

Acronyms

COGHSTA	: Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs
DM	: District Municipality
EDHSSP	: Economic Development, Human Settlements and Spatial Planning
EXCO	: Executive Committee
FET	: Further Education and Training
HAZMAT	: Hazardous Materials
IDP	: Integrated Development Plan
KNP	: Kruger National Park
LED	: Local Economic Development
LEDA	: Limpopo Enterprise Development Agency
LEDET	: Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
LEGDP	: Limpopo Economic Growth and Development Plan
LM	: Local Municipality
LTA	: Local Tourism Authority
NDP	: National Development Plan
NSDP	: National Spatial Development Perspective
NSSD	: National Strategy for Sustainable Development
PMC	: Palabora Mining Company
SDI	: Spatial Development Initiative
SEDA	: Small Enterprise Development Agency
SMME	: Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises

Foreword: Mayor

The municipality has successfully reviewed its LED Strategy internally. This is a milestone and a highly appreciated attempt to save the municipality in costly consultative fees. Improved service delivery remains one of the biggest challenges facing the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, and thus remains a major priority.

The LED strategy is aligned to the prescripts of the National Development Plan and other Provincial, District and Local Municipal Plans to achieve the long-term National Vision of creating sustainable job opportunities, empower local businesses and improve the livelihood of the local communities.

The LED Strategy represents the refined municipal vision to provide improved services and enhance tourism development and reflects on the planned actions in responding to the current challenges as the situation dictates.

The provision of sustainable services such as excellent roads, sustainable electricity, clean water, adequate waste management remains the municipal top priority as part of promoting the local economic and tourism development.

The strategy recommends for the rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure, empower SMMEs and the informal sector as part of job creation through expanded public works and community works programs.

The Strategy highlights on the sensitivity of the environment within the Ba-Phalaborwa precinct. The recent pollution of the Letaba and the Oliphants Rivers is a wake-up call for all stakeholders to work together in mitigating potential risks posed by all economic activities within the Municipal area.

The risk posed by the advent of malaria should be kept in check in order not to affect the development and promotion of the tourism sector. The 2014 reported malaria is a point of concern and needs to be mitigated through integrated programs.

The LED Strategy therefore highlights on the need to provide solutions in the:

- Refurbishment of electricity infrastructure;
- Provision of clean water
- Rehabilitation and maintenance of roads; and
- Construction of roads and storm water.
- Creation of job opportunities to increase employment,

Preface: Municipal Manager

This LED Strategy and its suggested plans serves as a five (5) year plan aligned to the municipal IDP processes. Its adoption by Council is expected to be translated into tangible actions implemented by various stakeholders as part of the municipal IDP plans.

Members of the community, private and public sectors are urged to be active in identifying potential business opportunities to be seized. The Mayor's forward has summarized important areas to be prioritised. The implementation plans need to be refined through the IDP processes and holistically address the current service delivery backlogs and generally improve on the livelihoods of the Ba-Phalaborwa communities.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this LED strategy document is to recommend strategic interventions to create integrated and sustainable communities for Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality where social well-being, economic development and the environment are in harmony. This forms part of the municipal sustainable community development programme, which is currently being implemented through the IDP based on Ward-based Planning.

The document comprises eight chapters, and provides a description of the current situation (situational analysis), the legislative framework on LED, proposed development interventions, proposals for implementation and the summary and the conclusions of the Local Economic Development Strategy for Ba-Phalaborwa.

The Municipal Vision states that the Municipality aspires for the ***“Provision of quality services for community well-being and tourism development”***.

The mission and objectives of the Municipality is:

- To ensure financial viability, sound administration and accountable governance for investor attractiveness;
- To render all stakeholders with quality and affordable infrastructure and services for enhancing a safe and better life for all;
- To manage the environment for future sustainable economic growth;
- To promote and support mining and agricultural industries for economic growth; and
- To position Ba-Phalaborwa as a tourism destination of choice.

The strategy is poised to build prosperous communities by eradicating poverty, inequality, joblessness through stable social, political and economic empowerment initiatives, delivering sustainable quality services and entrenched community participation by being responsive, efficient, effective, transparent, competitive, accountable and honest.

The strategy notes that Ba-Phalaborwa currently prides itself as the best tourism hub in the Mopani District with quality tourism products. Mining, agriculture and manufacturing play an important economic role in job creation. The Municipality is conducting on an annual basis ward based community planning where in community needs are identified and prioritised to inform annual municipal development plans. Informal trading is mushrooming at an alarming rate within the economic hubs of Namakgale, Lulekani and Phalaborwa.

The objective of the strategy is to guide the implementation and the attainment of municipal strategic objectives to:

- Capture and maximise implementation of planned economic initiatives and community development needs,
- Create economic competitiveness on existing economic opportunities.

- Align the reviewed LED Strategy to the municipal IDP and its processes,
- Integrate the principles of the Development Charter and the Ba-Phalaborwa Spatial Development Framework.
- Serve as a strategic guideline to the realisation of the municipal integrated strategic objectives for the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipal area,
- Realise the potential economic development goals, encourage and retention of private sector investment, job creation, and sustainable livelihood.

The revised LED Strategy is expected to serve as a guiding tool to supplement the following municipal strategic document:

- Spatial Development Framework;
- Environmental Management Scheme;
- Infrastructure Development Plan;
- The Ba-Phalaborwa Development Charter;
- The Ba-Phalaborwa Integrated Development Plan; and
- Development Plan.

The expected outcomes of the LED Strategy are summarised as follows:

- Outline strategic recommendations and interventions necessary to exploit on the municipal strengths and opportunities,
- To inject and create integrated and sustainable communities in Ba-Phalaborwa,
- To be used as a tool to guarantee devoted utilisation of available resources to promote local economic development in an integrated manner;
- Integrate and take into account the long-term vision for the economic development of Ba-Phalaborwa.
- Align the LED Strategy to the municipal IDP processes and processes,
- Align the LED Strategy to the Mopani District LED Strategy,
- Align the LED Strategy to the Limpopo Economic Growth and Development Plan 2009-2014,
- Align the LED Strategy to the National Development Plan (Vision 2030).