

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

MOSSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY

APR 2026



GROW STRATEGY



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EXECUTIVE MESSAGES

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

During the 2024/2025 financial year, Mossel Bay Municipality continued to demonstrate resilience, sound governance, and a steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life of all who live, work, and visit our municipality. It is therefore my privilege to present Mossel Bay Municipality's Voluntary Local Review (VLR), which reflects our contribution towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through local action.

This VLR represents more than a reporting exercise; it reflects our commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive development. It demonstrates how our Integrated Development Plan (IDP), budget priorities, and the Municipality's GROW Strategy collectively advance sustainable development and ensure that no community is left behind.

Mossel Bay Municipality has prioritised five Sustainable Development Goals that align closely with our local context and development aspirations:

- **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation** – ensuring residents have access to reliable water and sanitation services through continued investment in infrastructure maintenance, upgrades, and sustainable resource management.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth** – promoting economic growth, supporting entrepreneurship, enabling investment, and creating an environment where businesses can thrive and employment opportunities can expand.
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities** – building inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable communities through integrated planning, infrastructure development, housing initiatives, disaster preparedness, and the delivery of quality municipal services.
- **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions** – strengthening good governance, promoting accountability, maintaining financial sustainability, and

ensuring that municipal institutions remain responsive and effective in serving our communities.

- **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals** – recognising that sustainable development can only be achieved through collaboration and partnerships with communities, government spheres, the private sector, academia, civil society organisations, and development partners.

The 2024/2025 financial year brought many achievements of which we are proud. Mossel Bay once again emerged as one of South Africa's leading semigration destinations and remained a premier tourism destination during the 2024/2025 tourism season. The recognition of the Pinnacle Point Caves as a UNESCO World Heritage Site further strengthened our international profile and presents significant opportunities for tourism growth, cultural preservation, and academic research.

Equally significant was the recognition by Ratings Afrika, which ranked Mossel Bay Municipality, alongside Midvaal Municipality, as the most financially sustainable municipalities in South Africa. This achievement reflects prudent financial management, sound governance practices, and the dedication of our administration and Council to maintaining institutional stability and service excellence.

These successes would not have been possible without the trust and commitment of our residents and ratepayers, whose exceptional payment rate of approximately 95 per cent enables the Municipality to continue delivering services effectively and investing in future development. Their contribution remains fundamental to our collective progress.

As we look ahead, this Voluntary Local Review reaffirms our commitment to the principles of sustainable development and to the priorities identified through our IDP and GROW Strategy. While challenges remain, we are confident that, through responsible leadership, innovation, and strong partnerships, Mossel Bay Municipality will continue to build a municipality that is inclusive, resilient, prosperous, and sustainable for current and future generations.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Speaker, fellow Councillors, the Municipal Manager, Directors, municipal officials, our development partners, community stakeholders, and every resident of Mossel Bay Municipality for their contribution towards the achievements reflected in this Voluntary Local Review. Together, we continue to advance our shared vision of a municipality where sustainable development translates into tangible improvements in the lives of all our people.

Alderman Dirk Kotzé

Executive Mayor

Mossel Bay Municipality

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

As Mossel Bay Municipality presents its Voluntary Local Review, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable municipality that places the needs of its residents at the centre of all our decisions and actions.

The 2024/2025 financial year marked another significant milestone in our journey towards sustainable development. Despite economic pressures, infrastructure challenges, and increasing demands on municipal services, our Municipality continued to demonstrate resilience, innovation, and sound governance. Guided by the principles of accountability, integrity, fairness, and service excellence, we remained focused on delivering meaningful outcomes that improve the quality of life of all who call Mossel Bay home.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not separate from our daily responsibilities as a local government. They are embedded in the manner in which we plan, allocate resources, and deliver services. Through our Integrated Development Plan (IDP), we continue to align local priorities with national and global development commitments, ensuring that development is both people-centred and future-focused.

Our investment in critical infrastructure during the year under review reflects this commitment. Projects aimed at strengthening energy security, expanding and modernising water and sanitation services, improving transport and road infrastructure, enhancing stormwater systems, and promoting renewable energy solutions contribute directly to creating a more sustainable and climate-resilient municipality. These interventions support not only economic growth and social well-being but also the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

At the same time, we recognise the challenges that continue to confront our communities. Vandalism of public infrastructure, resource constraints, and the growing complexity of service delivery require innovative responses and stronger partnerships. Addressing these challenges demands collective action between government,

communities, civil society, the private sector, and our development partners. Sustainable development can only be realised when all stakeholders work together towards a common vision.

This Voluntary Local Review provides an opportunity for reflection, learning, and accountability. It enables us to celebrate progress made, acknowledge areas requiring further attention, and strengthen our commitment to evidence-based decision-making and transparent reporting. More importantly, it demonstrates that local government has a critical role to play in advancing the 2030 Agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Mossel Bay Municipality continues to demonstrate strong alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with measurable progress recorded in governance, economic development, infrastructure delivery, and community safety.

Since the previous Voluntary Local Review (VLR), the Municipality has strengthened its strategic approach by implementing the GROW Strategy (Governance, Economy, Safety, Environment, and Social Regeneration), aligned with the Agenda 2030.

Key highlights include sustained financial sustainability, clean audit outcomes, expanded local economic development initiatives, strong EPWP performance, investment in water security and energy resilience, enhanced community safety, and strengthened partnerships.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Executive Mayor and Council for their leadership and oversight, to the Executive Management Team for their dedication and professionalism, and to every employee of Mossel Bay Municipality whose daily efforts make our achievements possible. I also thank our residents, stakeholders, and strategic partners for their continued trust, collaboration, and active participation in shaping the future of our Municipality.

Together, through shared responsibility and a steadfast commitment to sustainable development, we will continue to build a Mossel Bay that is resilient, prosperous, inclusive, and prepared for generations to come.

Mr C. Puren

Municipal Manager

Mossel Bay Municipality



MUNICIPAL VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

The Mossel Bay Municipal Council acknowledges its constitutional responsibility and understands the importance of strong political leadership, sound administration, and financial management in the effective functioning of a municipality. It has therefore reaffirmed its vision, mission, and values.

Vision

We strive to be a trendsetting, dynamic municipality delivering quality services responsive to the demands and challenges of the whole society in line with our constitutional mandate.

Mission

The community is our inspiration, and our workforce is our strength in the quest to implement a five-year strategic approach to growth through local government excellence, with a strong focus on successful basic service delivery, community safety, local economic development for job creation, social regeneration, and environmental health to:

- render cost-effective and sustainable services to the entire community with diligence and empathy
- create mutual trust and understanding between the municipality and the community
- have a motivated and representative municipal workforce with high ethical standards, which is empowered to render optimal services to the community
- promote diversity and freedom through an open society approach

Values

- Work pride
- Loyalty
- Moral integrity
- Fairness
- Service Excellence
- Accountability

INTRODUCTION

The Mossel Bay Municipality, located in the Western Cape of South Africa, is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) assesses progress on:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 6: (Clean Water and Sanitation)
- 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
- 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
- 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)
- 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

As a coastal municipality with a rich history and diverse communities, Mossel Bay aligns its local development plans with global SDG targets to foster inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth. This VLR draws on municipal data, stakeholder consultations, and public participation processes to present achievements, challenges, and future strategies.

Mossel Bay is the fastest-growing municipal area in the Western Cape and can rightly boast as one of the country's leading municipalities, trusted for service delivery excellence.

The VLR was developed through a participatory approach, involving:

- Consultations with all municipal departments (Corporate Service, Planning & Economic Development, Community Safety, Community Services, Technical and Infrastructure Services, and Finance).
- Public participation, workshops, as mandated by South African municipal governance frameworks.
- Alignment with the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of Mossel Bay.

- Review of existing policies and programs against SDG indicators.
- Information and awareness on SGDs were distributed electronically.

Data was sourced from Statistics South Africa, municipal reports, stakeholder engagements, including community members, and relevant stakeholders. The review focuses on qualitative and quantitative progress from 2020 to 2025.

MOSSEL BAY - MUNICIPAL PROFILE



Towns and settlements within the municipal boundaries:

Aalwyndal, Boggomsbaai, Brandwag, Buisplaas, D'Almeida, Dana Bay, Glentana, Great Brak River, Friemersheim, Hartenbos, Herbertsdale, Hersham, Joe Slovo Village, KwaNonqaba, Little Brak River, Mossel Bay, Outeniqua Beach, Reebok, Ruiterbos, Southern Cross, Tergniet and Vleesbaai.

Municipal Demarcation Code: WC043

- **Location of Head Office:** 101 Marsh Street, Mossel Bay.
- **Neighbouring Towns:** George (66 km east); Riversdale (77 km west); Albertinia (50 km west); Oudtshoorn (96 km north).

- **Municipal Area:** 2007 sq. km.
- **District Municipality:** Garden Route (George).
- **Population:** 140 075 (2022 Census)
- **Educational Institutions:** South Cape Technical College - Mossel Bay Campus;
Five Secondary Schools;
21 Primary Schools; Various private educational institutions.
- **Medical Facilities:** Bayview Private Hospital; Mossel Bay Provincial Hospital;
District Municipal Health
Services; Vidamed Day Hospital.
- **Police Stations:** Da Gamaskop, Great Brak River, Herbertsdale, KwaNonqaba and
Mossel Bay.
- **Law Courts:** Mossel Bay Magistrates Court; Mossel Bay Municipal Court.
- **Port:** Mossel Bay
- **Prison:** Mossel Bay Correctional Centre for the Youth.
- **Main Economic Activities:** Agriculture (aloes, cattle, dairy, ostriches, sheep,
vegetables and wine),
Fishing, Light Industry, Petrochemicals, Tourism.

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

The constantly shifting environment in which municipalities function presents unique challenges that affect a municipality's daily operations. The Mossel Bay Municipality's Council and Administration are fully aware of both the positive and negative effects that the outside world has on the Municipality's ability to provide and uphold service standards. Strengths include a comparatively low crime rate, easy access to the national road and airport, a desalination plant and PetroSA synthetic fuel plant, and investments made by several key stakeholders for corporate social responsibility.

This Garden Route holiday destination provides blue flag beaches, top-notch medical facilities, excellent schools, a financially viable municipality, sound administration, a

stable political environment, and capable governance. Weaknesses, on the other hand, include an increase in backyard dwellers and informal settlements; distance from major markets like Cape Town and Port Elizabeth; a port too small for exports and large cruise ships; a dwindling central business district with limited parking; inadequate stormwater drainage in some areas, and aging electricity infrastructure (5th Generation IDP Review 2023).

The Mossel Bay region's economic, environmental, political, and social characteristics allow the municipality to recognize a wide range of opportunities, such as local economic development, oil and gas exploration, upgrading of the Point area which includes a lighthouse as a tourist icon; agricultural projects; room to explore township tourism and aquaculture-fish farming; capitalize on the potential growth of festivals, port development and on the archaeological discoveries at Pinnacle Point; capitalise on the creation of jobs by Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP); and adopt and implement a safety plan involving neighbourhood watchkeeping and community policing.

The following are some of the threats that are more likely to make it difficult for the municipality to maintain standards and provide services: rising electricity prices from Eskom; power loadshedding; increased crime and limited capacity of the South African Police Services (SAPS); HIV and Aids pandemic; drug and human trafficking; rising rates of unemployment and poverty; increased reliance on government grants; climate change; rising sea levels; droughts; diminishing marine resources; fishing quotas; illegal occupation of municipal land; illicit dumping of biological materials and refuse; and frequent floods in the Southern Cape. The Municipality, through the implementation of its Integrated Development Plan, will capitalise on its strengths, compensate for its weaknesses, seize opportunities, and strive to contain or mitigate existing threats (5th Generation IDP Review 2023).

The SDGs for Mossel Bay Municipality were selected considering the current needs and the improvement thereof:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6

Mossel Bay Municipality remains committed to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 by ensuring that all residents have access to safe drinking water and dignified sanitation services. The municipality recognises that reliable water and sanitation services are fundamental to public health, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and improved quality of life.

The households that remain without full access are primarily located within informal settlements and certain rural communities. The municipality continues to prioritise interventions aimed at extending services to these areas and achieving universal access.

The municipality's water supply system is supported by a diversified portfolio of water resources, including the Wolwedans Dam, Klipheuwel Dam, Ernst Robertson Dam, boreholes, and a desalination plant. Untreated water is conveyed to seven water purification facilities strategically located across the municipal area. These facilities collectively have a treatment capacity of approximately 56.3 megalitres per day, while the average daily demand is significantly lower, providing operational flexibility and resilience.

A key component of Mossel Bay's water security strategy is its desalination capacity. The municipality operates one of the largest seawater desalination facilities in South Africa, capable of producing up to 15 megalitres of potable water per day when required. This infrastructure significantly strengthens the municipality's ability to withstand prolonged droughts and climatic variability. The municipality has also expanded its reservoir capacity through the construction of new reservoirs in Herbertsdale, Hartenbos, Great Brak River, and Bartelsfontein to improve storage and supply reliability.

To further enhance long-term water security, Mossel Bay Municipality is implementing several strategic initiatives. These include ongoing engagements with the Department

of Water and Sanitation regarding the management of the Klipheuwel Dam, discussions with PetroSA concerning the future utilisation of the desalination plant and water pipeline infrastructure, and the rollout of smart water metering technologies aimed at improving demand management and reducing water losses.

In the area of sanitation, the municipality continues to invest in infrastructure upgrades and service expansion. Through the implementation of the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) and the extension of water-borne sewerage systems, Mossel Bay seeks to eliminate the use of pit latrines and ensure that all residents benefit from safe and dignified sanitation facilities. These interventions contribute directly to improved health outcomes, environmental protection, and social inclusion.

The municipality also promotes responsible water use through water demand management measures, public awareness campaigns, and the implementation of water restrictions during periods of reduced supply. Such initiatives encourage behavioural change and support the sustainable use of limited water resources in an increasingly water-scarce environment.

Key SDG 6 Achievements and Initiatives

- 98.5% of residents have access to water services.
- 97.6% of residents have access to sanitation services.
- Seven water treatment facilities provide a combined treatment capacity of 56.3 Ml/day.
- Multiple water sources, including dams, boreholes, and desalination, enhance water resilience.
- One of South Africa's largest desalination plants supports municipal water security.
- Expansion of reservoir infrastructure has strengthened storage capacity.
- Smart water meter deployment supports efficient water demand management.
- UISP implementation and sewer infrastructure upgrades aim to eliminate pit latrines.

- Continued collaboration with national stakeholders supports sustainable water resource management.

Through these interventions, Mossel Bay Municipality demonstrates its commitment to achieving SDG 6 by providing reliable, inclusive, and sustainable water and sanitation services. While progress has been substantial, the municipality acknowledges the remaining challenges and remains dedicated to ensuring that no community is left behind in the pursuit of universal access to clean water and sanitation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8

To promote sustainable economic growth, productive employment, and decent work for all. It emphasizes the importance of achieving higher levels of economic productivity, encouraging entrepreneurship, fostering development-oriented policies, and ensuring that all workers have access to decent working conditions.

The Municipality has expanded support to SMMEs through business parks, incubators, and renewable energy initiatives. It remains a top-performing EPWP municipality, creating jobs and developing skills. Tourism continues to grow, with strong contributions from cruise liner activities and local economic participation.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving the SDG:

Economy

In April 2024, Mossel Bay Municipality's office for Local Economic Development was awarded bronze at the prestigious Western Cape Government Provincial Service Excellence Awards in the category "Best Municipal Project". The award recognised the municipality's efforts to grow the local economy and support small businesses through its business parks (beehives), the Goods Shed, and the business incubator project. The beehives are based at Thusong, Wolwedans, Khoebo, and Barcelona (KwaNonqaba), markets in Mossel Bay Central, and the GoodShed.

Tourism

The most recent Mossel Bay Tourism Report highlights the remarkable achievements of the 2024/2025 cruise liner season, with Mossel Bay welcoming 29 cruise liners and 12,690 passengers between November 2024 and May 2025. This feat is a testament to our shared vision for excellence and inclusive service delivery, and it underscores Mossel Bay's growing appeal as a premier tourist hub. Mossel Bay was proudly recognised by Lightstone Properties as South Africa's top tourism destination for the festive season of 2024/2025. Great Brak River, part of our municipality, was awarded second place in the same survey, further evidence of our collective accomplishments in driving tourism excellence.

The positive economic impact of the cruise liner season cannot be overstated. As a municipality, we are proud of the direct benefits it has brought to Mossel Bay, more beds filled in holiday accommodations, thriving restaurants, increased local purchases, and enhanced employment opportunities. The ripple effect extends beyond the region, contributing significantly to South Africa's broader tourism economy.

Route 12

Mossel Bay Tourism introduced Route 12, a tourist route leading to 12 #ICONIC towns in our district, showcasing our pristine beaches, unique adventures, and renowned cultural sites. Route 12 offers an experience of each town's distinctive food and drink, and exciting activities like helicopter rides, wildlife safaris, fishing, and boating adventures, and dares tourists to explore the less-travelled roads to discover Mossel Bay's committed dedication to all aspects of our community.

It is important to keep our economy stable and promote entrepreneurship. In 2023, the Mossel Bay Municipality's Office for Local Economic Development (LED) applied for funding to implement alternative sources of energy to assist micro and small businesses. D'Almeida Business Park, the Kwano Business Park in KwaNonqaba, and the Thusong Centre in Adriaans Avenue are beneficiaries of the 120 solar panels provided by the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

This new solar power will ensure better sustainability for the 34 business owners operating at these three sites. Young entrepreneurs at our beehives now have access to sustainable opportunities to grow their businesses.

Expanded public works programme

Mossel Bay Municipality has been officially recognised as the Best Performing Municipality in the Western Cape Government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for the 2024/2025 financial year. This recognition is yet another testament to the municipality's commitment to responsible grant management, ensuring funds are used where they matter most, boosting job creation, and supporting residents. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is a national government initiative that focuses on skills development and providing work opportunities. The Western Cape Government has been effectively leveraging the EPWP to address poverty and unemployment in the province, through:

- Creating access to temporary employment opportunities for unemployed individuals.
- Supporting unemployed participants through structured skills development and work experience programme.
- Administering the payment of stipends for work undertaken by EPWP participants.
- Enhancing participants' employability and entrepreneurial opportunities beyond the programme.

The EPWP focuses on the four sectors:

Infrastructure Sector

The infrastructure sector is led by the Department of Transport and Public Works, in co-operation with the departments of Human Settlements, Health, and Education, as well as municipalities.

Work opportunities within this sector focus mainly on labour-intensive activities (e.g. maintenance programmes) and are likely to provide regular jobs to larger numbers of unemployed persons.

Non-State Sector

The non-state sector is led by the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and includes local government (Community Work Programme) and municipalities. IDT provides funding to NGOs, which then provide regular part-time work with regular incomes.

Environmental and Culture Sector

This sector is led by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, together with the departments of Agriculture, Cultural Affairs and Sport, as well as municipalities.

This sector creates jobs through alien vegetation clearing projects, wetland rehabilitation programmes, waste management, and community tourism projects.

Social Sector

The social sector is led by the Department of Social Development, in co-operation with the departments of Community Safety, Education, and Health, as well as municipalities.

The sector focuses on increasing the quality of home-based care and early childhood development programmes, both of which require large amounts of dedication.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

Mossel Bay remains one of the most financially sustainable municipalities in South Africa, supported by strong revenue management and planning.

Water security is ensured through diversified sources, including desalination. In November 2025, Mossel Bay Municipality announced the successful delivery of a ground-breaking hybrid solar PV and microgrid system at the Hartenbos Waste Water Treatment Works. This innovative energy solution strengthens the resilience of critical infrastructure while advancing South Africa's clean energy goals. Even during grid

outages, operations at the facility remain uninterrupted - thanks to smart, sustainable design.

Environmental programmes include food gardens, tree planting, and marine conservation partnerships.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving the SDG:

Financial sustainability

In 2024, Ratings Afrika recognized Mossel Bay Municipality as the most Financially Sustainable Municipality in South Africa, along with Midvaal Municipality in Gauteng. Since Ratings Afrika published its first MFSI (TM) rating in 2011, Mossel Bay has consistently scored exceedingly high. On at least four occasions, Mossel Bay scored tops. In 2020, the overall financial sustainability score of 76 out of 100 was achieved by Mossel Bay. This was the highest in the Western Cape. In 2021, Mossel Bay scored 74, which placed the town in the top position in the country. At that stage, Mossel Bay was already making the shift from small holiday hamlet to a thriving primary residential destination peppered with a range of highly sought-after residential estates comprising mainly permanent homes. In 2022, Mossel Bay was placed 4th on the Municipal Financial Sustainability Index, with a score of 70, narrowly on the heels of George Municipality, which at 71 placed third that year. Mossel Bay is leading the Western Cape with sufficient financial headroom to deliver services and develop infrastructure while building reserves to absorb financial shocks, to deliver high levels of services to the people of Mossel Bay.

In 2023, Mossel Bay scored 70 and was placed joint-second with Swartland Municipality. Mossel Bay Municipality showed that it has well-entrenched financial policies and that our budget is based on sound long-term financial strategies. The municipality adheres to good budgetary practices, strict financial control, and good revenue collection despite tough economic conditions. The 2024 result reflects sound long-term development planning, fiscal management policies, and discipline by the leadership of Mossel Bay Municipality. The high score achieved by Mossel Bay

Municipality means in practice that it has the financial ability to deliver high levels of services to the people of Mossel Bay.

World Heritage status for the Pinnacle Point

In 2011, the Mossel Bay Municipal Council resolved to provide its full support for a World Heritage status application and delegated the Municipal Manager to investigate the possibilities of this, as well as possible future involvement of the municipality in the discoveries. It was also recommended that Mossel Bay be the entry point of these discoveries and that the possibility of erecting an Interpretive Centre for this purpose be investigated. A report was subsequently tabled to the Council in 2013, recommending that a task team be established consisting of members of the Public, representatives for indigenous (First Peoples) groups, municipal officials, and the Heritage Society to proceed with the planning of an Interpretive Centre. In 2014, the report was tabled to Council, and it resolved to avail the portion of land at the St Blaize cave site at the Point, below the Point Caves to establish an Interpretive Centre as well as establish a non-profit company (NPC) to lease the land from Council and oversee the construction and future management of the Interpretive Centre. Since then, the NPC has been functional and has successfully established an interim centre to tell this remarkable story and expose visitors to the unique discoveries and the history of our indigenous people. This interim centre was established with donations from, amongst others, the private sector, for which the Council and the NPC board are very grateful. The board of the NPC consists of residents and academics with skills, knowledge, and passion for the story of the Cradle of Human Culture.

On 26 July 2024, the 46th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee proclaimed World Heritage status for the Pinnacle Point Site.

Receiving World Heritage Status has helped to position Mossel Bay as the place where cultures meet, attracting academics and other groups and individuals interested in learning more about the origins of human culture, whilst sharing this beautiful town with the world.

Environment

The Mossel Bay Spatial Development Framework also serves as the Environmental Management Framework. The Council has approved an overarching non-profit company to focus on our environment, to forge closer ties with our registered conservancies and environmental organisations, and NPOs to place greater emphasis on environmental conservation. More than 100 kilometres of unspoiled coastline and vast tracts of conservation-worthy biomes are found within our borders.

The Community Services Directorate established more than 250 food gardens in the communities. More than 11,871 trees have been planted in the greater Mossel Bay since the adoption of the municipal Tree Policy.

In partnership with the Conservancy Forum and other local partners, as well as through the ongoing relationship with Kouga Municipality in the Eastern Cape, Mossel Bay is advocating for a marine protected area along its coastline.

Electricity

To buffer against loadshedding in Mossel Bay, the municipality implemented energy efficiency projects affecting approximately 9,000 geysers, as well as pump stations and street lighting. The municipality further installed a 30kVA solar generation system at the municipal Infrastructure Services offices, approximately 1,900 solar water heaters at housing projects, solar street lighting in parts of informal settlements, and battery back-up power at various traffic intersections. An energy efficiency project was further completed for the replacement of approximately 5,000 streetlight lamps of 57 watts with new 37-Watt LED lights, over a period of two years, for R10 million. The Infrastructure Department is further in the process of upgrading the 66-kilovolt line near Mossdustria from 30 megavolt-amperes to 47 megavolt-amperes to unlock the potential for renewable energy projects.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

The Municipality maintained a clean audit outcome, reinforcing transparency and accountability.

The Joint Operations Centre strengthens community safety through integrated services and partnerships. Citizen engagement has improved through digital platforms and service integration.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving this SDG:

Ethical Leadership

On 28 November 2024 the political and administrative leadership signed a pledge during the council meeting to uphold the seven principles of the Code of Ethical Leadership in Local Government. These principles have since been rolled out to the municipality.

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Prevention

An Anti-Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy has been adopted by Council to promote a strong culture of ethical conduct, integrity and accountability within the Mossel Bay Municipality. The policy provides a framework for preventing fraud, corruption, theft, and maladministration through appropriate preventative and responsive measures, while encouraging transparency and public confidence in municipal governance.

Annual workshops are held to inform new and existing employees of the Policy and to enhance awareness within the Municipality.

Whistle Blowing Policy

The Mossel Bay Municipality is committed to the fight against fraud and corruption and any form of impropriety, whether the perpetrators are internal or external. This Whistle-Blowing Policy and procedure is part of the employer's commitment to maintain a culture of openness and transparency. Confidentiality is maintained to ensure whistleblowers are not victimised for disclosing information in good faith that might be in the employer's interest.

Anti-Fraud Hotline

The Municipality has a fully operational Anti-Fraud Hotline, and disclosures can be made via several methods, such as phone, fax, e-mail, free post, SMS, and live chat. The Municipality markets the Anti-Fraud Hotline in its monthly newsletters and the local newspaper; additionally, the hotline details are included in the Municipality's e-mail signature. Disclosures feature as a standing item on the Fraud and Risk Committee to ensure oversight and transparency.

Call Centre

The municipality has also improved the Call Centre to help streamline service delivery challenges reported by our residents. Now situated in the JOC, the call centre has direct access to the nerve centre of law enforcement and fire, rescue, and disaster management services.

Joint Operation Centre (JOC) – Community Safety

The Joint Operation Centre is a force multiplier intended to ensure community safety, effective service delivery, and information management. The JOC is operated as a public private partnership and accommodates traffic services, law enforcement, fire services and has successful partnerships with the SAPS, Provincial traffic, Farm and Neighbourhood Watch groups, the Peace Parks Foundation, Rhino Watch Africa, Radio Unit, Correctional Services, Chaplain Services, Drone Operators, Disaster

Management for the Garden Route District, Western Cape Liquor Authority, Police Ombudsman and Environmental Compliance Unit.

The Mossel Bay Municipality's K9 Unit was officially established in partnership with the Western Cape Provincial Government. The K-9 Unit currently has 4 well-trained dogs, each with their handler from the law enforcement team, and has already assisted in the combating of various crimes, including the confiscation of illegal firearms and illicit substances.

A partnership was established with the private sector for helicopters to be used during emergencies and for routine community safety work.

Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC)

The Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) is in terms of Section 79 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act. The MPAC committee performs an oversight function on behalf of the Council. The primary functions of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee, as set out in the approved MPAC Charter, are as follows:

- The consideration of the annual report in terms of Chapter 12 of the Local Government: Finance Management Act.
- To consider the report to Council on the implementation of the budget and financial state of affairs of the Municipality in terms of Sections 52 and 71 of the Local Government: Finance Management Act.
- Oversight to promote good governance, transparency, and accountability in the use of municipal resources.
- To perform any other functions assigned to it through a resolution of the Council within its area of responsibility.

Supply Chain Management (SCM)

Mossel Bay Municipality received a clean audit in the 2023/24 financial year. The Supply Chain Management unit received no material findings for the required financial year.

All Supply Chain Management officials continuously try to improve systems and to streamline processes and procedures, but at the same time, remain compliant with all applicable legislation. The unit has rolled out the new requisition process, where departments need to select from a catalogue when they want to do procurement. The logistics section has rolled out an electronic stock issue process that will function in a similar way then the catalogue system.

With the GROW GOVERNANCE STRATEGY in mind, the Mossel Bay Municipality strives for financial management excellence. Mossel Bay Municipality showed that it has well-entrenched financial policies and that the budget is based on sound long-term financial strategies. The municipality adheres to good budgetary practices, strict financial control, and good revenue collection despite tough economic conditions.

Disability Accessibility Mossel Bay (DAM)

A project aimed at accessibility and support for persons living with disabilities was officially launched in Mossel Bay. The project, Disability Accessibility Mossel Bay (DAM), is being incubated by the Education and Training Hub for Autism Needs (ETHAN). DAM is a 5-star rating system designed by persons with disabilities for persons with disabilities and is focused on how accessible and comfortable a facility is for persons with disabilities. The model is aimed at making Mossel Bay the first disability-friendly town in South Africa, in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Social Development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17

The Municipality continues to strengthen international and local partnerships, including knowledge-sharing initiatives and stakeholder engagement.

Public participation has been enhanced through workshops and IDP-aligned processes, ensuring inclusivity and transparency.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving the SDG:

The Office of the Executive Mayor

The Office of the Executive Mayor has consistently hosted various events to raise funds for the Mayoral Fund. These include the Mayoral Breakfast, the Mayoral Golf Day, the Mayoral Gala dinner, and the recent launch of the Mayoral Art Gallery. The Mayoral Breakfast is an opportunity for the local community, business, faith-based, educational, and other leaders to engage with nationally and globally renowned thought leaders.

Twinning Agreements

The municipality has twinning agreements in place with Keetmanshoop, Namibia and Denpasar, Indonesia.

City of Tacoma Government, Washington State

Mossel Bay Municipality welcomed the City of Tacoma Government, Washington State, to the iconic Mossel Bay. With a mission to promote peace through people by citizen diplomacy, cultural education, and economic development. The Sister Cities Council of Tacoma advances Tacoma as a global city and promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation through citizen diplomacy – one individual, one community at a time – for the benefit of Tacoma and its sister cities.

To accomplish its mission, the Sister Cities Council of Tacoma develops programs in the areas of cultural arts and tourism, global education, government relations, and international business.

Prince Albert Municipality Visits Mossel Bay for Local Government Best Practice Study Tour

Officials of Prince Albert Municipality visited Mossel Bay Municipality to benchmark, learn, and exchange ideas on best practices for public administration at the local government level.

Delegates from Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality also visited Mossel Bay Municipality for a similar study tour.

Kouga Municipality, Benchmarking Visit

Mossel Bay Municipality's Portfolio Chairperson for Community Safety visited Kouga Municipality for the Kouga Safety Summit alongside the City of Cape Town to share best practices on growing community safety.

The Mossel Bay Municipality also hosted the Kouga Municipality on a benchmarking visit. The Municipality of Oudtshoorn and Keetmanshoop, Namibia, respectively, visited Mossel Bay on similar tours.

Communication, Participation, and Forums

The Municipality promotes participatory democracy by facilitating public participation in procedures through public meetings and Rep forums. Annual IDP public forums are held in all 15 wards to enhance consultation.

Mossel Bay Municipality maintains a communication policy and strategy based on a detailed communication plan that is reviewed annually. Transparency is a core value and is maintained through a sustained effort to provide clear and concise communication with residents.

Regular slots on local radio stations are also utilized to enhance communication with the public. During these slots, specific topics relating to current issues are highlighted, and experts from the municipality's directorates participate in live interviews.

Communication networks are as follows:

- Follow our website - <https://dirkkotze.co.za/>
- Follow us on TikTok - <https://www.tiktok.com/@mayor.dirk>
- Follow us on Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/mayordirk_kotze/
- Follow us on WhatsApp - <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Va81jm45PO0sHkSWyj0D>
- Follow our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/mosselbaydamayor/>

One of the more recent additions to the communication portfolio is the Collab Citizen municipal smartphone application, as well as the establishment of a municipal studio, which is among others used for podcasts, radio interviews, etc.

MAPPING NEXT STEPS IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW PROCESS

The Municipality will prioritise institutionalising SDG reporting, improving data systems, enhancing climate resilience, scaling job creation programmes, expanding partnerships, and improving urban planning to manage growth.

In consideration of the lessons learnt and key insights acquired out of the engagements and workshops, the VLR review process in Mossel Bay, and in terms of what is potentially the single most important aspect of the process, improving the overall performance of the town, has an intention of deeply embedding its work on the SDGs.

This is done to challenge the Mossel Bay Municipality not to follow a business-as-usual route, but one of sustainability and resilience. A decision has been taken to better coordinate continuous tracking (monitoring and reporting) of the SDG implementation at the local government level so that insights obtained during the report are consolidated.

In a way, the municipality will strengthen the closing of data management gaps that have been highlighted by its participation in the SDG localisation process through the VLR. Mossel Bay Municipality will also use the localisation of the SDGS through the VLR to better galvanise its efforts of making partnerships (raising friends) and managing the resultant key relationships formed further from its current efforts.

CONCLUSION

Given the multiplicity of the partnerships the municipality currently has, it will leverage the SDGs in structuring more intentional partnership arrangements drawn from other cities, academia and research institutions, civic society organisations, and business sector partners to enhance the institutionalisation of the SDGs in Mossel Bay for higher and better outcomes.

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