of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Municipality has developed and submitted the Draft Voluntary Local Review and has since received comments. This is the final document prepared for final submission.

DATA AND SOURCES

In the development of this VLR, Amahlathi LM relied heavily on a number of data sources which include Statistics South Africa and other credible sources such as Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC) and information generated by consultants. However, the Municipality will also use information taken from Municipal documents such as Integrated Development Plan, Spatial Development Framework, Local Economic Development, and Human Settlements Sector Plan, just to mention a few.

There is also qualitative data received from stakeholder engagements in the form of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) through sector plans and other relevant forums. In most cases, the municipality meet with her stakeholders during IGR Meetings, IDP/Budget Roadshows and IDP Representative Forum (Ward Councillors and Ward Committee Members).

Below is the list of Amahlathi Local Municipality Stakeholders

- CoGTA
- ADM
- DEDEAT
- IEC
- Department of Health
- Department of Social Development
- SASSA
- Department of Home Affairs
- Housing Development Agency
- Department of Human Settlement

- MISA
- OTP
- Department of Transport
- SALGA
- ESKOM
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Education
- Department of Public Works
- Aspire
- Eastern Cape Development Corporation
- Department of Education
- Fort Cox
- Dohne Agricultural Institute
- Department of Human Settlements
- Anca
- Newden
- Rance Timbers
- Stutt Group
- Stutt Poles
- SAPS

The municipality will intertwine the IDP and SDG public participation into one. Thus, the SDGs will be forming part of the public participation IDP Agenda. Therefore, the IDP Process Plan will encompass the SDGs.

DEMOGRAPHICS

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

As per the Census 2022, Amahlathi Local Municipality total population has increased from 101 035 (2011) to 115 703 in 2022. The number of households has increased from 28 357 to 33 621. This increase in population can be attributed to improved life expectancy, such as access to health facilities, job opportunities, improved safety in working environments, as well as the availability of services to the population residing in Amahlathi municipality. The other contributing factor is the result of inward migration, from other areas outside the jurisdiction of the local municipality.

TABLE1: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Source: Stats Sa 2022

3.1.1 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS | POPULATION BY AGE

The Amahlathi Municipality currently has a population of children from age 0-14 constituting 27% while it has a teen and early adult-hood population of age group between 15–34 constituting 30% of the total population in all its demographic forms. The working population of age group between 35– 64 constitutes 34% whilst the older population of 65 and above constitutes 9% of the population.

The combination of early adulthood (30%) and working population (34%) shows that the Municipality has a total 64% of economic active population which is the largest bracket in the population pyramid.

The total number of males is 48,8 whereas the total number for females is 51.2; therefore, this means that there are more females than males within Amahlathi Local Municipality

TABLE2: POPULATION BY AGE

Age Group	Population %
0-14	27
15-34	30
35-64	34
65+	9

TABLE 3: POPULATION GROUP

Group	Number	%
Black African	109 333	94.5%
Colored	2094	1.8%
Indian or Asian	252	0.2%
White	3452	3.0%
Total	115 703	**100%**

Source: Census Stats SA 2022

The Municipality has quiet a variety of population groups. The Black African are the dominant group, with the Indian/Asian being the least group.

3.2 ECONOMY

3.2.1 GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) - AMAHLATHI, AMATOLE, EASTERN CAPE, AND NATIONAL TOTAL, 2013-2023 [R BILLIONS, CURRENT PR

TABLE 4: GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Year	Amahlathi	Amatole	Eastern Cape	National Total	Amahlathi as % of district municipality	Amahlathi as % of province	Amahlathi as % of national
2013	3.8	24.8	309.6	3,868.6	*15.3%*	*1.22%*	*0.10%*
2014	4.0	26.5	330.8	4,133.9	*15.3%*	*1.22%*	*0.10%*
2015	4.3	28.4	354.1	4,420.8	*15.2%*	*1.22%*	*0.10%*
2016	4.6	30.5	379.0	4,759.6	*15.2%*	*1.22%*	*0.10%*
2017	4.9	32.5	403.4	5,078.2	*15.1%*	*1.22%*	*0.10%*
2018	5.1	34.0	420.9	5,363.2	*15.0%*	*1.21%*	*0.10%*
2019	5.3	35.5	437.2	5,625.2	*14.9%*	*1.21%*	*0.09%*
2020	5.2	35.2	430.3	5,568.0	*14.8%*	*1.21%*	*0.09%*
2021	5.7	38.8	472.9	6,208.8	*14.7%*	*1.21%*	*0.09%*
2022	6.0	41.1	501.0	6,628.6	*14.6%*	*1.20%*	*0.09%*
2023	6.4	43.7	531.9	6,970.2	*14.6%*	*1.20%*	*0.09%*

Source: South Africa Regional eXplorer v2471.

Data compiled on 7 Apr 2024.

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With a GDP of R 6.36 billion in 2023 (up from R 3.78 billion in 2013), the Amahlathi Local Municipality contributed 14.57% to the Amatole District Municipality GDP of R 43.7 billion in 2023 increasing in the share of the Amatole from 15.27% in 2013. The Amahlathi Local Municipality contributes 1.20% to the GDP of Eastern Cape Province and 0.09% the GDP of South Africa which had a total GDP of R 6.97 trillion in 2023 (as measured in nominal or current prices). It's contribution to the national economy stayed similar in importance from 2013 when it contributed 0.10% to South Africa, but it is lower than the peak of 0.10% in 2014.

3.2.2 ECONOMIC GROWTH FORECAST

It is expected that Amahlathi Local Municipality will grow at an average annual rate of 1.10% from 2023 to 2028. The average annual growth rate in the GDP of Amatole District Municipality and Eastern Cape Province is expected to be 1.60% and 1.51% respectively. South Africa is forecasted to grow at an average annual growth rate of 1.82%, which is higher than that of the Amahlathi Local Municipality.

4.SELECTED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Amahlathi Local Municipality has selected the following Sustainable Development Goals:

(a) SDG 7 (Renewable Energy)
(b) SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
(c) SDG 11(Sustainable Cities and Communities)
(d) SDG 13 (Climate Action)
(e) SDG 15 (Life on Land)
(f) SDG 17 (Partnerships)

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES (SDG 11)

This SDG addresses the rapid urbanization and environmental pressure associated with cities, which currently house over half of the world's population and are projected to reach 6.5 billion urban residents by 2050. The World Cities occupy 3% of the Earth's land though it accounts for a total of about 60-80 % of energy consumption and at least 70%of carbon emissions. Thus, this SDG's focus is on inclusive urban planning, safe housing, resilient infrastructure and accessible spaces.

The SDG was chosen due to its nature which seeks to make cities safe, inclusive and resilient.

TABLE 5: SDGS TARGETS

TARGET	INDICATOR
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	**11.1.1** Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.

TARGET	INDICATOR
11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the	• **11.2.1** Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	
11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management	• **11.6.1** Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated by cities

4.1.1 Integrated Human Settlements

TABLE 6: INTEGRATED HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

TARGET	INDICATOR
11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums	**11.1.1** Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.

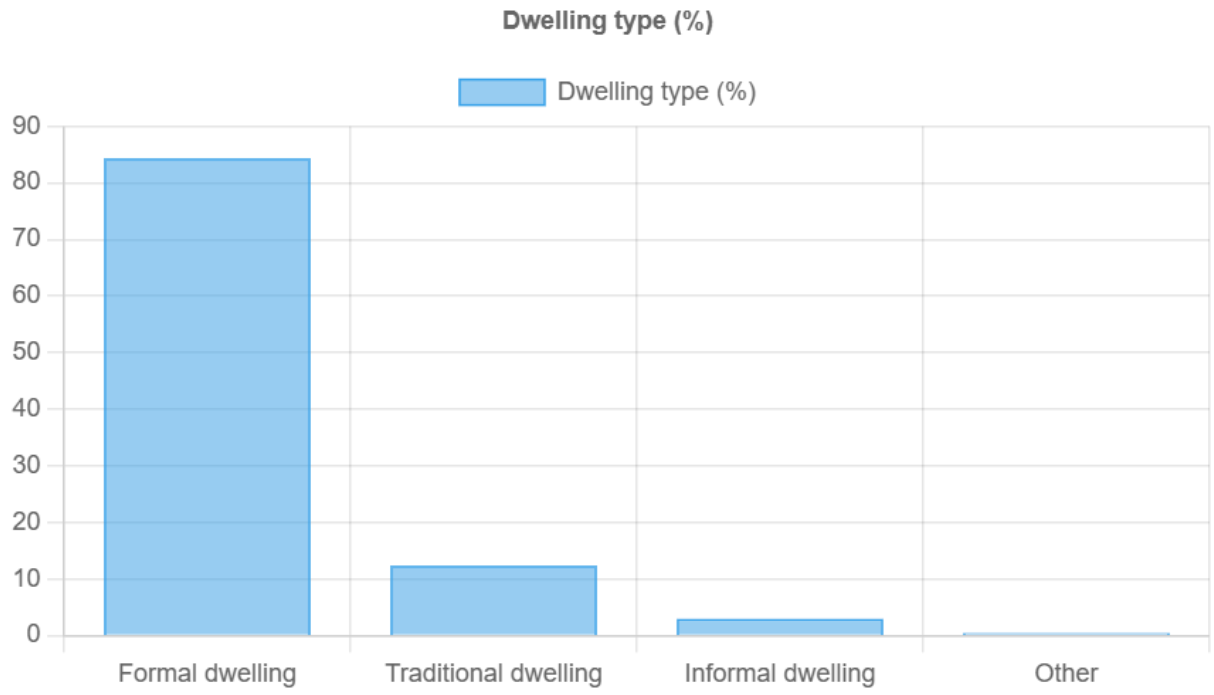
Amahlathi LM in conjunction with Department of Human Settlements (DHS) are the key drivers of the development and implementation of Sustainable Human Settlements.

According to Statistics South Africa, the total number of Households is 33621 (2022) from 28357 (2016). This clearly shows an upwards trajectory. However, the household size has declined from 3,6 (2016) to 3,4 (2022)

The current housing demand is 4, 211 units, a 20,1% decline from the Stats SA figure of 5278 in 2022. The substantial housing demand is found in the BNG housing segment with 91% (3816 units) of the overall housing demand. The housing demand is projected to decrease to 2, 472 in 2030. This is due to migration patterns and the current average annual supply of 1,156 units which is projected to be sustained in the planning period (Source: Human Settlements Sector Plan 2025:7).

In summary, the non-formal dwellings decreasing by 10 753 from 16 031 in 2001 to 5 278 in 2022. Whereas the formal dwellings is at 84,3 %.

TABLE 7: DWELLING TYPES



Statssa 2022

Below is a summary of the Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

STRENGTH - Strategic land parcels - Municipal Planning Tribunal established - SDF under review - IGR Functional (DHS) - Land Audit	WEAKNESSES - Housing backlog - Mud and stick housing -
OPPORTUNITY - Functional IGR (DHS, ADM) - Access to more funding - General Valuation	THREATS - Disasters - Land invasion

- Innovative Building Material	

4.1.2 CHALLENGES

Over the couple of years, the Municipality has been shooting a moving target pertaining to the mushrooming of Informal Settlements in and around the towns/Cities.

- Rural housing demand exceeds current development capacity due to funding and planning constraints
- Informal settlements strain water, sanitation, and road networks in urban areas,
- Budget constraints hinder large-scale housing projects and infrastructure upgrades,
- Conservation requirements limit the use of certain land parcels,
- delaying project implementation
- Insufficient municipal-owned serviced land that is ready for development to address the current housing demand
- Existing informal settlements around the economic nodes of Keiskammahoek and Stutterheim continue to put pressure on municipal infrastructure.
- Land invasions, in some instances by middle income earners showing need for relevant programmes
-

4.1.3. INTERVENTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Several interventions and partnerships have been identified and projects to turn the status quo have been developed and some are being implemented. Some of the interventions are:

- Enhanced infrastructure capacity is key to meeting housing needs and supporting sustainable growth.
- Strategic land acquisition will streamline project implementation and ensure equitable land distribution.
- Partnerships with private entities can expand housing affordability and infrastructure availability.
- Capacity-building initiatives will improve housing project efficiency and service delivery.

To address the issues raised above, objectives, strategies and activities were formulated. These strategies will assist the municipality to achieve the following key objectives:

- Enhanced institutional capacity.
- Upgraded informal settlements.
- Densification and mixed-use developments in the nodes.
- Upgrading of bulk infrastructure in the nodes and where there is highest housing need.
- Efficient land use, rental housing provision and declaration of restructuring zones.

There is a total of five (5) informal settlements housing an estimated 2,178 households. The land is owned by the municipality in all the informal settlements. In addition, all the 5 settlements are supplied with interim services. They require detailed investigations to determine viability for full upgrading and permanent engineering services. The total estimated development cost for pre-planning, land use planning, internal services, housing top structure and title deeds is R652,642, 056 (R652 million) as shown in the table below.

TABLE 8: HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROJECTS

Name of informal Settlement	Estimated number of households	Land ownership	Basic services availability	Identified land for relocation	Total development costs
Daliwe	463	Municipal	Interim Services	N/A	R138 738876
Katikati	458	Municipal	Interim Services	N/A	R137 240 616
Bhongolethu/Izidenge	713	Municipal	Interim Services	N/A	R213 651 876
Name of informal Settlement	**Estimated number of households**	**Land ownership**	**Basic services availability**	**Identified land relocation**	**Total development costs**
Upper Izele	544	Municipal	Interim Services	N/A	163010688
Mzamo (Partly)	0	Municipal	Interim Services	N/A	R0
Total	2178				R652 642 056

4.2 TRANSPORT

TABLE 9: TRANSPORT TARGETS

TARGET	INDICATOR

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons	**11.2.1** Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

4.2.1 TRANSPORT STATUS QUO

Amahlathi has a road network of 2 099.16 kilometres in total. The ownership of the roads falls under Eastern Cape Department of Transport (1 407.17 kilometres), Amahlathi Local Municipality (529.66 Kilometres) and SANRAL (162.37 Kilometres). The Municipality has 43.10 kilometres surfaced (Tar, Block Paving or Concrete) and 486.56 kilometres of gravel roads. This is as reflected in the Roads Maintenance Plan commissioned by Amathole District Municipality and published in April 2024. The Municipality engages the other roads authorities quarterly during the seating of the Infrastructure Cluster IGR. The Municipality in engagement with the District Municipality and the provincial Department of Transport is in the process of establishing a Transport Forum

4.2.2. CHALLENGES

Most on the road network in a very bad state. This can be attributed to poor maintenance due to lack of funds. Failure to maintain road has negative consequences attach to it. These consequences include the following:

- Lack of access to basic service delivery centres
- Delays in service delivery, such as, scholar transport
- Stray animals on key strategic routes like N6 and R63

- Leads to lack of investor confidence
- Budget Constraints

4.2.3 Interventions and Partnerships

The Office of The Premier, in partnership with the local municipality, has identified the need for improved service delivery and infrastructure in Keiskammahoek town. The current roads are gravel and will be upgraded to asphalt surfacing and they will be non-motorised transport facilities in the form of pedestrian sidewalks.

The project entails upgrading 3.11 km of the existing gravel roads to asphalt surfacing. It must be noted that scope will be updated upon approval by the Employer. The existing roads service the commercial and residential properties, as shown in the Table below:

TABLE 10: ROADS PROJECTS

ROAD No.	TYPE OF ROAD	ROAD LENGTH	WIDTH
SS Gida Hospital Road	Gravel	200m	6.00m
R352	Asphalt	340m	7.00m
Municipal Road	Gravel	784m	5.00m
Sivutile School Road	Gravel	640m	5.00m
Police Road Gravel	Gravel	730m	7.00m
Farmers Road	Gravel	340m	6.00m
TOTAL		3110m	

Sidewalks will be blocked paved with a grey and red blend to match the colours of CBD walkways. The width will be limited to 1.8m as per the guidelines but can be increased to flush with the boundary wall. The main objectives of the project are:

- To improve the level of service and reduce road user costs by improving the traffic flow
- To rehabilitate the existing pavement to increase its structural design life by a further 20 years • To provide safe facilities for pedestrians
- Repair of localized surfacing and structural distress
- Provision of all-weather surfacing
- Provision of road marking and signage where required
- Relocating affected existing services (electricity poles, sewer manholes, boundary fences, etc.)

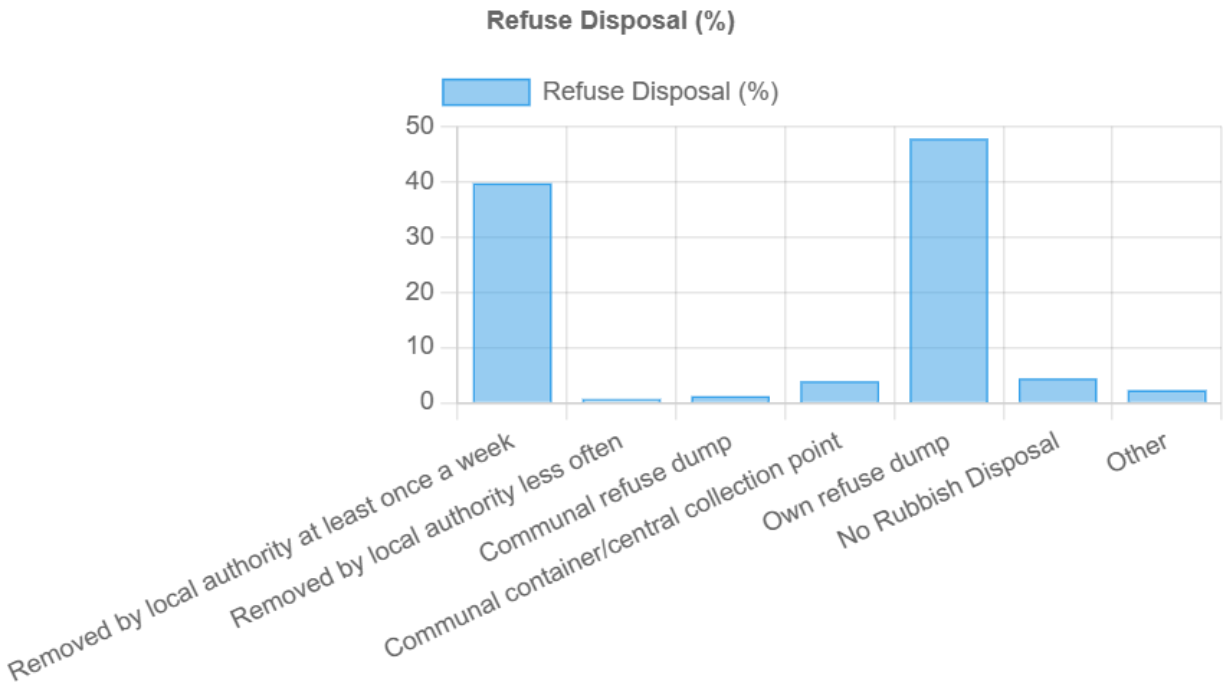
On the other hand, the Provincial Department of Transport has set aside a budget to the value of R17.5m for the maintenance of her road within Amahlathi LM. Department of Transport in conjunction with SANRAL are in the design stage for the R353 route from Tsomo -Middledrift (150km).

WASTE MANAGEMENT

4.3.1.STATUS QUO

The table below indicate that about 13 336 (39,7%) of the households rely on Municipality for refuse removal at least once a week. However, about 16 067 (47,8%) of households with the lowest being the removal by local authority less often at 227 (0,7%) households.

TABLE 11: REFUSE REMOVAL



Statssa 2022

4.3.2.CHALLENGES

- Lack or limited Budget
- No Landfill Site management
- Limited machinery
- Lack of capacitation of SMMEs on Recycling, Re-use and reduce
- Poor road network
- Littering

4.3.3 INTERVENTIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Amahlathi LM has entered a partnership with Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. The main purpose is to promote environmental practises, job creation and strengthening support for SMMEs

5.AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

This is Sustainable Development Goal number 7. The main aim of this SDG is that of universal access to energy, increasing the share of renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency.

TABLE 11: ENERGY TARGETS

TARGET	INDICATOR
7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services	• **7.1.1** Proportion of population with access to electricity

5.1 ENERGY STATUS QUO

According to the data below as presented by Statistics South Africa in their 2022 Census, quite a number of households in the past 15 years have access to electricity. About 94,8% of households has access to electricity for lighting.

TABLE 12: ENERGY DISTRIBUTION

Name	Frequency	%
Electricity from main	31 878	94.8 %
Gas	64	0,2%
Paraffin	944	2.8%
Candles	631	1.9%
Solar	52	0,2%
other	25	0,1%
None	28	0,1%

STATSSA: 2022

However, for cooking, electricity from mains is at 69.4%, followed by gas (23,6) and the lowest being the animal dung at 0.0% (6housholds).

TABLE13: ENERGY FOR COOKING

Name	Frequency	%
Electricity from mains	23 323	69,4%
Gas	7 942	23,6%
Paraffin	1 085	3,2%
Wood	1 157	3,4%
Coal	20	0,1%
Animal dung	6	0,0%
Solar	26	0,1%
other	15	0,0%
None	47	0,1%

Statssa 2022

The municipality has active operating license with NERSA to distribute Electricity for Stutterheim, Amabele and Cathcart Town, Eskom holds the licence for distribution of electricity in all remaining areas of under the jurisdiction of the Municipality. The municipality services 3800 households with electricity under its licence, and is responsible for planning, design, operation and maintenance of electricity network feeding these households. The capacity of the Eskom infrastructure available to supply Sutterheim is estimated 8MVA. In the areas where the Municipality holds the licence there are no historical backlogs however new are applied for and connected. In the Eskom area the historical backlog is 112 households in the Keilands village.

The Notified Maximum Demand agreement with Eskom for the network is 5.5MVA for Stutterheim, 0.2MVA for Amabele and 1.4MVA for Cathcart. Currently the Actual Demand consumption for Stutterheim is 4.9MVA, Amabele is 0.08MVA and for Cathcart is 1MVA. The consumption in Stutterheim is of concern as it is close to the available capacity. The Municipality is looking at various solutions to increase the available capacity. The Municipality has applied for a new point of supply with capacity of 3MVA and has been approved.

5.1.1 Energy Challenges

- Mountainous Terrain
- Aged infrastructure (technical loses)
- faulty meters (non-technical), illegal connections.

-Lack of Budget

5.1.2 Interventions and Partnerships.

Amahlathi Local Municipality, working with several partners put in place several implementation strategies such as the following:

- The municipality receives INEP Grant to cater for electricity upgrades intended by the municipality

- The Municipality registered with the Municipal infrastructure Grant (MIG) for funding of the review of the Electrical Master Plan
- The infrastructure works to energize the new line is funded under the Small-Town Revitalization grant from the Office of the Premier.
- The Notified Maximum Demand agreement with Eskom for the network is 5.5MVA for Stutterheim, 0.2MVA for Amabele and 1.4MVA for Cathcart.
- The Municipality in conjunction with National Treasury implemented the program of installing 2500 Smart Meters using a credible service provider.

6. PARTNERSHIPS

6.1SDG 17 STATUS QUO

To strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

TABLE 14: PARTNERSHIP TARGETS

TARGET	INDICATOR
17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to	• **17.2.1** Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries	Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

Amahlathi Local Municipality has entered partnerships with local and international partners:

TABLE 15: PARTNERSHIPS

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS	ACTIVITY	INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS	ACTIVITY
1. Department of Human Settlements	Housing Implementation	1. Lamspringe Municipality, Lower Saxony, Germany	SDG 1.2.4.15 and 17
2. Department of Agriculture	Food production		
LOCAL PARTNETSHIP	ACTIVITY	INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS	ACTIVITY
3. Department of Transport	Maintenance of Roads		
4. Statistics South Africa	Provision of Data		
5. Department of Health	Provision of Health Facilities		

6. Department of Social Development	Well-being of Community		
7. Dohne Agricultural Institute	Academic Assistance		
8.FortCox Collage of Education	Academic		
9. ADM and ASPIRE	District Municipality and her Development Agency		

Amahlathi Local Municipality has, through the Office of the Premier entered a partnership with a German Lamspringe Municipality, in Lower Saxony. The partnership is funded by the SKEW under the Global Engagement. The focus of the partnership is on the above listed Sustainable Development Goals. The partnership is three (4) years old, it started in August 2023.

6.2CHALLENGES

- failing the eligibility check.

- language barrier

- Amahlathi previous history – the unrest

6.3. FUTURE PARTNERSHIPS

Amahlathi Local Municipality is open to any partnership coming our way. The Municipality has achieved a better audit opinion which will whet the appetite of investors.

7.LIFE ON LAND

Sustainable Development Goals number 15 mandate is to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

TABLE 17: TARGETS ON LIFE ON LAND

TARGET	INDICATOR
15.1 By 2030, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements	• **15.1.1** Forest area as a proportion of total land area • **15.1.2** Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

7.1 STATUS OF LIFE ON LAND

The municipality is responsible for land use management within its area of jurisdiction. As a result, the Municipality has reviewed, adopted and gazetted the following documents: Spatial Development Framework (under review), Land Use Scheme and SPLUMA By-law. The Municipality has decided to establish a Single Municipal Planning Tribunal. The Municipal Planning Tribunal has been Established, also the Authorized Official has been appointed. The Director for Development of Planning and Development, who is a registered town planner, is performing the duties of an Authorized Officials.

The specific legislation applicable in Amahlathi Municipality includes:

- Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act 16 of 2013
- SPLUMA By-Lay gazetted in 2016
- Spatial Development Framework Review, 2024-25

- Land Use Scheme, Gazetted in November 2023

The municipality has in July 2013 received access to the Amathole District Municipality Geographic Information System Unit web service which has land ownership information. The bookmark is http://www.amatholegis.gov.za/.

7.1.1 BIODIVERSITY

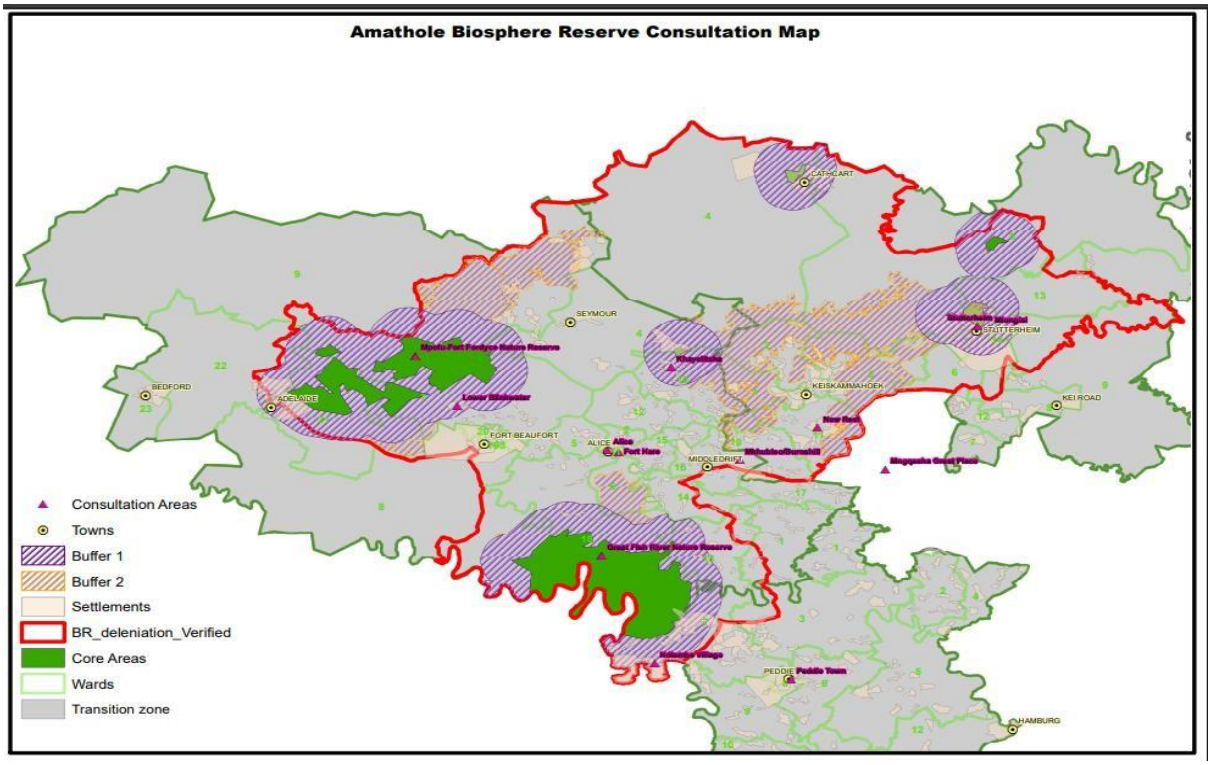
The following plans illustrate the dominant characteristics of the natural endowments of the Amahlathi area. They outline the following: -

- Indigenous Forests in the Toise area and, most notably, the forests stretching from north-west of Stutterheim into the Keiskammahoek area. The latter stretch of forest accommodates the Amathole Hiking Trail, which is a potentially significant local tourism attraction. These forest areas are noted as conservation-worthy and must be managed accordingly, to ensure sensitive development of tourism assets and the sustainable use of the available resources.
- The indigenous forests fall within an area demarcated as the Amatole Complex. The Amatole Complex has been identified as a centre of endemism and includes the escarpment forests and Winterberg grasslands.
- Wartburg falls in the Toise (Wartburg) area. This is a potential scenic tourist attraction and needs to be developed to its potential in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- There are various sites where rock paintings have been discovered. These include sites in the Cathcart vicinity and on the farms Cows mead and Bulls Run in the Lujillo local area.
- The Keiskammahoek area has long been noted for its agricultural potential, based on its natural assets of favourable soils and adequate water supply for intensive irrigated crop production. However, full development of these assets has been hampered by historically inequitable land management practices, and complex land tenure arrangements in the area.
- Similarly, the area located in the southern sector of the Amahlathi Municipal area, the Elukhanyisweni local area, has also previously been identified as having good potential for irrigated crop production. Again, the full development of this potential has been hampered by lack of infrastructure and adequate land tenure arrangements.

- The areas around Cathcart and to the East of the Municipal area have identified potential for Game Farming

- Parts of Amahlathi Local Municipality has been identified and form part of the Amathole Biosphere Reserve, which is championed by Amathole District Municipality, see the map below.

TABLE 16: BIOSPHERE RESERVE



7.2.2 CHALLENGES

- Land claims
- Delay in issuing title deeds
- Ineffective Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Land Invasion

7.2.3 INTERVENTION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- In collaboration with ADM and DFFE, the Biosphere Reserve Application will be submitted to UNESCO
- In collaboration with Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Stutterheim Master and Precinct Plan document was developed.
- With the assistance of ADM and ASPIRE, the Municipality has developed Small Towns Revitalisation for which has been funded by Office of the Premier.

8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

This SDG about decent work and economic growth. It focuses on sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and progressive employment and decent work for all.

TABLE 17: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

TARGET	INDICATOR
• Sustained economic growth	• Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation.

8.1 STATUS QUO

As stated earlier, the Economic active population of Amahlathi Local Municipality is about 64%, at the same time the Municipality is contributing to the unemployment of Amathole District Municipality (31.6%) and that of the Eastern Cape Province (42.5%- Quarterly Labour Force Survey - QLFS).

The Municipality has developed quite a few documents such as Local Economic Development Strategy, Furniture Incubation Feasibility Study, Construction Policy, Precinct Plan, Call for Expression of Interest for mall, Tourism Strategy, Agricultural Plan, SMME strategy, Extended Public Works Program Policy and Supply Chain Policy.

8.1.1 MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC PROFILE

Several sectors are contributing to the positive economic profile of the Municipality. Recently there was improvement in both transport and Community sector being the main contributors.

TABLE 18: ECONOMIC PROFILE BY SECTOR IN %

Sector	2022	2017
Mining	0.13%	2%
Manufacturing	11%	7%
Electricity	01%	4%
Construction	4%	11%
Trade	17.1%	21%
Transport	38%	4%
Finance	18.1%	9%
Community Service	37.7%	29%
Agriculture	8%	9%
Households	NA	10%

The Municipality has, over the years, attempted to resuscitate and implemented projects and programs within her jurisdiction. The table above depicts a bad picture about Agriculture (8%). Amahlathi is heavily endowed with the vast tracks of land that are lying fallow. Some of them are irrigation schemes. If irrigation schemes can be resuscitated, Amahlathi Municipality will be a food basket of the province.

8.2 CHALLENGES

- Non-existence of formalised business Chamber to champion implementation of LED Strategy
- Infighting amongst SMMEs
- Non-existence of SMME Hub
- Aged Agricultural and Tourism Infrastructure
- Lack of Budget
- Silo mentality amongst Departments

8.3 INTERVENTION AND PARTNERSHIPS

- SMMEs capacitation and awareness (SARS, NYDA, SEFDA, etc) sessions
- Funding of projects
- Implementation of Expanded Public Works Program. A total of 77 beneficiaries (in 2024/25) in a variety of projects implemented within the municipal jurisdiction.

- Review of Supply Chain Policy to accommodate the points scoring to accommodate different categories of SMMEs
- ECDC developed the Furniture Incubator Feasibility Study
- Adoption of Construction Development Policy and other related Policies.

9. CLIMATE ACTION

Sustainable Development Goals 13 focuses on taking urgent actions to combat Climate change and its impacts.

TABLE 19: CLIMATE ACTION TARGET

Target	Indicator
Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity	Number of Countries adopting and implementing national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with Sendai Framework

9.1 STATUS QUO

The impact of Climate Change on the Amahlathi LM and its management of land use and scarce resources can be significant.

These are:

• Change in rainfall patterns and average rainfall

• Change in level of fluctuation of general climate patterns and tendencies

• Increase in flood severity and draught occurrence

• Change in ecosystems and desertification

• Impact on bulk water supply resources and agricultural industry

It has become a seasonal thing for the Municipality to experience the disaster, whether gale force winds of floods. Most of the informal dwellings are made up stick and mud, thus making the to be easily affected.

Most of municipal roads are affected by floods. This is attributed to the fact that most of them are dirty roads, not surfaced.

9.2 CHALLENGES

- Inclement weather patterns
- Quality of dwelling
- Quality of road
- Lack of funding
- Silo Mentality
- Lack of awareness

9.3 INTERVENTION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Several departments play their roles during the time of impacts of disaster. During disaster time, the municipalities craft a report and submit to various stakeholders such as National COGTA, and National Department of Human Settlements.

10.CONCLUSION

The Municipality intends to do well in the implementation of the SDGs Phase 2 Program. The Municipality has increased the number of SDGs Champions to ensure smooth implementation of the program. However, even though there are Municipal Champions, SALGA and other Stakeholders who have a role to play in this program will be contacted for helping and provide information.

11. REFERENCES

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2. Amahlathi Local Municipality 2025: Human Settlements Sector Plan
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4. Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council 2017: Amahlathi Local Municipality Socio-Economic Review and Outlook Report.
5. Stutterheim Master and Precinct Plan 2024.

Internet Source

1. www.ecsecc.org.za/demographic/103/Amahlathi-local-municipality/ 2026/23/02
2. http://municipalities.co.za/documentrepository/information 2026/23/02 3.

Statistic S.A 2022

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This serves to acknowledge the progressive and developmental leadership of the Municipal Directorate with regards to the positive acceptance of the SDGs program VLR2026, even though it was introduced in the middle of the financial year. Even though this program came late, the Municipality was eager to in ensuring a successful implementation through various contributions towards the finalisation of the Amahlathi Voluntary Local Review 2026

The Municipal Directorates in collaboration with their sister Government Departments provided valuable date towards the completion of the Amahlathi Voluntary Local Review.

These departments are:

- Budget and Treasury Office
- Engineering
- Community Services
- Corporate Services
- Executive Services
- Department of Development and Town Planning.