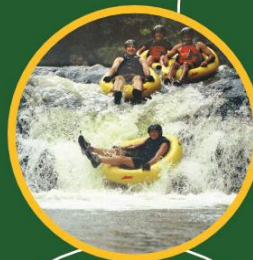
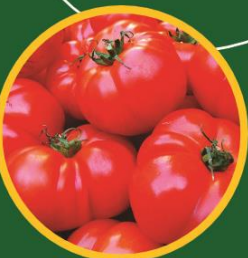
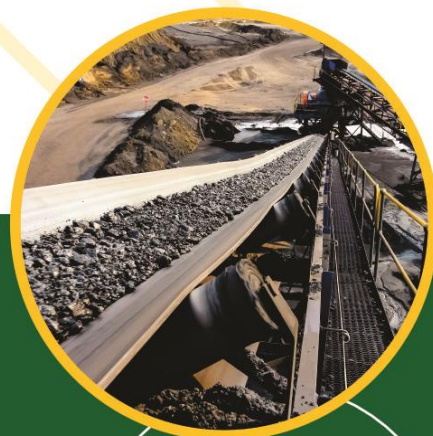




LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2025 - 2030)

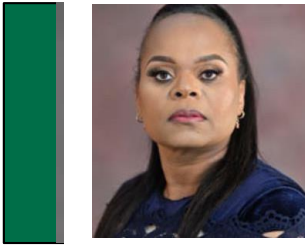


The heartland of Southern Africa - development is about people



<https://www.limpopo.gov.za>

#7thAdministration



FOREWORD BY THE PREMIER OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE

As we embark on the journey outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025–2030, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the growth and development of our province. This plan is not just a reflection of our past efforts over the last 30 years but is a bold declaration of our aspirations for a brighter future.

While the previous LDP (2020–2025) laid essential groundwork in transforming our society, we remain keenly aware of the persistent challenges that confront us. These include a rapidly growing population, intensified economic pressures, rising and entrenched poverty levels, all of which require our immediate attention and innovative solutions. The LDP 2025-2030 is a response to these challenges, outlining our roadmap for sustainable progress.

It is with great pride that I present this strategic blueprint, designed to foster an inclusive, resilient and prosperous Limpopo.

The LDP embodies our commitment to transforming the provincial economy, addressing the pressing social issues we face and ultimately uplifting the lives of all our residents. Through this plan, we aim to harness the creativity, resourcefulness and diverse talents of our people while embracing and celebrating our rich cultural heritage.

Aligned with the overarching goals of the National Development Plan 2030 and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024–2029, this LDP translates our provincial vision into actionable priorities. We anchor our efforts around three core pillars: driving inclusive growth and job creation, alleviating poverty while addressing the high cost of living and fostering a capable, ethical government that puts developmental needs at its core.

The LDP encompasses a range of targeted strategies, focusing on vital sectors such as agro-processing, mining beneficiation, education access, tourism development, and community safety. These strategies come paired with measurable outcomes, ensuring that we not only set ambitious goals but also hold ourselves accountable for their delivery.

As we proceed into this crucial implementation phase, I extend an earnest invitation to every stakeholder - government entities, private sector partners, civil society, traditional leaders and our invaluable citizens to join us in realising the potential of this plan. Together, we can cultivate a Limpopo that thrives economically, embodies social justice and champions environmental sustainability.

Let us advance with unity, determination, and an unwavering commitment to a shared vision. The future of Limpopo rests in our collective hands, and together, we will forge a path to greatness.

Dr Phophi Ramathuba
Limpopo Premier



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. THE LIMPOPO DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP) 2025-2030

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025-2030 has been approved by the Limpopo Executive Council (EXCO) as a strategic blueprint document to facilitate economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social upliftment in the province. It builds upon the achievements of, and lessons learned from the LDP 2020-2025. The Plan aligns with the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030, the National Spatial Development Framework, and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) priorities. The alignment and integration of these frameworks ensures the Limpopo's cohesive contribution to national and global goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The LDP provides a guiding framework for national, and provincial departments, districts, and local municipalities' plans and strategies, and fostering collaboration across public and private sectors. Its overarching objective is to address critical challenges such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality while ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

2. PURPOSE OF THE LDP 2025-2030

The Limpopo Development Plan aims to:

Provide a strategic framework for sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental stewardship

Align provincial initiatives with national development priorities

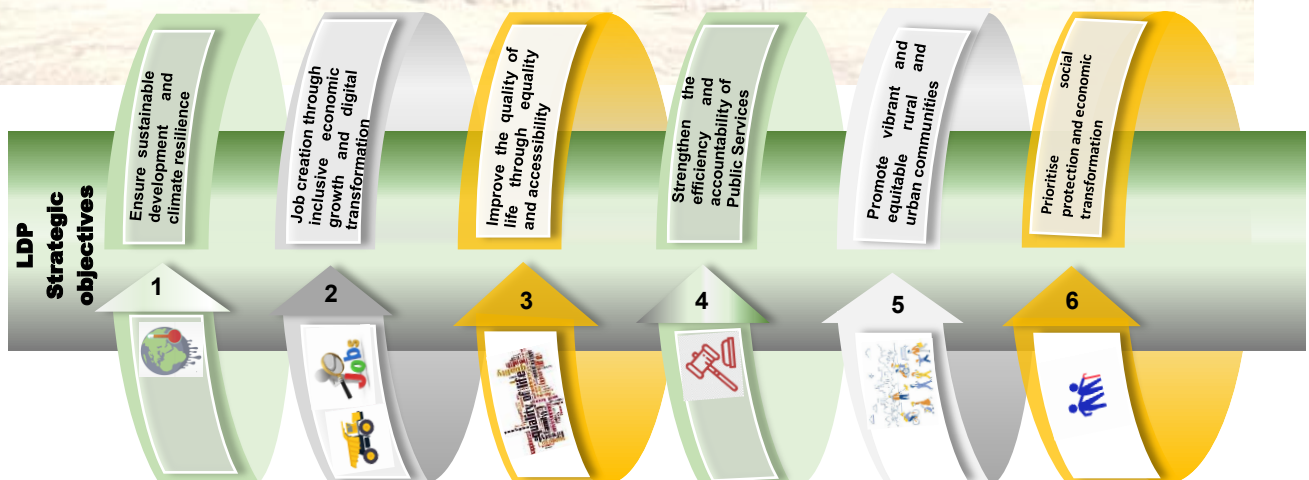
Foster integrated planning and resources mobilisation across sectors

Stimulate industrialisation and job creation

Promote equitable development to benefit all communities

3. VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The LDP envisions a **"resilient, vibrant, and prosperous province"**. The 2030 iteration of the LDP is symbolized by the Baobab tree, representing resilience, vibrancy, prosperity, and harmony with the environment. This vision is operationalised through strategic objectives focused on job creation, infrastructure development, equitable access to basic services, environmental sustainability, and improved quality of life for all citizens.



3.1 THE MAJESTIC SYMBOL OF LIMPOPO

Limpopo is home to one of the largest Baobab trees in the world, a majestic symbol that metaphorically embodies the vision and spirit of the Limpopo Province

THE
BAOBAB



Resilience

Like the Baobab standing tall through drought and storm, Limpopo's spirit endures, rooted in resilience, nourished by the strength of its land that is rich in minerals and people

Vibrancy

Like the Baobab's sprawling canopy teeming with life, Limpopo flourishes in a symphony of culture, colour, and creativity, its vibrancy woven into the land, its spirit ever blossoming.

Prosperity

Like the Baobab, Limpopo stands tall, its roots entwined with heritage, its branches heavy with promise, bearing the fruit of prosperity that nourishes generations to come.

Connection to the Environment

Like the ancient Baobab, we should root ourselves in harmony with nature, embracing a cycle of growth that nourishes both the land and future generations.

4. POLICY CONTEXT AND ALIGNMENT

The LDP is firmly rooted in global, continental, national, provincial, and local policy frameworks including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2063, National Development Plan 2030, Medium Term Development Framework (MTDP) 2024-2029, National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF), and Limpopo Spatial Development Framework (LSDF). The alignment of the MTDP2024-2029 and LDP 2025 -2030 is as follows:

LDP priorities

1. Transformation and modernization of the provincial economy.
2. Economic Transformation, Job Creation and International Cooperation.
3. Integrated and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure development.
4. Spatial transformation for integrated socio-economic development.

MTDP Priority 1: Drive inclusive growth and job creation

LDP priorities cont.

5. Accelerate social change and improve the quality of life of Limpopo's citizens
6. Strengthen crime prevention and build safer communities
7. Provision of quality education and a quality healthcare

MTDP Priority 2:
Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living

LDP priorities cont..

8. Transform public service for effective and efficient service delivery
9. Invest in human capital for a developmental state
10. Digitalization transformation to improve efficiency

MTDP Priority 3:
A capable, ethical and a developmental state



5. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW: LDP 2020-2025

The performance reviews revealed that over the period 2020-2025, the province invested in improving lives of Limpopo citizens in sectors such as education, health care, infrastructure provision and economic development. The province achieved notable progress in education with an increased matric pass rate from 73.2% to 85.01% and electricity from 92.7% to 97%. However, targeted interventions in the LDP 2025-2030 are required in respect to water provision, and the attainment of economic development-related targets.

6. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK OF THE PROVINCE

Limpopo's economic growth over the past five years has been inconsistent, reflecting structural challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The province experienced significant fluctuations, with marginal growth in 2019 (0.1%), a severe contraction in 2020 (-6.5%), and a robust recovery in 2021 (5.2%). However, growth slowed to 1.0% in 2022 and further to 0.2% in 2023, highlighting persistent economic vulnerabilities.

Despite these challenges, employment trends in Limpopo have shown gradual improvement. Employment grew from a low of 1,151,000 in Q2 2020 to 1,590,000 by Q3 2024, indicating a return to pre-pandemic levels, driven by high-performing sectors including agriculture and community services. However, unemployment remains a significant concern, peaking at 35.6% in Q4 2021 before declining to 31.9% in Q3 2024 but still above pre-pandemic rates.

Prioritizing diversification, implementing delivery programme, and focusing on high-potential sectors, Limpopo is set to achieve a sustainable and inclusive economic growth. By 2030, the province's economic growth rate is projected to reach 2.2%, with an official unemployment rate of 20% and a Gross Geographic Product (GGP) contributing 9% to the national GDP.

7. ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND KEY SECTORS

The economy of Limpopo is primarily supported by mining, agriculture and tourism.



Mining: contributes 25-30% to the GGP, and it remains a cornerstone of Limpopo's economy. Strategic investments in beneficiation and value addition are designed to boost economic output and drive job creation. Increasing the volume of beneficiated minerals relative to raw mineral exports is expected to significantly transform the province's economic landscape.



Agriculture: Limpopo leads in citrus and sub-tropical fruit production, accounting for significant national outputs in mangoes, avocados, and citrus fruits. Initiatives will be facilitated through the Revitalization of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) programme focusing on agro-processing, irrigation infrastructure, and market expansion.



Tourism: the Limpopo ranks as South Africa's third most visited province. Key attractions include the Kruger National Park and Mapungubwe World Heritage Site. The implementation of the Limpopo Tourism Growth Strategy (LTGS), along with targeted events in Villages, Townships, and Small Towns (VTSDs), aims to diversify tourism offerings and promote greater inclusivity. The province has set a target to increase the tourism sector's contribution to GDP to R10 billion from international visitors and R40 billion from domestic tourism.

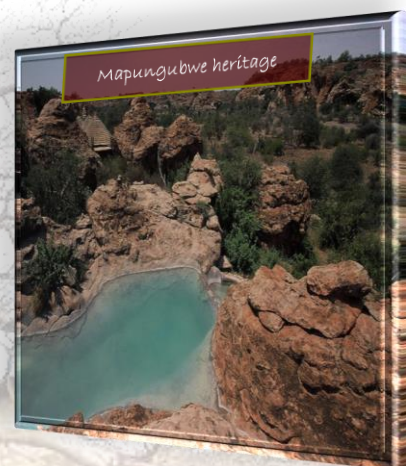


8. THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY

The Cultural and Creative Industry (CCI) is a critical engine of inclusive economic growth in the province, driving not only financial prosperity but also social cohesion. The sector spans a wide array of creative domains including Performance and Celebration; Cultural and Heritage; Visual Arts and Crafts; Audio-Visual and Interactive Media (Film and Theatre); Books and Publishing; and Design and Creative Services which collectively contribute to a dynamic creative economy.

Recent data from the South African Cultural Observatory (SACO, 2022) highlights Limpopo's role in the national CCI, contributing 5% of South Africa's Gross Value Added and accounting for 6% of the 1,053,547 job opportunities generated in the industry, with 64,262 jobs attributed to the province.

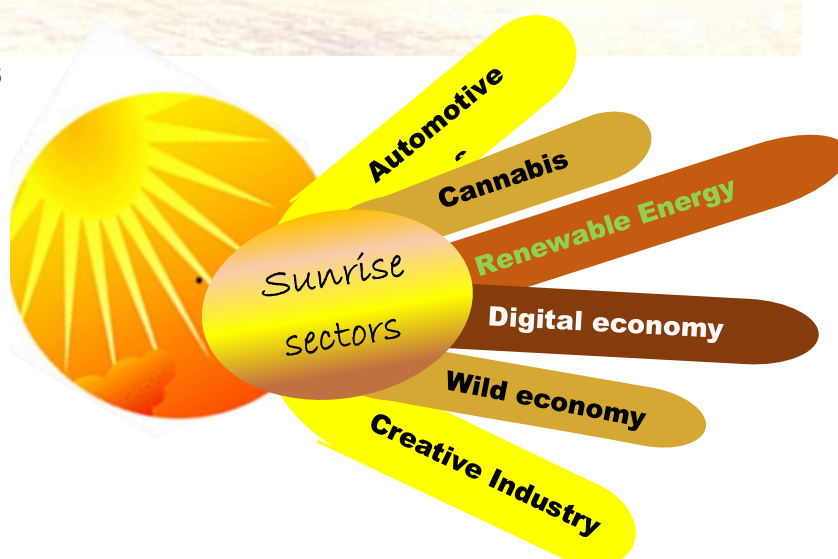
The Cultural and Natural Heritage domain is especially prominent, reinforcing the rural economy by preserving and showcasing unique natural landscapes, monuments, and cultural artefacts. Iconic sites such as Mapungubwe, Makapans Valley, Tjate, Mapoch Caves, Malebogo Makgabeng Plateau, Lake Fundudzi, and the Modjadi Cycad offer significant potential for developing cultural villages, craft shops, interpretive centres, hiking trails, and performance venues that can stimulate local economies and enhance heritage tourism.



Additionally, the creation of a liberation heritage route linking monuments including Kgoshi Makgoba, Hosi Ngungunyani, Khosikhulu Makhado, Kgoshi Malebogo, Kgoshi Maraba, and Kgoshi Sekhukhune provides a unique framework to connect the province's districts, further bolstering tourism and the rural and township economies.

9. SUNRISE SECTORS / INDUSTRIES

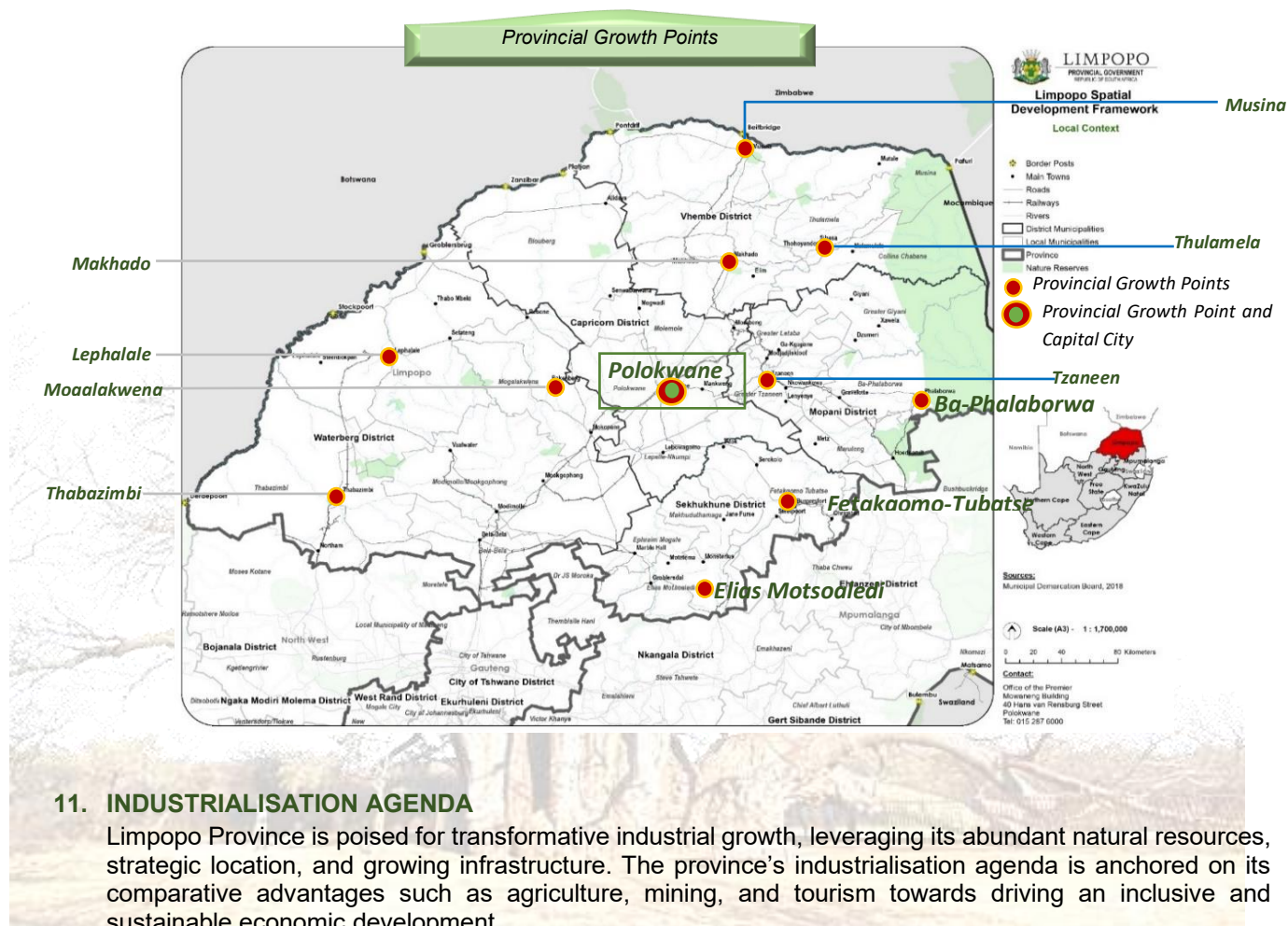
The integration of sunrise sectors that are emerging in the Limpopo's development agenda is not a replacement for traditional sectors (agriculture, mining and tourism), but a strategic complement that will accelerate economic transformation, support resilience, and unlock inclusive, future-oriented growth.



10. SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Limpopo Spatial Development Framework (LSDF) 2025 envisions a balanced spatial structure that protects natural resources while fostering economic growth. Key priorities include promoting rural-urban integration and connectivity, protecting agricultural land and biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience through sustainable practices. Limpopo's vulnerability to climate change necessitates adaptive strategies, such as precision farming, renewable energy, water and environmental conservation.

Eleven (11) Provincial Growth Points depicted below have been identified as priority nodes with immense resource potential, predominantly mineral and agriculture. Realizing the full socio-economic potential of these nodes necessitates a synergistic approach, combining both public and private investments.



11. INDUSTRIALISATION AGENDA

Limpopo Province is poised for transformative industrial growth, leveraging its abundant natural resources, strategic location, and growing infrastructure. The province's industrialisation agenda is anchored on its comparative advantages such as agriculture, mining, and tourism towards driving an inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Programme as the Catalyst Industrialisation

The SEZ Programme is central to Limpopo's industrialisation strategy. Two flagship initiatives which is the Musina-Makhado SEZ (MMSEZ) and the proposed Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ are designed to accelerate industrial growth by attracting investment in high-value industries, promoting beneficiation activities, and fostering global competitiveness.





Musina-Makhado SEZ (MMSEZ): Strategically located along the N1 North-South Corridor near the South Africa-Zimbabwe border, the MMSEZ focuses on metallurgy, mineral processing, logistics, and agro-processing. The MMSEZ aims to transform the Vhembe District into a leading industrial and agro-processing hub.

Proposed Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ (FTSEZ): Situated in the Sekhukhune District, the FTSEZ capitalises on the region's rich reserves of Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) and other minerals. It is envisioned as a global leader in green energy manufacturing, mineral beneficiation, and agro-processing, aligning with global trends toward decarbonisation and clean energy.

These SEZs are expected to attract billions of Rands in investments, create thousands of sustainable jobs, and drive inclusive economic development in surrounding communities.



Industrial Parks Programme

The Industrial Parks Programme plays a pivotal role in attracting private investments, supporting SMMEs, and promoting economic activities in underdeveloped areas. Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) owns and manages six industrial parks, which collectively house 268 factories and have created nearly 10,000 jobs. These Parks serve as hubs for resource utilisation, value addition, and inclusive growth, contributing to the province's broader economic transformation agenda.

Skills for the economy

Skills development is a cornerstone of Limpopo Industrial Master Plan. The Limpopo Human Capital Investment Strategy (2020 - 2030) prioritises Universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to address skills gaps in key sectors including mining, agriculture, and manufacturing. Collaboration with Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) has already supported over 26,000 beneficiaries through programmes encompassing learnerships, internships, and artisan development. These efforts are essential for building a capable workforce that can drive industrial growth and innovation. The following key skills are required for the SEZ programme in the province:

Book 01



Qualifications/skills required includes: All Engineering qualifications and Built Environment Qualifications, GIS, Chemical controllers, Water Quality technician, Coke oven operators, Megatronics technicians, Acoustical installers, Caulkers, Gas Well Drillers, Broiler operators.

MMSEZ key required skills

Skills required during construction of Anchor Plants includes Artisans, Brick layers, Carpenters, Plumbers, Logistic and Transport.



Book 02

Regional Integration and Trade Opportunities

Limpopo's strategic location, bordering Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique, positions it as a gateway for regional trade within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The province's industrialisation strategy emphasises infrastructure development, cross-border trade facilitation, and value addition in agriculture and mining to strengthen the province's integration into regional and global markets.

12. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The province stands at a pivotal juncture in its development trajectory, leveraging investment in infrastructure as a transformative tool to foster economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve the quality of life for its citizens. Over the past Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), the province has committed an average of R7 billion annually toward infrastructure projects. However, while maintenance and repair activities have dominated expenditure, further investment in new infrastructure is critical to support Limpopo's aspirations for inclusive socio-economic development.



Water and Sanitation

Water is a vital resource, directly influencing public health, economic stability, and overall quality of life. Limpopo's Water Supply Systems (WSS) anchored by key water management areas such as the Olifants, Luvuvhu-Letaba, and Crocodile West systems, provide essential support for domestic, industrial, and agricultural needs. While 64.2% of households have access to water, 54.5% experience regular service disruptions which is higher than the national average of 48.4%. To address these challenges, priority focus on the completion of bulk water projects, strengthening water conservation initiatives, and enhancing municipal capacity to reticulate, manage and maintain water infrastructure. The goal is to achieve 80% water provision coverage in the province by 2030.

Improved sanitation is vital for public health and dignity. While 61.9% of households in Limpopo use pit latrines, waterborne systems remain limited due to water scarcity. Strategic sanitation interventions, including the refurbishment of wastewater treatment plants and exploration of alternative systems, are necessary to close the service delivery gap and meet the demands of a growing population.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

Limpopo's vast road network, spanning 19,884 km, is central to economic activity, tourism, and community mobility. Strategic partnerships, such as the collaboration with SANRAL for the transfer and upgrade of critical road segments, are instrumental in the maintenance and upgrading of roads. Additionally, freight corridors and rail networks including air transport will be enhanced to support key industries including mining, agriculture, and logistics.

Energy

The province has made notable strides in securing energy supply, supported by Eskom's Transmission Development Plan and private sector investments in renewable energy. Limpopo has a remaining grid capacity of 3,360 MW, with renewable energy projects clustered in mining-intensive regions. Expanding solar and alternative energy projects is essential to sustain industrial growth and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Limpopo is well-positioned to harness renewable energy opportunities, particularly solar power, given its abundant natural resources. The Limpopo Renewable Energy Strategy aligns with national efforts to transition to a low-carbon economy. Key proposed projects include large-scale solar plants in Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Giyani, and Musina. These initiatives will not only address energy security but also create jobs and support the growth of green industries.

Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity

Limpopo has prioritized the rollout of broadband and digital infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and position the province for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). Projects such as the Limpopo Broadband Network and digital hubs in industrial areas are advancing connectivity, but challenges persist, with Limpopo recording the lowest internet access in South Africa. Expanding broadband coverage to underserved areas and integrating digital infrastructure with broader development initiatives remain critical priorities.

Waste Management

Waste management remains a cornerstone of Limpopo's sustainable development goals. Urban areas perform relatively well in formal refuse removal, exceeding the national urban average, while rural areas face significant challenges, with 80% of households relying on informal refuse dumps. This disparity requires targeted rural waste management interventions, including investments in formalized collection systems and the promotion of recycling initiatives. Collaboration between government and private sector stakeholders is essential to address infrastructure gaps and promote sustainable waste practices.

The infrastructure development agenda of Limpopo reflects a bold vision for transformation. Interventions on current challenges and leveraging on strategic partnerships should unlock the province's full potential as an economic powerhouse and a leader in sustainable development.

Human Settlements in Limpopo Province

The Human Settlements Development trajectory is strategically designed to meet the growing demand for sustainable and inclusive urban and rural communities. It focuses on integrating housing with other socio-



economic infrastructure, and services to create environments that empower individuals and foster equitable development.

At the center of this strategy is the establishment of Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDAs) to promote equitable housing access, integrated service delivery, and create economic opportunities while driving spatial transformation and reducing socio-economic inequalities. Limpopo has identified 11 PHSHDAs across municipalities including Tzaneen, Giyani, Lephalale, Thabazimbi, Polokwane, Thulamela, Musina, Makhado, and Fetakgomo Tubatse.

Achieving sustainable human settlements development will then require a multifaceted approach:

- **Infrastructure investment:** Prioritize mixed-use development and infrastructure to support economic activities.
- **Stakeholder collaboration:** Foster partnerships between national, province, municipalities, private sector players, and communities.
- **Land use innovation:** Adopt innovative strategies to optimize rural and urban land use.
- **Environmental alignment:** Ensure development aligns with environmental and socio-economic goals, promoting resilience against climate change.



13. SOCIAL SECTORS

The social sector, encompassing education and health, is a cornerstone of Limpopo's sustainable development agenda. These sectors are pivotal in reducing inequality, fostering economic growth, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. A thriving education system equips individuals with the tools for empowerment and intergenerational progress, while a robust healthcare framework ensures a healthy, productive population capable of driving economic and social cohesion.

Access to Education

Education remains a constitutional right for all South Africans. Limpopo exhibits significant disparities in the distribution of schools across its ten districts, reflecting diverse needs and resources. While Vhembe East emerges as the leading educational hub with 516 schools, Waterberg lags with only 163 schools. Such disparities highlight the need for equitable resource allocation to address varying educational landscapes.



The matric pass rate in Limpopo has shown remarkable improvement, climbing from 66.7% in 2021 to 85.1% in 2024. The province has committed to further improve the matric pass rate to 90% by 2030. However, the province faces challenges such as internal and external learner migration and the high number of undocumented learners, which complicate resource allocation and tracking. With 4% of the learner population undocumented, Mopani East and Vhembe East are the most affected districts.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) has seen notable progress, with over 138,226 children accessing registered programs and 54 centers benefiting from renovations. ICT integration in education, supported by partnerships with private entities, remain a priority, including the provision of laptops, tablets, and rollout of broadband connectivity. The province will increase the number of children (0-4 years) accessing registered Early Childhood Development to 203 241 by 2030.



Between 2019 and 2024, the province delivered 494 additional classrooms, 351 sanitation facilities, and 200 water systems to improve school infrastructure. Efforts to eradicate pit latrines and upgrade sanitation facilities are ongoing and are aligned with safety and dignity goals for learners.

Limpopo Province “post-school” institutions encompass both higher education universities and technical/vocational colleges that provide further training after high school. The expectation is for these institutions to provide skills to support the economy of the province. The universities include the University of Limpopo and the University of Venda, both primarily based in Limpopo, as well as the Polokwane Campus of the Tshwane University of Technology. The technical/vocational colleges (TVET) include Capricorn, Lephalale, Letaba, Mopani Southeast, Sekhukhune, Vhembe and Waterberg.

Public Health Facilities

Capricorn district hosts two tertiary hospitals, yet the province struggles with an overburdened healthcare system, high maternal mortality, and limited primary healthcare centers. Significant investments in infrastructure, including the construction of the Limpopo Central and Academic Hospitals, aim to alleviate these pressures and enhance healthcare delivery.

While 50% of Limpopo’s healthcare facilities meet National Health Insurance (NHI) Standards, efforts to improve infrastructure and service delivery are essential to meet full compliance. The Ideal Clinic program has seen fluctuating results, with 41% of clinics achieving ideal status in 2023/2024. The target for 2030 is to improve the % of Primary Health facilities with Ideal Clinic status and Hospitals with Ideal Hospital to 80% and 70% respectively.



14. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Poverty Levels

South Africa's 2024 national poverty lines provide a framework for assessing poverty trends. The Food Poverty Line (FPL) is R760 per person per month, covering basic energy needs. The Lower-Bound Poverty Line (LBPL) at R1,058 includes essential non-food items, while the Upper-Bound Poverty Line (UBPL) at R1,558 reflects average non-food spending of households meeting the FPL. The LDP 2020-2025 aimed to reduce the share of people living below the LBPL to 20% by 2025. Between 2020 and 2023, Limpopo's poverty rate improved slightly, from 57.1% to 56.0%, but the province remains among the most affected which requires targeted poverty alleviation programmes. Initiatives include increasing the number of cooperatives that will be linked to economic opportunities, and Youth, Women and People living with disability participating in entrepreneurship development programmes. 26% reduction of Limpopo population living in poverty by 2030 requires a collective effort of both government, private sector and communities.

Social cohesion and nation building

Limpopo Province is renowned for its rich cultural and heritage diversity, reflected in its multiple indigenous languages. While this diversity enriches the province's identity, it also presents challenges in maintaining



social cohesion and preventing racial division. Recognizing the need for a shared identity and mutual appreciation, the province has prioritized initiatives to foster social cohesion among its varied cultural, linguistic, and ethnic groups.

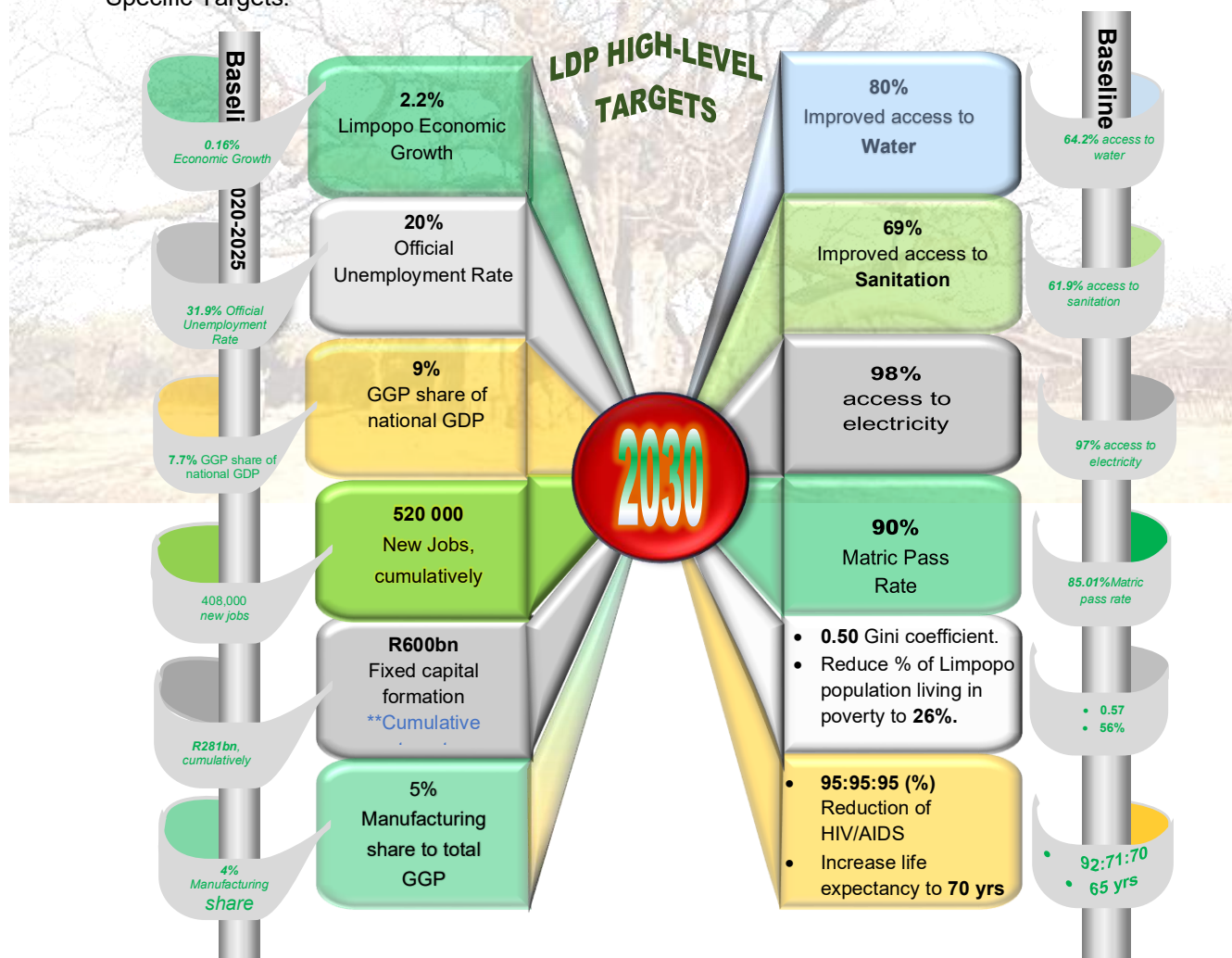
Over the past five years, the province has concentrated on three strategic areas: combating gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), promoting non-racialism and non-tribalism, and honouring military veterans. Notably, more than 65 multisectoral awareness campaigns have been launched to combat GBVF which is a key barrier to social unity. Additionally, the province celebrated national days (Freedom Day, Africa Day, and Heritage Day) across all districts, engaging over 10,000 participants annually to reinforce a common provincial identity. Complementing these efforts, robust sport and recreation programs have played a crucial role in uniting communities and driving nation-building.

Despite these advances, the province faces challenges in fully engaging all racial groups, specifically, White, Indian, and Coloured communities. This shortfall has resulted in lower scores when measured by the Inclusive Society Institution's South African Social Cohesion Index, where Limpopo's overall score of 58.3 is above the national average of 51.7.

The five-year Social Cohesion Strategy will in the 7th Administration focus on enhancing social interactions across diverse communities through crime and GBVF prevention programs, initiatives to promote multilingualism, and structured social dialogues that bridge differences in race, gender, ethnicity, and class.

15. LIMPOPO IN ACTION

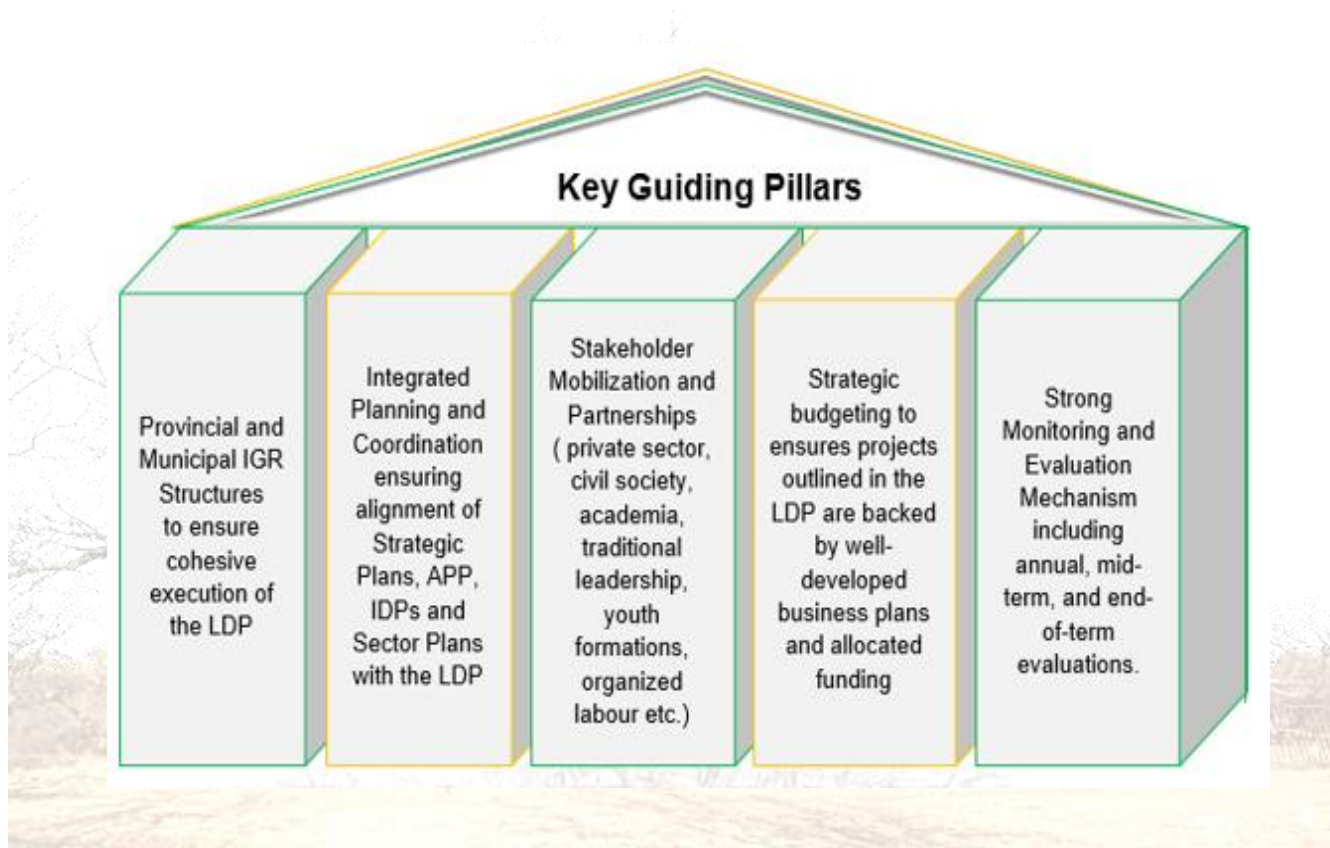
The implementation of the LDP has been meticulously structured to measure High-Level and Sector-Specific Targets.



15. INTEGRATED PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

In 2019, the President's Budget Speech introduced the District Development Model (DDM) approach to enhance cooperative governance, address siloed planning and fragmented implementation. The DDM promotes integrated planning, coordinated resource allocation, spatial targeting, and transformation to ensure service delivery that tangibly improves lives. It adopts a district-based approach, focusing on 44 districts and 8 metros nationwide as centers of service delivery, economic development, and job creation.

In response, Limpopo developed the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Integrated Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Framework, which also underpins the implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025–2030. This framework aligns stakeholders' contribution, fosters accountability, and drives socio-economic development goals through structured and results-driven approaches. It emphasizes robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure and optimize impact effectively. The key pillars of the framework are summarised as follows:



16. CONCLUSION

The LDP is a commitment to equitable development, reflecting a proactive and responsive provincial government. By leveraging integrated planning, rigorous monitoring, and transparent reporting, it positions Limpopo as a leader in sustainable development and economic inclusivity. The LDP lays the foundation for long-term prosperity, ensuring progress benefits future generations. Through strategic resource mobilization and collective effort, the plan paves the way for a resilient and thriving Limpopo.



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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition	Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution	DSAC	Department Sport Art and Culture
ADT	Average Daily Traffic	DTCS	Department of Transport and Community Safety
AELs	Atmospheric Emission Licenses	DSD	Department of Social Development
AGSA	Auditor-General of South Africa	DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
APP	Annual Performance Plan	DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy	DWYPD	Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
AU	African Union	ECD	Early Childhood Development
BIC	Bushveld Igneous Complex	EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
BMA	Border Management Authority	EPWP	Expanded Public Works Programme
BOD	Burden of Disease	EXCO	Executive Council
BWC	Body Worn Cameras	FIDPM	Framework for Infrastructure Delivery and Procurement Management



Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition	Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
CASP	Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme	FLNG	Floating Liquefied Natural Gas
CCI	Cultural and Creative Industry	FPL	Food Poverty Line
CHCs	Community Health Centres	FTIP	Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park
CMR	Corridor Mining Resources	FTSEZ	Fetakgomo Tubatse Special Economic Zone
COGHSTA	Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs	FUEL	Feed, Uplift, Educate, Love
DBE	Department of Basic Education	GAAL	Gateway Airport Authority Limited
DBSA	Development Bank of Southern Africa	GBVF	Gender-Based Violence and Femicide
DDM	District Development Model	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training	GGP	Gross Geographic Product
DoH	Department of Health	GHG	Greenhouse gas
GHS	General Household Survey	LSDF	Limpopo Spatial Development Framework
GIS	Geospatial Information System	LTA	Limpopo Tourism Agency
GLeWAP	Groot Letaba Water Augmentation Project	MCWAP	Mokolo Crocodile West Augmentation Phase
GLEWAP	Greater Letaba Water Development Project	MEC	Member of the Executive Council
GLTP	Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park	METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
GNT	Great North Transport	MFMA	Municipal Finance Management Act
GRPBMEA	Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Auditing	MIG	Municipal Infrastructure Grant
GVA	Gross Value Added	MMSEZ	Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone
GWS	Government Water Schemes	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
HCI	Human Capital Investment	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
HH	House Holds	MTDP	Medium Term Development Plan
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
HSR	High-Speed Rail	NDOH	National Department of Health
ICRM	Ideal Clinic Realization and Maintenance	NDP	National Development Plan
ICVPS	Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy	NEET	Not in Employment, not in Education, not in Training
IDP	Integrated Development Plan	NHI	National Health Insurance



Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition	Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
IGR	Intergovernmental relations	NSDF	National Spatial Development Framework
IHF	Ideal Health Facility	OHSC	Office of Health Standards Compliance
IPP	Independent Power Producers	OMM	Olifants Management Model
JCPS	Justice, Crime Prevention and Security	ORWRDP	Olifants River Water Resource Development Projects
LBPL	Lower-Bound Poverty Line	OTP	Office of the Premier
LCAH	Limpopo Central and Academic Hospital	PGMs	Platinum Group Metals
LCX	Limpopo Connexion	PGP	Provincial Growth Point
LDARD	Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	PHC	Primary Health Centre
LDP	Limpopo Development Plan	PHSHDA	Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas
LEDA	Limpopo Economic Development Agency	POA	Programme of Action
LEDET	Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism	PMTCT	Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission
LGB	Limpopo Gambling Board	PRASA	Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa
LHRDC	Limpopo Human Resource Development Council	RAAVC	Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain
LIMS	Limpopo Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy	RAL	Roads Agency Limpopo
LPT	Limpopo Provincial Treasury	RBIG	Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant
LM	Local Municipality	RBWS	Regional Bulk Water Supply
RTMC	Road Traffic Management Corporation	VTSD	Villages, Townships, and Small Towns
SACO	South African Cultural Observatory	WMA	Water Management Area
SADC	Southern African Development Community	WML	Waste Management Licence
SAFCOL	South African Forestry Company Limited	WSA	Water Service Authority
SAI	Supreme Audit Institution	WSDP	Water Services Development Plan
SALGA	South African Local Government Association	WSS	Water Supply Systems
SANDF	South African National Defence Force	WTPP	Water Treatment Purification plant



Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition	Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
SANPARKS	South African National Parks	WTW	Water Treatment Works
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited	WWTW	Wastewater Treatment Works
SDF	Spatial Development Framework	YCOP	Young Civilians on Patrol
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal		
SETA	Sector Education and Training Authorities		
SEZ	Special Economic Zone		
SIP	School Improvement Plan		
SLP	Social and Labour Plans		
SMME	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise		
SPLUMA	Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act		
SSA	State Security Agency		
StatsSA	Statistics South Africa		
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics		
TFCA	Transfrontier Conservation Areas		
TUT	Tshwane University of Technology		
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training		
U5MR	Under-5 Mortality Rate		
UBPL	Upper-Bound Poverty Line		
UN	United Nations		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		
UNIVEN	University of Venda		
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organisation		
VFU	Vetting Field Unit		
VIP	Ventilated Improved Pit		



1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) is a 5-year overarching Plan that is designed as a blueprint to drive economic growth, sustainable development, and social upliftment within the province. It is a contribution of the province to the National Development Plan (NDP) Vision 2030, National Spatial Development Framework, and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) priorities of the 7th Administration, ensuring a cohesive contribution to national goals.

Building on the successes and lessons learned from the LDP 2020–2025 iteration, the LDP 2025–2030 aims to harness resources from public and private sectors to promote economic growth and integrated development. It establishes a collaborative platform for private sector stakeholders, civil society, and organized labour to actively contribute to provincial growth and development objectives, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for Limpopo people.

Equally, the LDP functions as a comprehensive blueprint and guiding framework for the Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans of provincial departments, as well as for District-Wide Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and the Integrated Development Plans of local municipalities, detailing Limpopo's role in achieving national goals and sectoral targets.

As an elaboration of national and international policy frameworks, the LDP emphasizes the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships to realize meaningful growth and development in the province. It defines development as broad-based improvements in living standards, driven by government, businesses, labour organizations, and its people. Key instruments for achieving sustainable development include economic growth and job creation, infrastructure development, access to basic services and environmental management. The ultimate goals are to reduce unemployment, poverty, and inequality leading to improved quality of life.

The Limpopo Province is dedicated to building upon the developmental progress achieved during the 6th Administration. The LDP 2020–2025 has therefore established a foundation for industrialization, value addition, job creation, and social development, paving the way for a prosperous and inclusive future.

1.2 Purpose of the Limpopo Development Plan 2025-2030

The purpose of the LDP 2025-2030 is to provide a strategic framework for sustainable economic growth, social development, and environmental stewardship within the province. It aims to align provincial initiatives with national development priorities, fostering a coordinated approach to address key challenges such as unemployment, poverty, and inequality. It promotes integrated planning and resource mobilization across sectors, stimulate industrialization and job creation and ensures inclusive and equitable development that benefits all communities within the province.



1.3 LDP Vision

1.3.1 Vision statement

The province and its people need to build a resilient, vibrant, and prosperous province that thrives on the ingenuity and creativity of its people, celebrates its rich cultural diversity, and harnesses its natural environment for sustainable development and inclusive growth.



Limpopo is home to the largest Baobab tree in the world, a majestic symbol that metaphorically embodies the vision and spirit of the Limpopo Province:

Resilience

The Baobab tree is renowned for its ability to survive in harsh environments, storing water in its massive trunk to endure droughts. Similarly, Limpopo Province thrives by adapting to challenges, drawing strength from its people and environment to endure and grow.

Vibrancy

The Baobab tree is not only resilient but also a symbol of life. It hosts a variety of flora and fauna, provides shade, and nourishes the land around it. Similarly, the province is a thriving hub of life and culture. The Baobab's canopy represents the richness and diversity of artistic expression, ideas, and innovation in the province.

Prosperity

The Baobab tree provides for its ecosystem, offering fruit, shelter, and nourishment. Limpopo Province, inspired by this, can symbolize abundance and the flourishing of resources. The fruit of the Baobab represents the economic, social, and environmental prosperity of the province. The tree's roots reflect the deep connections between the people and the land, ensuring stability and the capacity for sustainable growth.



Connection to the Environment

The Baobab tree is deeply rooted in its environment, thriving in harmony with nature. It represents sustainable living and a symbiotic relationship between people and the land, grounded in respect and care for its natural environment. The cyclical nature of the Baobab's growth mirrors a sustainable approach to development and conservation.

1.4 Strategic objectives

The objectives of the LDP 2025-2030 serves as the cornerstone and roadmap for ensuring that all development actions contribute to a cohesive, well-defined, and impactful developmental trajectory to achieve the overarching vision of the LDP. Figure 1 below illustrates the objectives of the LDP 2025-2030.



Figure 1: Development objectives of the LDP 2025-2030



2 POLICY CONTEXT AND ALIGNMENT

The policy alignment illustrated in Figure 2 is essential for successful and integrated implementation of development goals. It ensures a unified vision while aligning short-term actions with long-term objectives, thereby establishing a solid foundation for sustainable development.

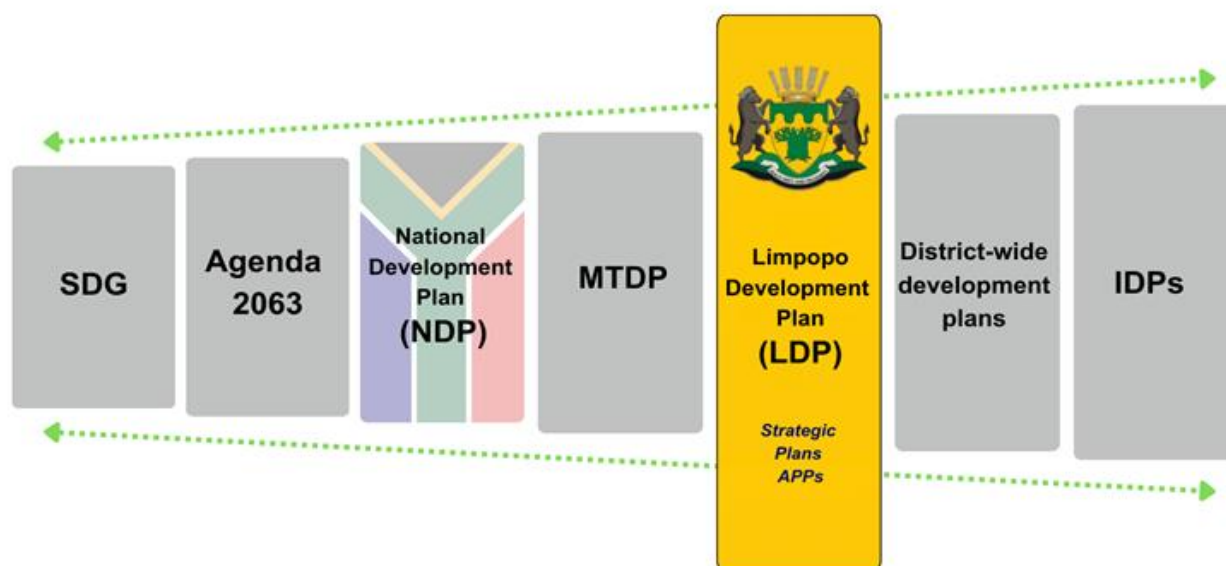


Figure 2: Policy Context and Alignment

2.1 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a comprehensive global agenda, adopted by countries in 2015, aimed at eradicating poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring that all people can enjoy prosperity, peace, and sustainable development. This vision is encapsulated in 17 interconnected goals showed in Figure 3 below and designed to leave no one behind and address global challenges ranging from inequality and hunger to climate change and environmental degradation.



Figure 3: Sustainable Development Goals



2.2 Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want

Agenda 2063 is Africa's visionary blueprint and master plan designed to position the continent as a global powerhouse of the future. Adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2013, this transformative framework serves as a strategic guide for socio-economic development and integration of Africa over a 50-year horizon, from 2013 to 2063. It represents the collective aspirations of African nations to achieve a prosperous, united, and sustainable future. At its core, it is underpinned by a Pan-African commitment to unity, self-reliance, and shared prosperity. It emphasizes the importance of fostering peace, good governance, economic growth, and social equity, while safeguarding the continent's natural resources and cultural heritage. It aligns closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while tailoring its approach to Africa's unique context and challenges, ensuring the realization of a shared and prosperous future for all Africans.

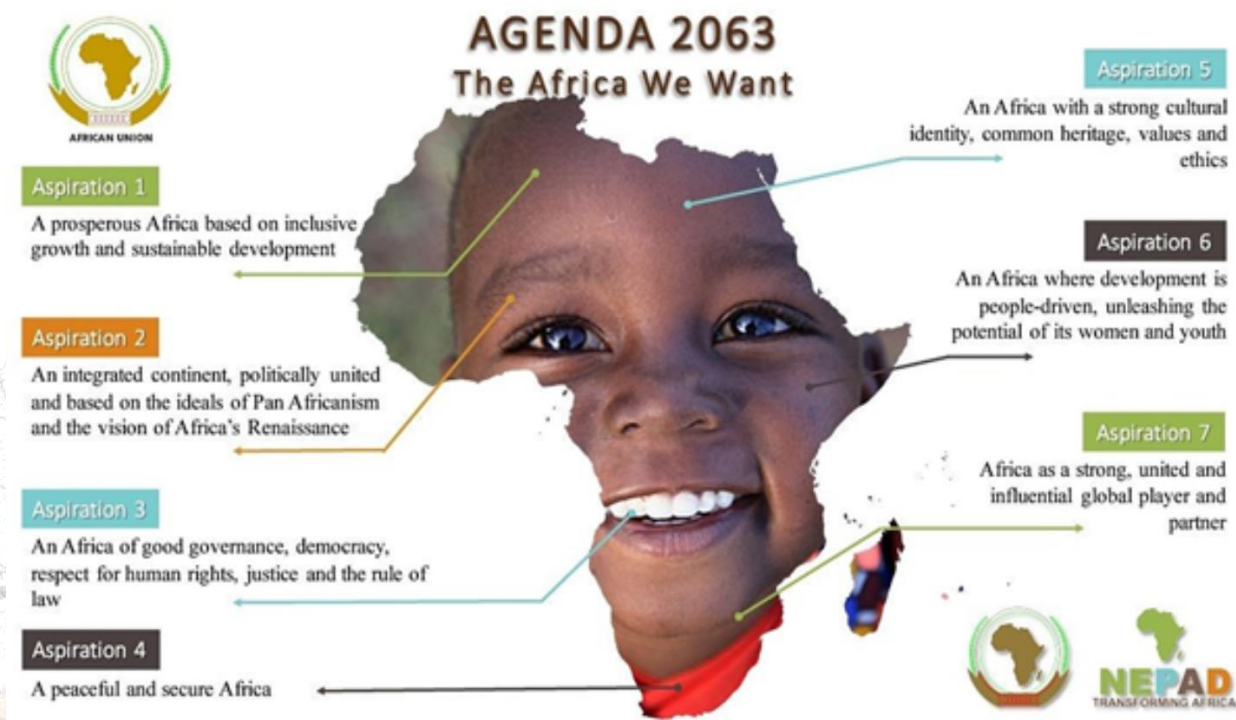


Figure 4: The Agenda 2063 Aspirations

2.3 National Development Plan 2030

The 7th Administration represents the final five-years of implementing the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, a long-term vision designed to create a more inclusive and dynamic South African economy. The NDP envisions an economy where the fruits of growth are equitably shared, fostering social cohesion, reducing poverty, and addressing systemic inequality.

Among the critical key focus areas identified in the NDP are the low levels of education and skills development and the persistently high unemployment rate. These challenges require innovative and balanced approaches that address both job creation and economic growth. Strategic focus is placed on industries that are both labour-intensive and growth-enhancing, such as green energy, manufacturing, agriculture, and the digital economy.



The NDP is anchored on six foundational pillars, which guide its strategic interventions:

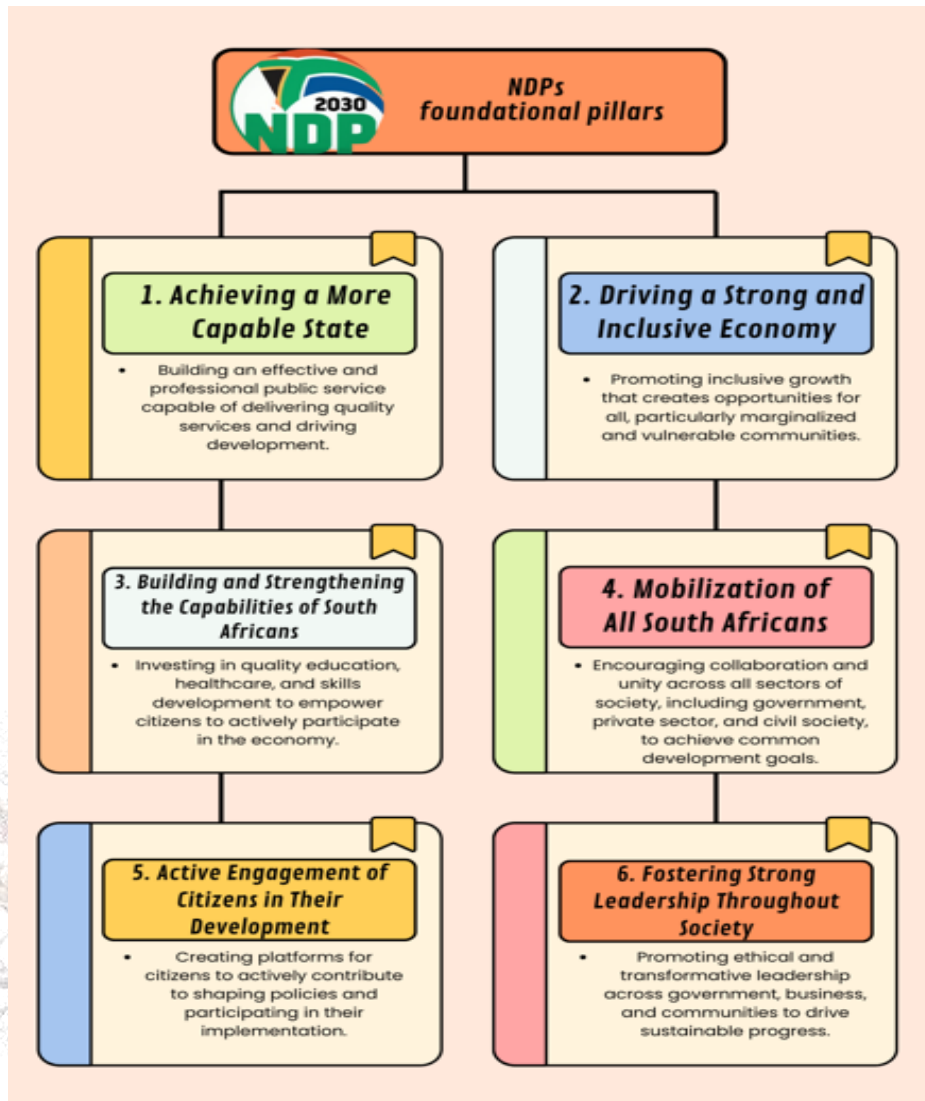


Figure 5: NDP Foundational Pillars

The NDP serves as a strategic framework for guiding government decisions and actions aimed at transforming the economy and society. It aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063, ensuring that South Africa contributes to and benefits from global and continental development priorities. As the 7th Administration concludes the implementation of the NDP 2030, its legacy will rest on ensuring that South Africa progresses towards an inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future. This requires continued collaboration, innovation, and steadfast commitment to the plan's vision and objectives.

2.4 National Spatial Development Framework (2023)

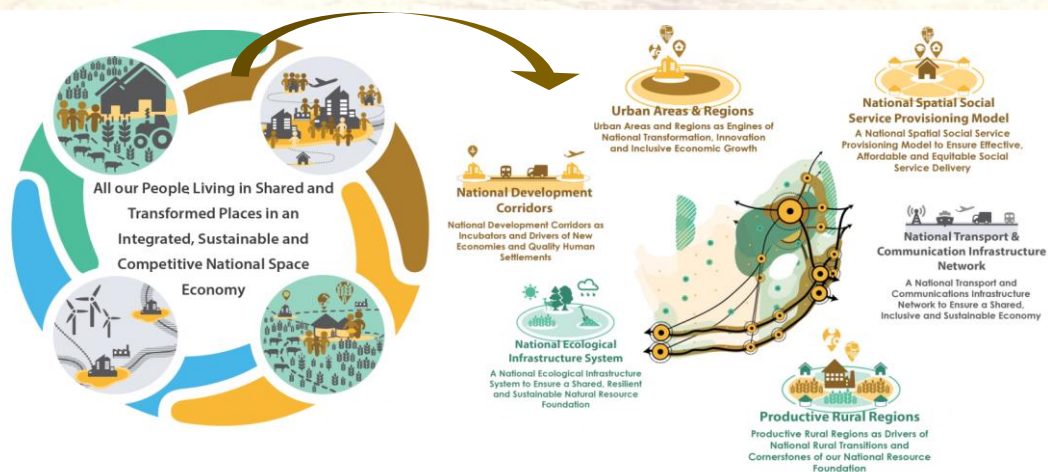
The National Spatial Development Framework (NSDF) serves as South Africa's long-term spatial strategy, aiming to guide the country's spatial development towards equitable and sustainable growth in line with the requirements of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA, Act No. 16 of 2013). It builds on the principles of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 and provides a framework for coordinating spatial planning and investments at all levels of government.



The imperatives of the NSDF are to promote:

- **Spatial Justice and Inclusion:** prioritising development in historically disadvantaged areas, ensuring equitable access to resources, opportunities, and services. Foster spatial integration between rural and urban areas to ensure all communities benefit equitably from development initiatives.
- **Economic Growth and Transformation:** Focus on unlocking high-potential areas to stimulate growth and create sustainable employment. Promote diversified economies by prioritizing local development, particularly in rural areas, to reduce reliance on primary industries.
- **Environmental Sustainability and Resilience:** protect natural resources to ensure spatial development aligns with the sustainable use and preservation of ecosystems. Foster resilient infrastructure and settlements capable of withstanding climate-related risks such as flooding and drought.
- **Efficient Resource Allocation:** optimize infrastructure investments in areas with high economic and social returns to maximize efficient utilization of limited resources. Promote compact urban development to minimize sprawl, reduce transportation costs, and mitigate environmental impacts.
- **Promote Rural-Urban Synergy:** Foster vibrant, self-sustaining rural economies through enhanced connectivity, improved infrastructure, and better market access. Build integrated rural-urban networks to strengthen linkages and ensure shared prosperity.
- **Spatial Governance and Cooperation:** enhance intergovernmental coordination and collaboration between national, provincial, and local governments to ensure alignment of spatial plans and policies. Strengthen meaningful community participation in the spatial planning process to ensure development reflects their needs and aspirations.
- **Connectivity and Accessibility:** improve transport and communication networks to ensure equitable access to infrastructure, linking underserved areas to economic hubs. Promote spatial mobility to streamline the movement of goods, services, and people nationwide.
- **Sustainable Human Settlements:** develop integrated human settlements that accommodate diverse income groups and provide access to essential services. Encourage compact urban development to reduce travel distances and maximize resource efficiency.
- **National and Regional Integration:** Advance cross-border development to align South Africa's spatial strategies with regional initiatives, boosting trade, investment, and collaboration. Prioritize economic and infrastructure corridors connecting the country to regional and global markets.

The NSDF is critical for fostering a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable South Africa as depicted in Figure 6. The imperatives encapsulated in the NSDF ensures that spatial planning and resource allocation contribute to the country's overarching developmental goals, aligning with the National Development Plan 2030, SDGs, and Agenda 2063.



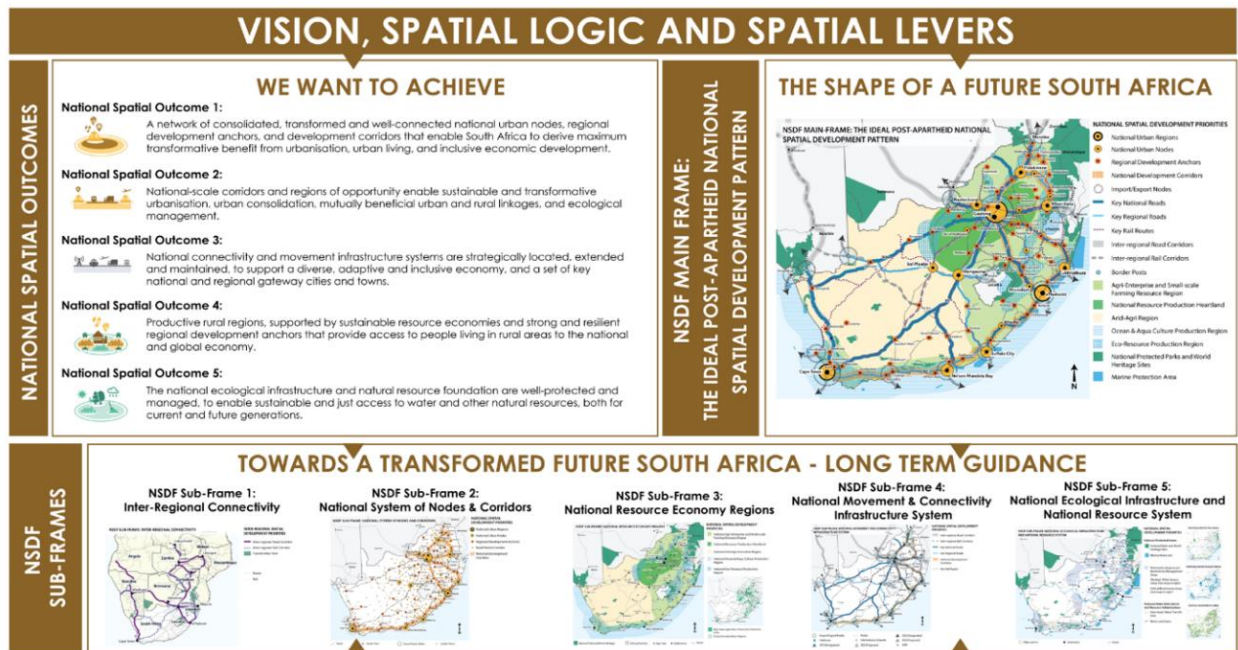


Figure 6: The desired spatial pattern of South Africa

2.5 Medium-Term Development Plan (2024-2029) and Implications for the Limpopo Province

The Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), previously known as the Medium-Term Strategic Framework, serves as an implementation framework for the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030. It focuses on strategic outcomes and interventions to achieve the priorities of the 7th Administration. The MTDP sets five-year targets and specifies outcomes and indicators for monitoring, effectively functioning as an Integrated Monitoring Framework.

The LDP 2025-2030 aligns with the outcomes, interventions, and targets outlined in the MTDP 2025-2029. It also addresses three key national priorities: i) driving inclusive growth and job creation, ii) reducing poverty, and mitigating the high cost of living, and iii) building a capable, ethical, and developmental state. The alignment of the MTDP and the LDP is illustrated in figure 7 below. Overall, the LDP 2025-2030 integrates the goals and principles of global, continental agendas and national priorities.

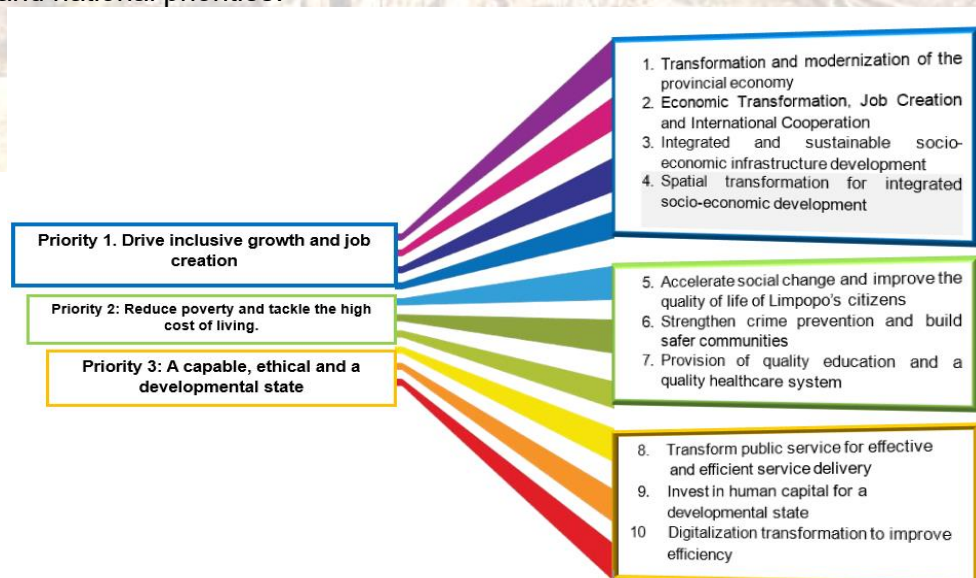


Figure 7: Alignment of MTDP and LDP

3 LIMPOPO SPATIAL CONTEXT

3.1 Spatial Perspective

Limpopo Province, situated in the northernmost part of South Africa, is a region of diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Bordered by Botswana to the west, Zimbabwe to the north, and Mozambique to the east, the province serves as a gateway to neighbouring countries, providing opportunities for fostering cross-border trade and tourism.

Limpopo's location at the crossroads of southern Africa makes it a strategic hub for trade and logistics, connecting South Africa with the broader SADC (Southern African Development Community) region. It is rich natural and cultural assets which position it as a key player in regional development and conservation. This spatial context as reflected in Figure 8 below highlights Limpopo's role as a unique and vital province in South Africa, blending natural beauty, economic potential, and cultural richness.

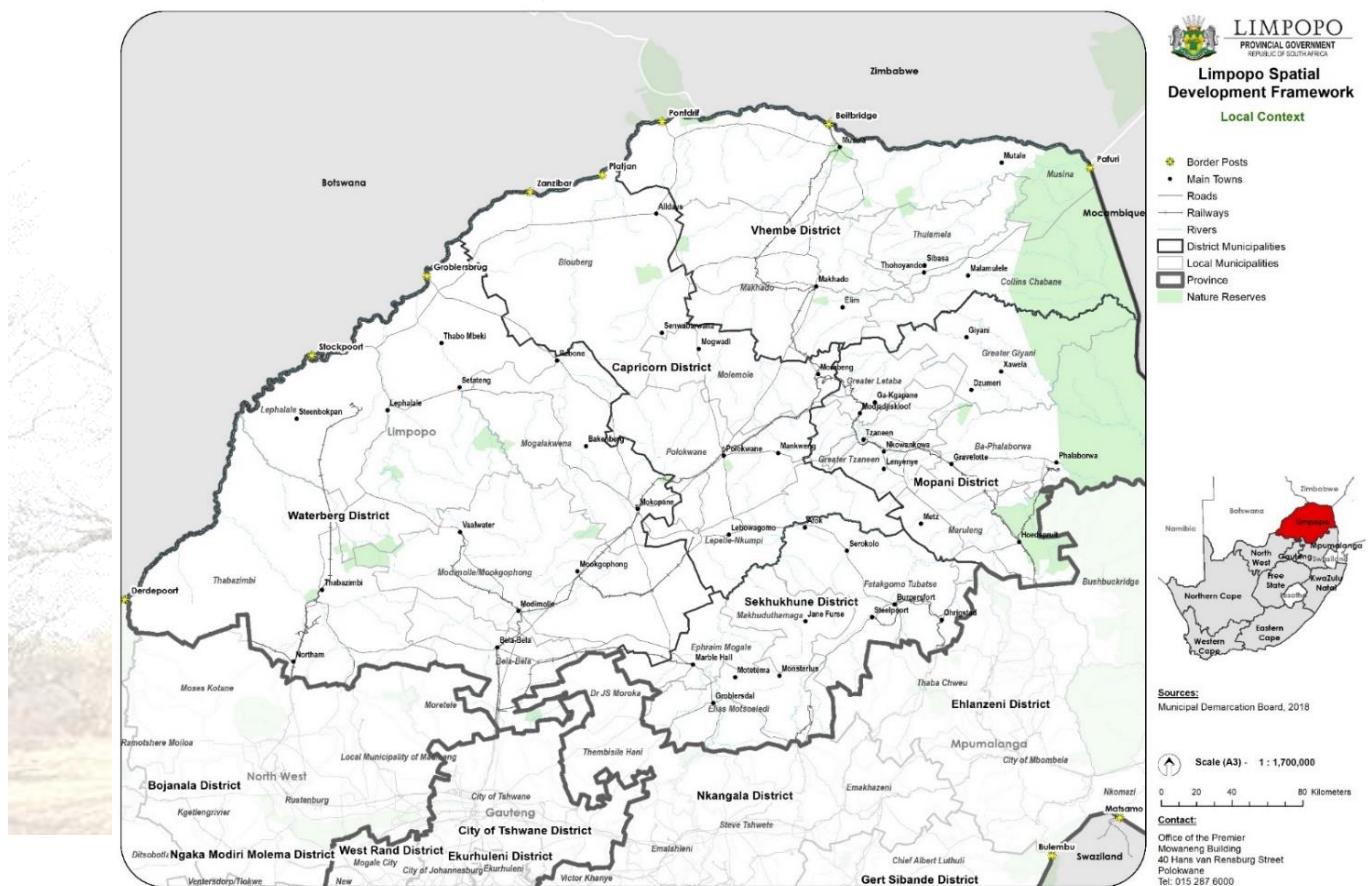


Figure 8: Limpopo spatial locality context

The spatial relationships between South Africa and its neighbouring countries, particularly as they relate to Limpopo, reflect significant interdependence and collaboration across various sectors:

- **Zimbabwe and South Africa:** These nations share spatial and functional linkages in industrialization, water resources, electricity, conservation, and labour supply, underscoring their interconnected economies and development efforts.
- **Botswana and South Africa:** The proximity to Botswana fosters multifaceted linkages, including collaboration in water resources, electricity, mining, conservation and tourism, food and export trade, the game industry, and broader national development initiatives.



- **Mozambique and South Africa:** Limpopo Province plays a strategic role in connecting the two countries through the Kruger National Park, which borders Mozambique to the east and north, provides alternative access via the Pafuri border post. There are linkages relating to water resources, energy and electricity cooperation, tourism, and migrant labour dynamics.

Overall, these countries are connected through sharing the Limpopo and Zambesi rivers systems. These rivers together with other tributaries, physically link the countries and form the basis for transboundary water management, ecosystem interdependence, and regional cooperation

Table 1 below provides a detailed overview of the spatial and functional linkages between South Africa and its neighbouring countries.

ZIMBABWE	BOTSWANA	MOZAMBIQUE
 <p>Zimbabwe borders the province to the north and is accessed via Beitbridge border post. The N1 national road corridor extends into Zimbabwe and the rest of the continent via Beitbridge. The Beitbridge Modernisation Project will increase capacity at Beitbridge border post by five times.</p> <p>Additional spatial and functional linkages between Zimbabwe and South Africa include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrialisation project: The planned Musina-Makhado SEZ would possibly require water resources from Zimbabwe to augment available sources in South Africa, and once developed, would increase economic activity close to the Zimbabwe border. • Water: South Africa shares the Limpopo water catchment basin with Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana. • Electricity: Zimbabwe has an agreement to be an offtaker of surplus electricity from ESKOM. • Conservation: The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park 	 <p>Botswana borders Limpopo Province to the northwest and is mainly accessed via the Groblersbrug border post along the N11 national freeway. A second, smaller border post is found at Pont Drift border post.</p> <p>Additional spatial and functional linkages between Botswana and South Africa include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water: SA shares the Orange-Senqu water catchment basin with Botswana and Namibia. • Electricity: Botswana has an agreement to import a maximum allocation of electricity from South Africa but the need for imported electricity is decreasing. • Mining: The Mmamabula Coalfields in the south-eastern extents of Botswana overlap to South Africa's Waterberg Coalfield. The Botswana government is planning a new heavy haul railway line linking the Mmamabula area with Lephalale to link into the existing Transnet coal haulage network. There is also a possibility of 	 <p>Kruger National Park borders on Mozambique to the east and north. Pafuri border post in the Kruger National Park offers an alternative access to Mozambique.</p> <p>Additional spatial and functional linkages between Mozambique and South Africa include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water: South Africa shares the Limpopo water catchment basin; the Inkomati Basin with Mozambique and Swaziland; and the Maputo-Usuno-Pangola Basin with Mozambique and Swaziland. • Electricity: Mozambique is richly endowed with a wide diversity of renewable energy sources, exporting 900 to 1000 MW to South Africa. The Coral South Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) project located offshore Mozambique, is the first FLNG project in Africa. It is the world's first ultra-deepwater FLNG facility to operate at a water depth of 2,000m. To be



<p>(GLTP) straddles the borders of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour supply: Many Zimbabweans move to South Africa in search of job opportunities, often leaving family members behind in Zimbabwe. 	<p>developing a power station at the Mmamabula coalfields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and tourism: The Greater Mapungubwe Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) straddles the boundaries of South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe. • Food exports: When regulations allow, meat is exported from SA to Botswana. • Game industry: Botswana is a favourite hunting destination for some South Africans. • Botswana's National Development Plan: Planned SEZ at Sir Seretse Khama International Airport in Gaborone; and Chobe/Zambezi River water transfer scheme project. 	<p>permanently moored in the Coral South deepwater gas field, the FLNG is expected to produce 3.4 million tons (Mt) of LNG a year, over its estimated design life of 25 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism: Mozambique is an increasingly popular holiday destination for South Africans. • Labour supply: Many Mozambicans migrate to South Africa in search of job opportunities.
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Table 1: Spatial and functional linkages between South Africa and its neighbouring countries

3.2 Limpopo Spatial Development Framework

The Limpopo Spatial Development Framework is an overarching provincial spatial development framework to guide on issues of spatial planning and representation, land use management, land development, desired spatial pattern, fostering integration of land uses, and coordinate national, provincial and municipal spatial plans and development in line with Section 15 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (SPLUMA) (No. 16 of 2013).

The Limpopo Spatial Development Framework *“envision[s] a provincial spatial structure where the natural environment and valuable agricultural land are protected for future generations, with a strong, diverse and growing economy, and that offers its residents high quality living environments and good job opportunities”*. Figure 9 depicts envision provincial spatial structure.



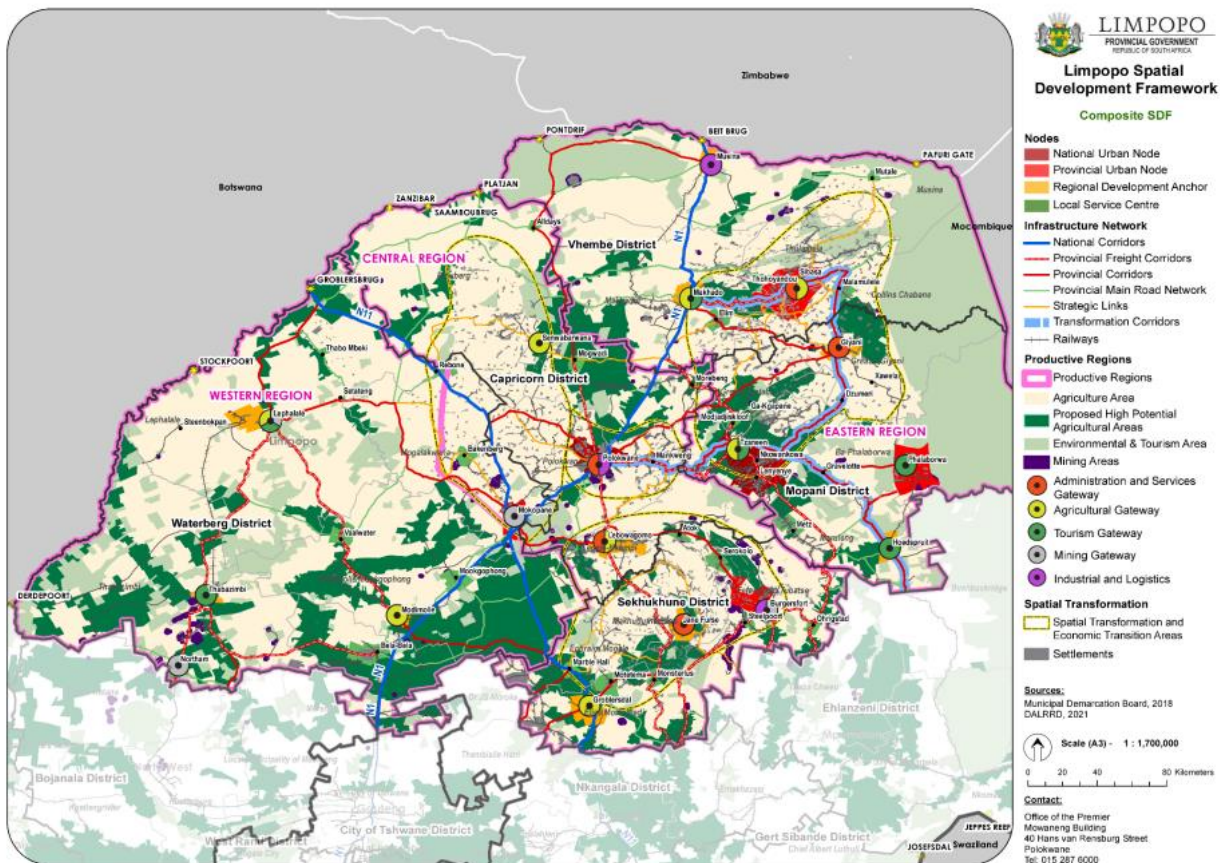


Figure 9: Provincial spatial structure

3.2.1 Spatial Development Objectives

Building on the spatial vision and desired spatial outcomes, the spatial development objectives for Limpopo are the following:

- Capitalise on the province's strategic location within the SADC region to facilitate trade links and regional cooperation on resource sharing.
- Capitalise on and improve regional and local connectivity to establish a connected network of nodes and settlements.
- Provide a strategic and coherent rationale for public sector investment, including engineering, community, and economic infrastructure, to optimise service delivery.
- Encourage urban and rural spatial restructuring to address spatial injustice and facilitate climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Aggressively protect and enhance the province's natural resources, including scarce fresh water sources and high biodiversity landscapes.
- Guard valuable agricultural land as a scarce resource and national asset.
- Consolidate and enhance the province's ecotourism product.
- Encourage and institutionalise the sustainable development of its massive mineral potential and encourage diversification and industrialisation through green economy initiatives; and
- Create an enabling environment for both large- and small-scale business development (retail, office, commercial, industrial).

3.2.2 Limpopo Nodal Strategy

Limpopo Nodal Strategy presents provincial hierarchy, and the function of each node is guided by the following spatial principles:



- The nodal system of the province should recognise the unique function of each node within its region to determine its function and classification within the province,
- The system of nodes recognises the urban-rural relationship between settlements,
- For nodes to fulfil its function, they should be supported by good connectivity,
- The difference between nodes that support larger growth and urbanisation vs nodes or settlements that are stagnant, should be recognised,
- Traditional roles of nodes, settlements or areas should be recognised.

Further, the province endorsed the notion of spatial targeting through the identification of a range of provincial, district, municipal and rural nodal points to serve as focal points for investment and service delivery.

3.2.3 Provincial Growth Points

Provincial Growth Points represent the fast-growing urban areas or nodes within the province, both in terms of population growth and prospects for economic growth. Settlement growth should preferably be consolidated in the existing large, emerging and fast-growing urban nodes. However, the development and emergence of new urban centers in identified densely populated and high-potential transformation corridors, should be proactively supported.

Most of these existing urban nodes have established and diverse economies, together with a range of higher order social and government services contributing towards its preference for human settlement development. However, some nodes are currently experiencing rapid urbanisation and population growth but lacks the necessary infrastructure and bulk services to facilitate growth and investment.

Although these nodes have immense resource potential, predominantly mineral and agriculture, they require a consolidated effort to ensure development and economic prosperity. These Provincial Nodes require public sector intervention and investment to facilitate economic development by the private sector. Investment in new or additional engineering infrastructure and social services to serve the fast-growing local population, is therefore necessary.

The province has updated the Growth Points or Provincial Nodes as follows:

LSDF 2016		LSDF 2025	
Municipality	District	Municipality	District
1 Polokwane	Capricorn	Polokwane	Capricorn
2 Elias Motsoaledi	Sekhukhune	Elias Motsoaledi	Sekhukhune
3 Fetakgomo Tubatse		Fetakgomo Tubatse	
4 Mogalakwena	Waterberg	Mogalakwena	Waterberg
5 Thabazimbi		Thabazimbi	
6 Lephalale		Lephalale	
7 Baphalaborwa	Mopani	Baphalaborwa	Mopani
8 Tzaneen		Tzaneen	
9 Musina	Vhembe	Musina	Vhembe
10 Makhado		Makhado	
11 Thulamela		Thulamela	

Table 2: Provincial Growth Points



3.2.4 Productive Regions

Further, the LSDF introduces Productive Regions as an integrated, regional approach to development, where specific development and investment guidelines are provided based on a productive regional development typology. The regional development typology is guided by the dominant land uses and economic potential of each region, as well as the need for inclusive growth and spatial transformation while at the same time ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

A productive region is defined as a functionally linked area with an interconnected system consisting of nodes which serve as gateways for economic activity, connective infrastructure that is the conduit for moving people, goods and information, areas of value adding urban economic activity such as manufacturing, retail, services, and areas of value adding for rural economic activity (e.g., mining, agriculture, and tourism).



Figure 10: Spatial Productive Regions

There are three (03) Productive Regions identified in the province as follows:

a) Western Region

This region is characterised by agriculture, and crop farming concentrated to the east of the N1 and cattle and game farming/game reserves across the region. It contains the Waterberg Biosphere Reserve and Marakele National Park, with the natural assets of the Reserve holding high tourism potential. In addition, the region boasts several mines, with clusters of mining activity



near Northam and Thabazimbi in the south (part of the Western Limb of the Bushveld Igneous Complex stretching into North West Province) and the Waterberg coalfields with the coal-fired power stations in the vicinity of Steenbokpan in Lephalale. The region requires a more targeted approach to economic diversification by enhancing the contributions of agriculture and tourism, while leveraging the mining dominance of its western and southern areas to foster balanced and sustainable growth. In terms of human settlements form, this region is characterized by settlements mostly concentrated in towns, with a small densely populated rural settlement cluster east of Lephalale. In terms of the demarcation process, this region mostly aligns with Waterberg District.

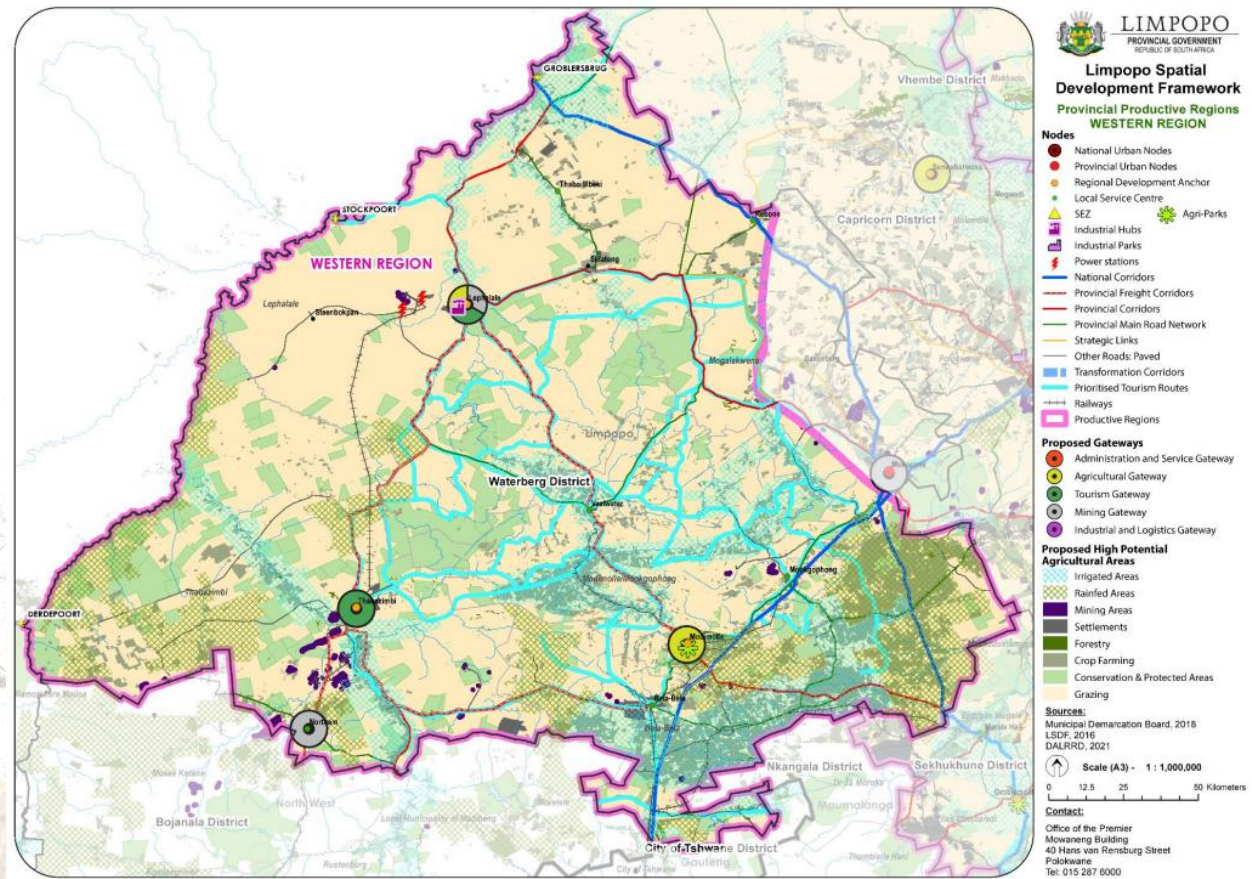


Figure 11: Western Productive Region

b) Central Region

The central region in general has a high intensity development pattern, centred around nodes such as Polokwane, Mokopane and Burgersfort. It contains the main provincial node, Polokwane, as well as major mining areas around Mokopane, and along the R37 to Burgersfort and Steelpoort areas, part of the Northern and Eastern Limb of the Bushveld Igneous Complex. It consists of the growing urban and rural population concentration. The region has a strong investment focus on economic diversification and industrialisation, including the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park proposed to be designated as the SEZ situated near Steelpoort. The Mining Supplier Park will support the surrounding platinum and chrome mining activities, the Industrial Park in Seshego (Polokwane) and the planned expansion of platinum mining north-east and south-east of Mokopane. Mogalakwena is part of the national Hydrogen Valley initiative and the end point of



the hydrogen corridor stretching from Durban. Polokwane has a central place in the provincial logistics network, with the four provincial freight corridors converging in Polokwane.

This region is also home to growing rural residential settlements located around nodes such as Burgersfort, Jane Furse, Lebowakgomo, Groblersdal and Senwabarwana. The nodes in the rural settlement areas require focused infrastructure investment to strengthen their service offering and connectivity to surrounding areas, whilst the sprawl of the rural residential areas need to be contained. This region mostly aligns with Capricorn and Sekhukhune Districts but includes a small part of Waterberg District around Mokopane. Part of this region stretches to the west of Senwabarwana, which falls within the national Eastern Escarpment Spatial Transformation and Economic Transition Region as provided for in the National SDF, 2022.

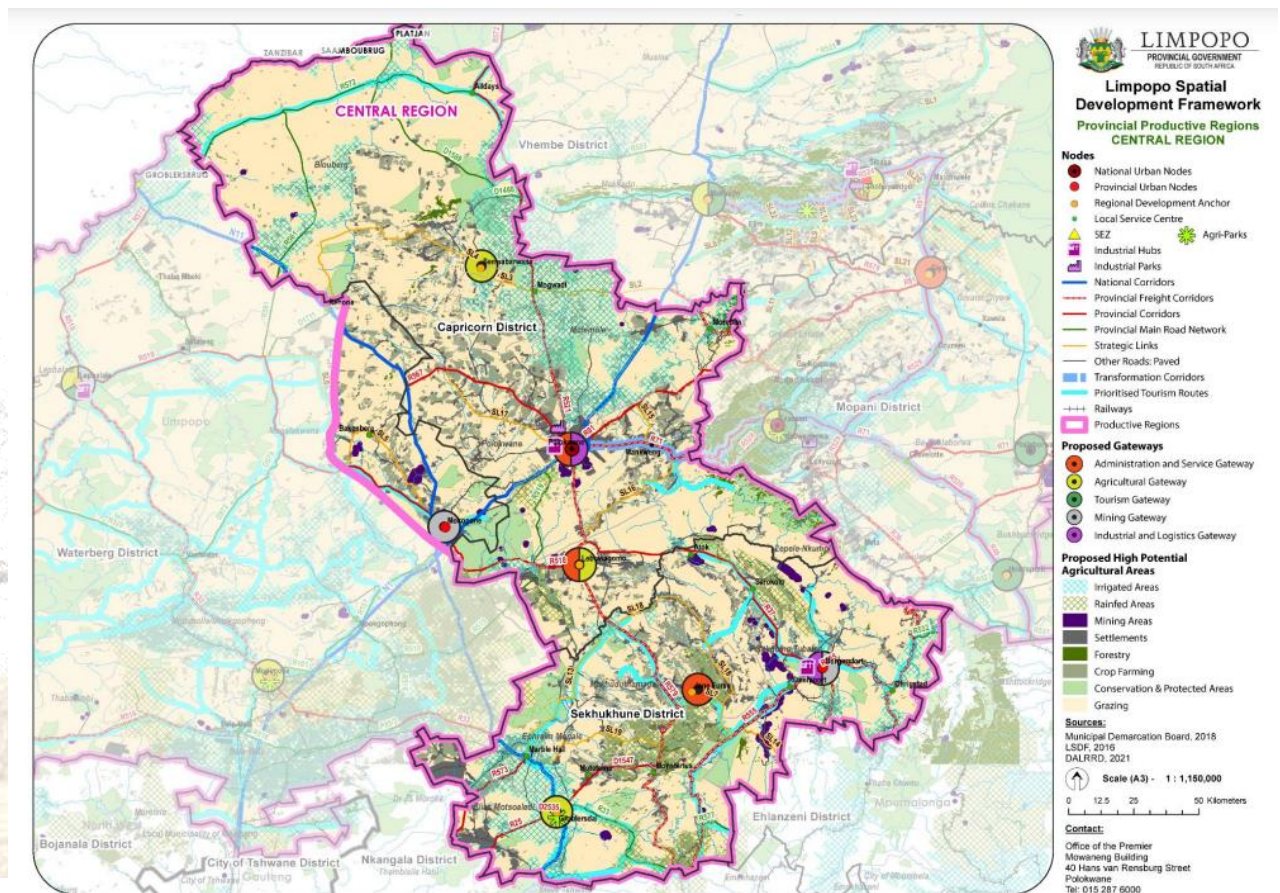


Figure 12: Central Productive Region

c) Eastern Region

The Eastern Region is a mix of different types of agriculture, ranging from high production commercial irrigation agriculture, game reserves to subsistence farming. The region is known as the sub-tropical fruit basket of the country with Tzaneen as the main urban node. It contains vast natural features and assets, including part of the Kruger National Park, the Mapungubwe World Heritage site, the Vhembe Biosphere Reserve as well as part of the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere Reserve. In its northern area, the developing industrial and logistics area around Musina features the Musina-Makhado SEZ. Over time, the development of this urban production area and the



strong link provided by the N1, may place it more strategically in the Central Region, forming part of the central development spine of the province. Existing mining activity of significance is concentrated in Phalaborwa and west of Musina (Venetia) with smaller activities in the Giyani and Vhembe area. In addition to the agricultural, natural, and cultural heritage areas, the region is home to a densely populated and growing areas under Traditional Leadership around Thohoyandou, Giyani and Nkowankowa/Lenyenye. The inert potential of the two nodes that are supporting the growing population, and the need to fully develop the nodes and connections to the nodes, require a critical development intervention. The sprawling settlements should also be managed and contained to prevent encroachment on natural and agricultural areas. This region aligns with Vhembe and Mopani Districts. Most of this region falls within the national Eastern Escarpment Spatial Transformation and Economic Transition Region as provided for in the National SDF, 2022.

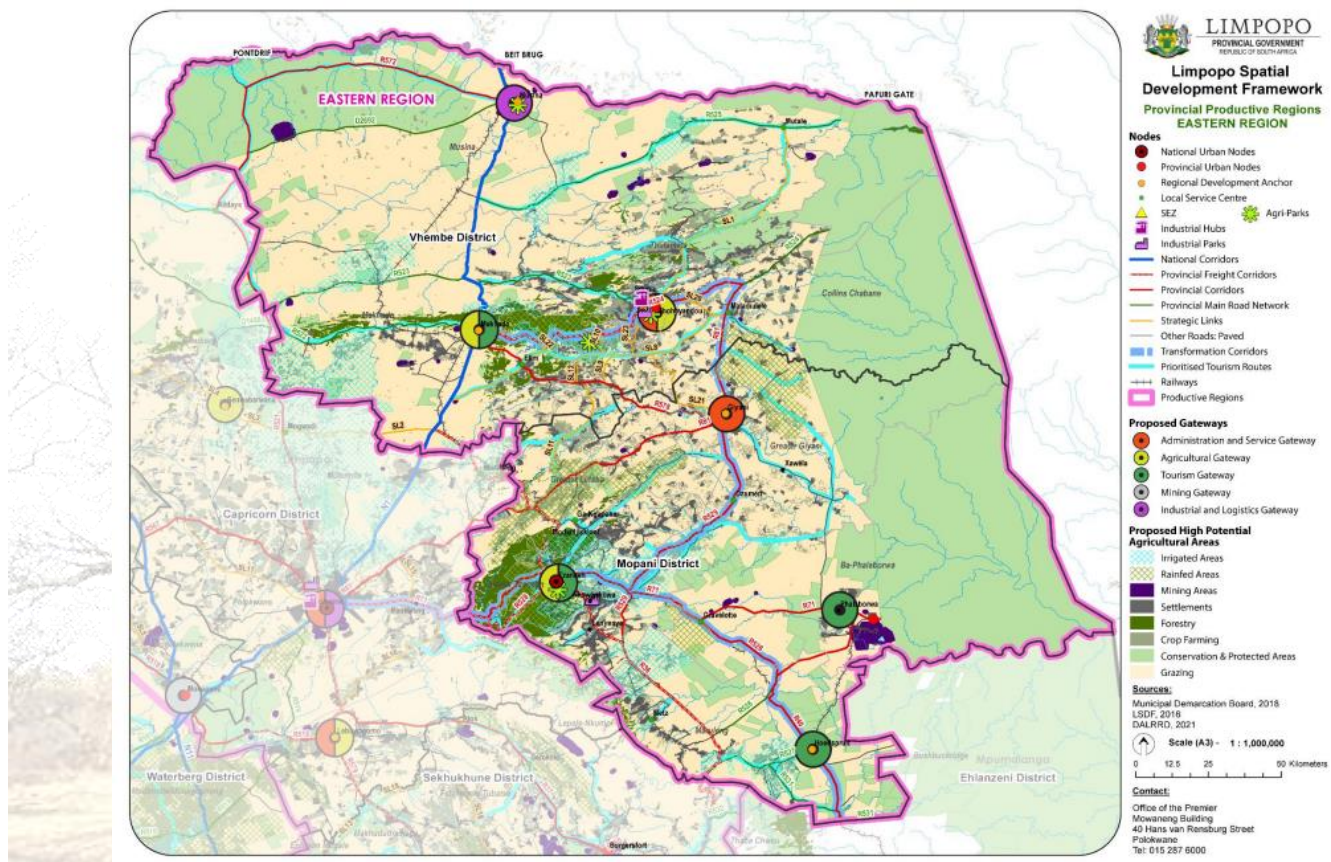


Figure 13: Eastern Productive Region

3.2.5 Spatial Alignment, Coordination and Collaboration Framework

To bring about spatial change and transformation, the institutionalisation of the spatial objectives and outcomes, the revised nodal areas, the new nodal gateways, and spatial focus areas to ensure land development and infrastructure investment is consistent with the LSDF should be a priority. The following spatial governance directives need to be enforced across provincial strategic planning, budgeting and infrastructure projects, policies, and programmes:

National alignment: Implementation and institutional coordination will be required for the actioning of the National Spatial Action Area (NSAA) Implementation Plan for the Eastern



Escarpment National Spatial Transformation and Economic Transition Region, once finalised and adopted. This includes establishment of interregional and inter-provincial structures between Limpopo and Mpumalanga, to coordinate and integrate the NSAA Implementation Plan.

Provincial alignment: Office of the Premier (OTP) together with the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (COGHSTA) and Provincial Treasury ensures cross-sector planning and alignment of investment to spatial priorities within the province through existing functional administrative structures at provincial and district level.

In addition, the spatial governance directives to provincial strategic planning and budgeting to ensure a spatially transformed province are as follow:

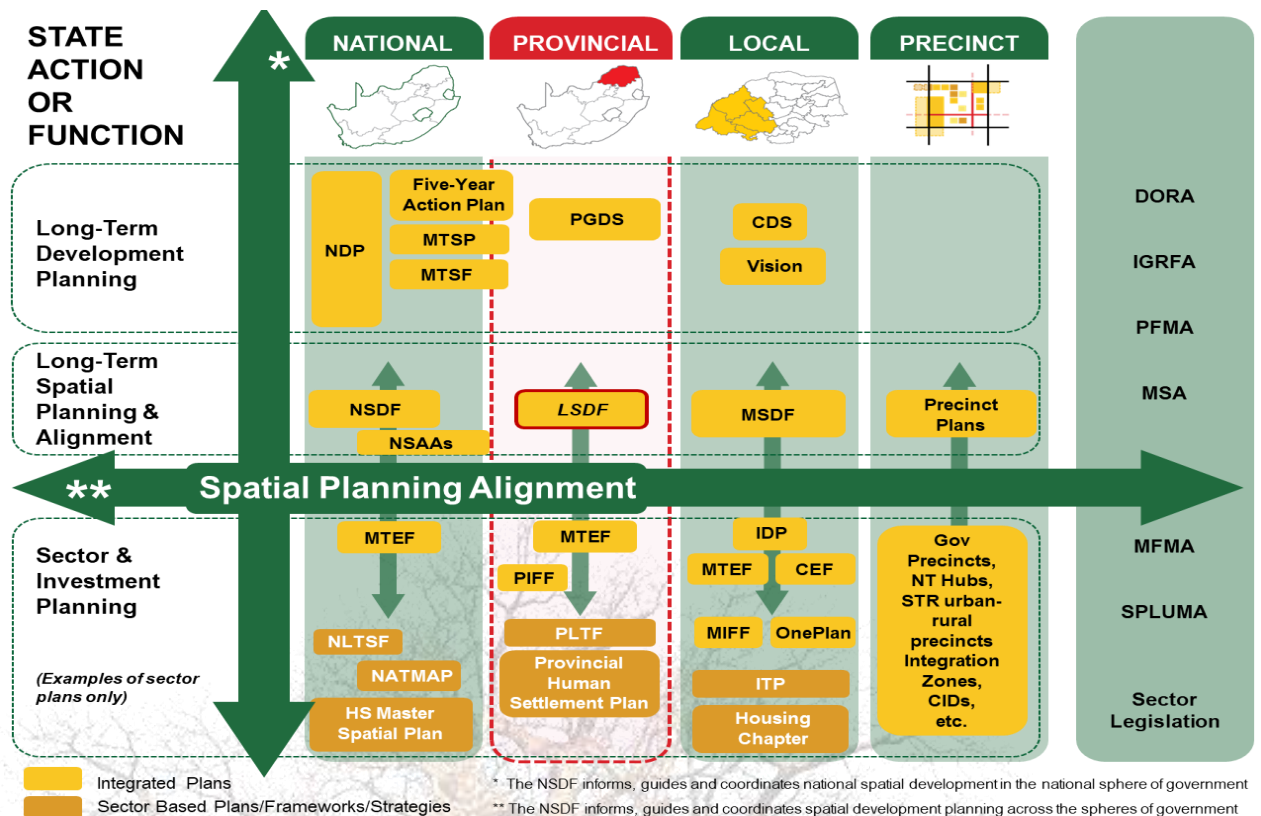
- The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) should align to the desired spatial development pattern expressed in the LSDF.
- Departmental Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans should align its planning and implementation to the provincial spatial rationale and spatial priorities of the LSDF.
- The IGR, Integrated Planning and M&E Framework ensures inter-sphere integration utilising districts as centres of planning and should ensure compliance with the LSDF directives.
- Provincial sectoral plans and programmes, including provincial infrastructure plans and programmes, should align its investment plans to the spatial rationale and prioritise investment in the provincial nodes, gateways, and spatial focus areas.
- Provincial budgeting processes should reinforce budget prioritisation aligned to the LSDF provincial growth points and regional development approach.

District and Local Municipal alignment: Integrated planning in the province is largely undertaken at municipal level through the municipal Integrated Development Planning (IDP) process where sector departments and government agencies are represented, and their plans included in the five-year Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) of respective municipalities. The following spatial governance directives are made to ensure that district and municipal planning and investment aligns and is consistent with the LSDF:

- Municipal SDFs should be consistent with the LSDF and should include the provisions applying to the nodal network, connective infrastructure network, sensitive and protected areas, and spatial focus areas.
- The District-Wide Development Plans should align with the LSDF in all respects and coordinate the relevant implementation of proposals and interventions.
- District and municipal sector plans, especially plans forming part of the municipal IDP reports, should be consistent with the LSDF. Project business plans considered for provincial or grant funding and development applications, should prove alignment to the LSDF spatial priorities and outcomes.
- The involvement of Traditional Leaders in the spatial planning process is critical.



The Figure below illustrates the alignment of national, provincial, local and precinct plans.



Private sector alignment and partnership: the private sector is a critical partner to the implementation of the LDP. Further, the private sector's alignment with and partnership in the implementation of the LSDF is critical for achieving sustainable development goals, leveraging resources, and ensuring that both public and private sector priorities contribute to the economic and social upliftment of the province.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 Climate change, Impacts and Mitigation

The province is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially in areas where there is low resilience and high reliance on subsistence farming. Climate is perhaps the single most important driver with respect to determining the amount, distribution, and availability of water in the environment. The spatial distribution of rainwater, the intensity of precipitation, temperatures and evaporation all drive the hydrologic cycle. In other words, water comes from rainfall (which collects in rivers and dams) as well as underground water (which is also replenished through rainfall). The climate and rainfall patterns of the province will thus affect water availability.

The climate of the province is hot and dry with rainfall occurring in the summer season between September and March. Around the central and northern parts of the province there are small subtropical areas with mist in the mountains including Magoebaskloof, Haenertsburg, Tzaneen and Soutpansberg Mountain Range in Makhado. Rainfall in the province is low to very low with most areas experiencing between 300mm and 600mm of rainfall per annum. With rainfall falling

in the summer months, this could average at about 50mm to 100mm per month, over 6 months, which is not sufficient. Figure 14 clearly depicts annual rainfall pattern.

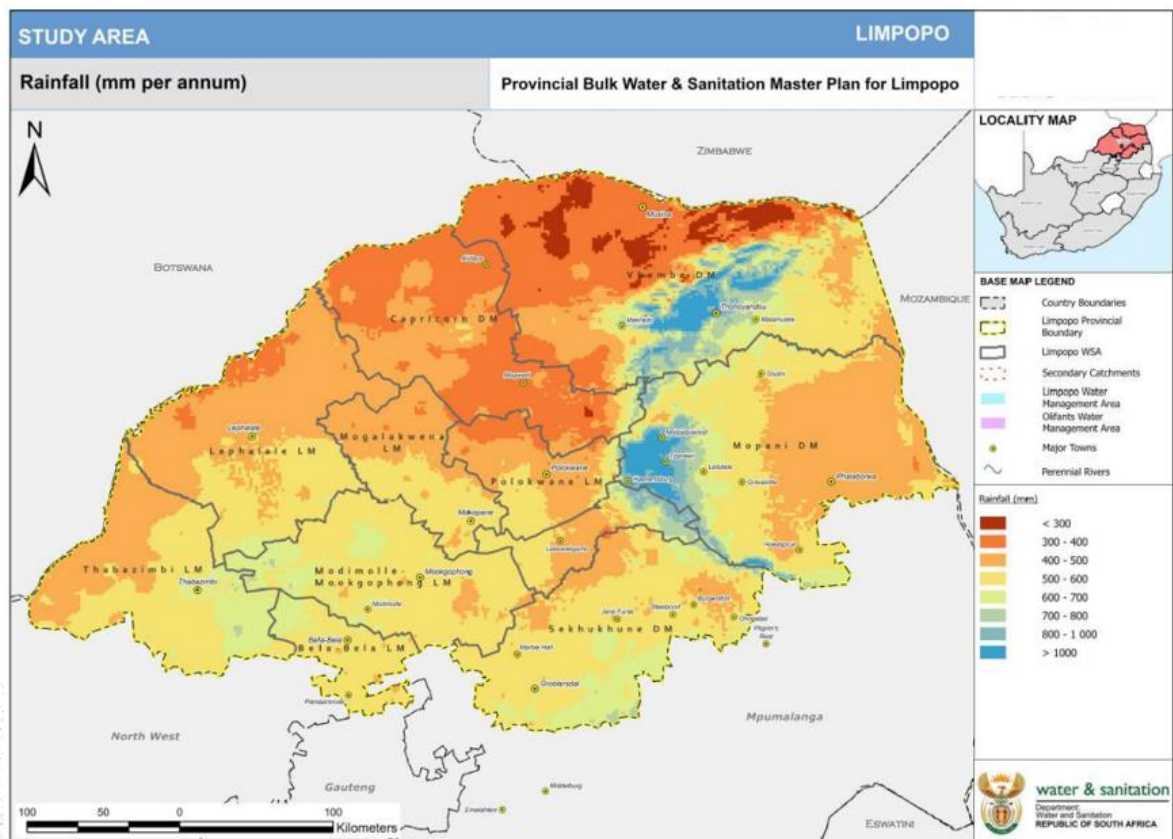


Figure 14: Limpopo Annual Rainfall Patterns

a) Causes of climate change

Human-made emissions are the main cause of climate change. These human activities include burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas), deforestation, land use changes, livestock farming and fertilisation. The carbon gasses released are carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane and fluorinated gases.

b) Climate change risk areas

Flood Risk: There are high flood risk areas in the Sekhukhune district and parts of the Greater Tzaneen, Polokwane, Makhado and Thulamela municipalities. Traditional settlement areas are particularly at risk where infrastructure may not be sufficiently designed to withstand flooding. Flood risk can be mitigated by reducing the hardening of catchments and prioritising the conservation of the wetlands and natural grasslands in the upstream catchment areas, as these will help regulate stream flow.

Temperature: The western areas of the province along the Limpopo River valley are at risk of severe future heat stress (increasing temperatures and number of extreme hot days). Agricultural and other activities proposed in these areas should be drought- and heat-tolerant. Activities such as game farming will be more suitable than irrigated crops.

Impact on food security: Areas most at risk of food security issues due to climate change are those that have a high level of subsistence agriculture or reliance on limited crop types. These



areas include the Blouberg, Collins Chabane, Greater Letaba, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Lepelle-Nkumpi, Makhuduthamaga, Maruleng, Mogalakwena and Molemole municipalities. Agricultural resilience to climate change can be improved by focusing on crops/activities with low water demand and by diversifying the types of crops produced. Agro-processing should not focus on a single specialised crop or product that is not climate-resilient.

Impact on water resources: Areas most at risk of groundwater depletion due to reduced recharge are those that currently rely heavily on groundwater, are already under water stress (demand exceeds supply) or are located in strategic groundwater source areas or on major aquifers. These high-risk areas include parts of the Mogalakwena, Blouberg, Molemole, Thabazimbi, Mookgophong and Polokwane municipalities. Further development of groundwater resources in these areas should be managed carefully, and high water use developments discouraged.

4.1.1 Climate change predictions 2050

The climate change predictions for Limpopo Province by 2050, highlights significant impacts across the province. The entire province is expected to experience an increase in maximum temperature, with the eastern half projected to rise by $+3^{\circ}\text{C}$. In addition, areas along the north-western border of the province will see over 100 additional very hot days annually. Despite slight increases in mean annual precipitation in some areas, much of Limpopo, particularly the central regions, will face very high drought tendencies by 2044. Extreme rainfall events are expected to decrease in many areas, while annual rainfall patterns show little overall improvement, further exacerbating water scarcity. Municipalities in the north-western border are predicted to be the most severely affected due to the combination of increased hot days, rising temperatures, and high drought risk, underscoring the urgent need for climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in the province.

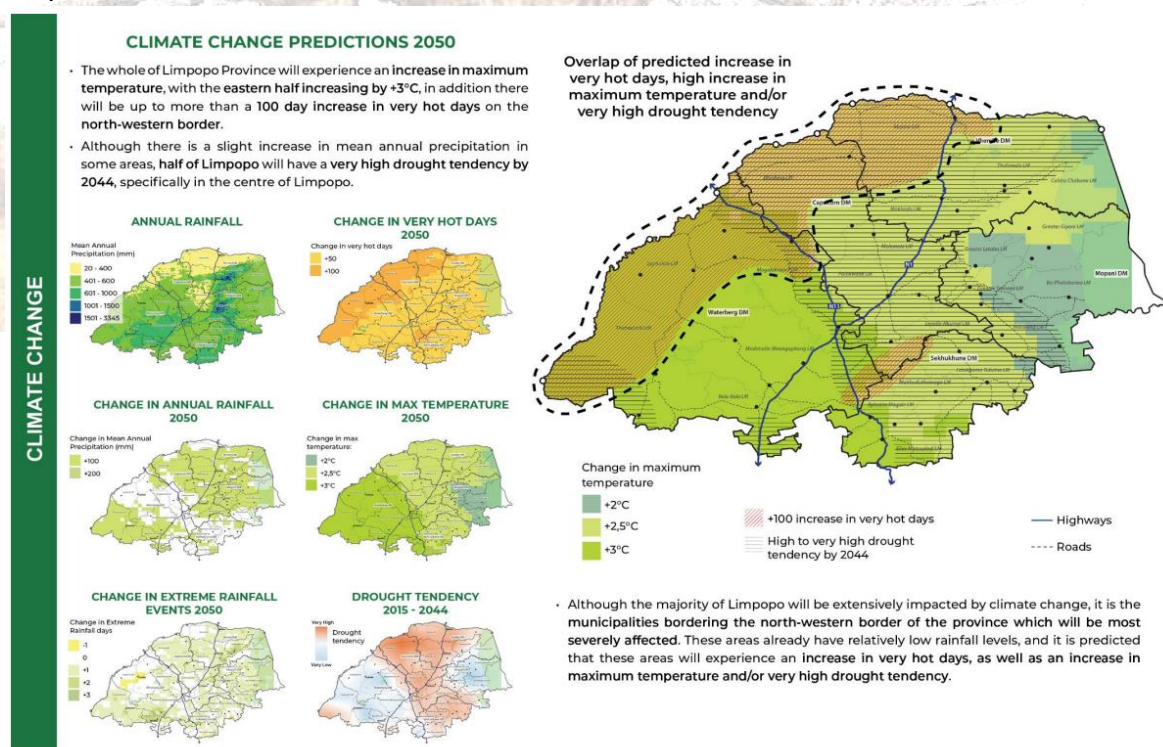


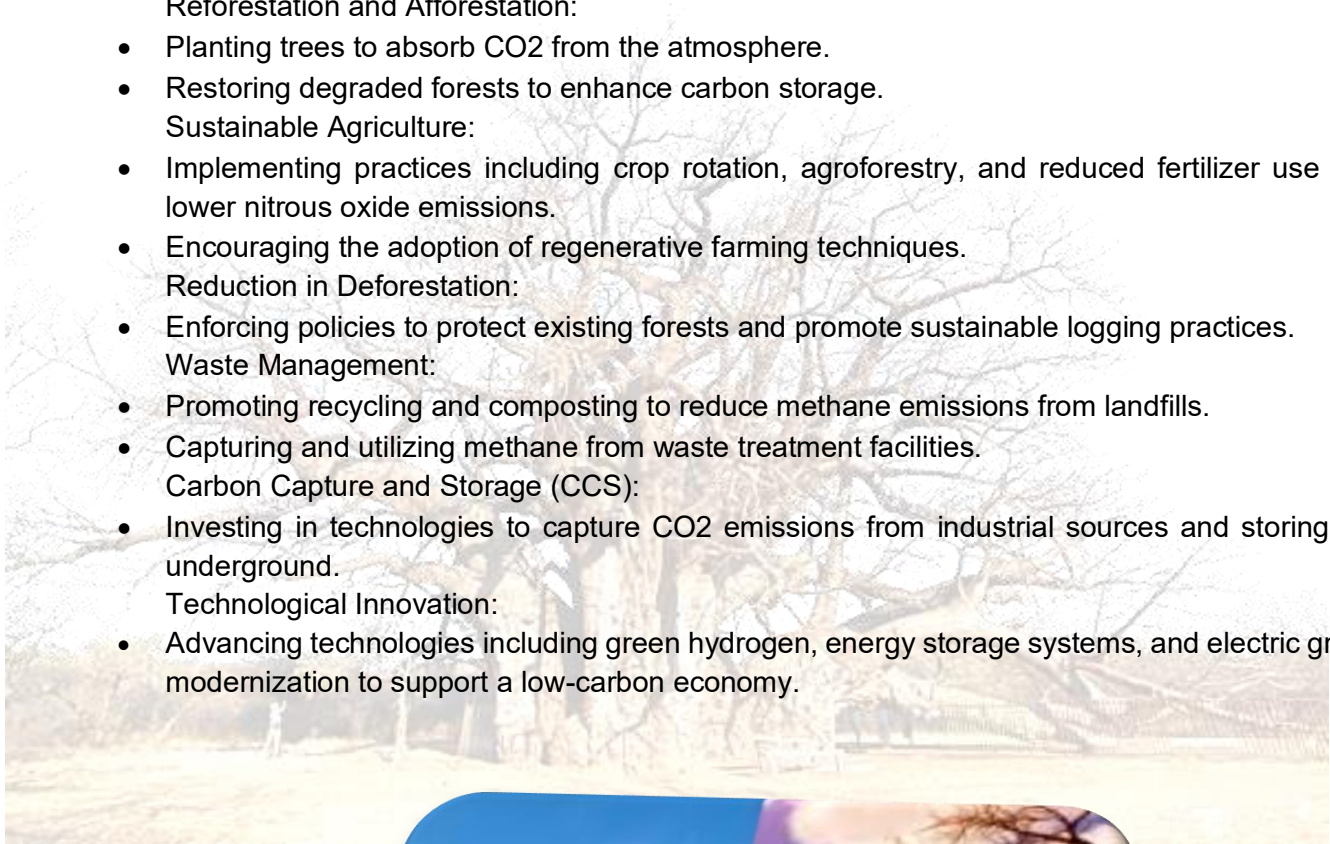
Figure 15: Climate Change Predictions 2050



4.1.2 Climate change mitigation

Mitigating climate change involves implementing strategies and actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance carbon sequestration. Key measures include:

- Transition to Renewable Energy
- Expanding the use of solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal energy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Promoting energy efficiency in industrial, residential, and transportation sectors.
Energy Efficiency Improvements:
 - Retrofitting buildings with energy-efficient technologies.
 - Upgrading transportation systems to use electric or hybrid vehicles.
 - Encouraging efficient industrial processes to minimize energy waste.
- Reforestation and Afforestation:
 - Planting trees to absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere.
 - Restoring degraded forests to enhance carbon storage.
- Sustainable Agriculture:
 - Implementing practices including crop rotation, agroforestry, and reduced fertilizer use to lower nitrous oxide emissions.
 - Encouraging the adoption of regenerative farming techniques.
- Reduction in Deforestation:
 - Enforcing policies to protect existing forests and promote sustainable logging practices.
- Waste Management:
 - Promoting recycling and composting to reduce methane emissions from landfills.
 - Capturing and utilizing methane from waste treatment facilities.
- Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS):
 - Investing in technologies to capture CO₂ emissions from industrial sources and storing it underground.
- Technological Innovation:
 - Advancing technologies including green hydrogen, energy storage systems, and electric grid modernization to support a low-carbon economy.



5 SOCIO-ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Limpopo is the fifth-largest province in South Africa, covering an area of approximately 125,754 square kilometers (48,587 square miles) divided into five (05) districts and 22 local municipalities, each with distinct characteristics. a) Capricorn District is home to the provincial capital, Polokwane, and serves as an important administrative and economic hub; b) Vhembe District is located in the far north and is renowned for its natural and cultural heritage, including Mapungubwe National Park and the Limpopo River; c) Mopani District known for its predominantly rural population and boasts key tourist attractions, such as sections of the iconic Kruger National Park, contributing significantly to the province's tourism sector; d) Sekhukhune District is largely rural and stands out for its robust mining activities, particularly in platinum and chrome, which play a critical role in the local economy and e) Waterberg District is renowned for its rich biodiversity and mineral wealth, including significant coal deposits. Waterberg is also a bedrock of eco-tourism and conservation in the province.

5.1 Performance Overview of the LDP 2020- 2025

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025-2030 builds on the achievements and lessons learned from the implementation of the LDP 2020-2025 which was adopted by the Executive Council (EXCO) in 2020 to guide integrated planning, resource allocation and socio-economic development during the 6th Administration.

The LDP mid-term Review was conducted in 2024 to assess its implementation and progress made. The province also conducted the provincial 30-year (1994-2019) review. Both reviews revealed that poverty had deepened, while structural unemployment and inequality persisted. Both reviews identified strategic interventions to accelerate the attainment of the targets, and these will be elaborated in the LDP 2025-2030.

Furthermore, reviews revealed that over this period the province invested in improving lives of Limpopo citizens in sectors such as education, health care, infrastructure provision and economic development. However, the province did not perform well in respect to water provision, and the attainment of economic development-related targets. The table below reflects the overall performance of the province in terms of the 2020-2025 LDP high-level development targets.

Development indicator	Target (2020-2025)	Status
GDP contribution	Increased GDP contribution to national GDP from 7.2% to 9% by 2025	7.7%
Employment creation	Number of jobs created from 448 000 to 500 000 by 2025	408,000 jobs
Reduction of official unemployment	Reduction of official unemployment to 14% by 2025	31.9%
Economic Growth Rate	Increased GDP growth rate from 1.4% to 2% by 2025	0.16 % average growth per annum



Inequality (Gini coefficient)	Reduce income inequality from 0.57% to 0.50% by 2025	Inequality is at 0.57%
Poverty reduction	Reduced % of people living in poverty from 52% to 20% by 2025	56%
Grade 12 pass rate	Increased Grade 12 pass rate from 73.2% to 80% by 2025	85.01%
Increased access to basic services	Improved access to Water from 74.1% to 80% by 2025	64.2%
	Improved access to sanitation from 58.6% to 65% by 2025	61.9%
	Improved access to electricity from 92.7% to 95% by 2025	95%
Reduction of HIV and non-communicable diseases	*90-90-90	92-71-70

Table 3: LDP 2020-2025 performance update

5.2 Demographic Overview

According to the 2022 Census, Limpopo's population is recorded at 6.6 million, reflecting an increase of approximately 1.2 million since 2011. While the population growth rate is steady, it remains slower compared to more urbanized provinces. The number of households increased by 393,480 between 2011 and 2022. The largest growth in household numbers from 2011 to 2022 was in Polokwane, Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Makhado, Mogalakwena and Thulamela municipalities. A consistent decline in average household size from 5,0 in 1996 to 3,6 in 2022 has been recorded in the province. The increasing number of households has implications for natural resources, including water, land, and energy, that may come under pressure resulting in overuse or degradation of these resources if sustainable practices are not implemented.

The province showcases a rich and diverse cultural landscape, with Black Africans constituting the majority at 96.5%. Whites account for 2.5%, Indians/Asians make up 0.5%, Coloureds represent 0.3%, and others, including a growing Shona community, comprise 0.1%.

The dominant languages in Limpopo are Sepedi (Northern Sotho), Xitsonga, and Tshivenda. Notably, the census identified a significant Shona-speaking population, with over 28,000 households reporting Shona as their primary language. Women make up 54.2% of the population, compared to 45.8% for men, a disparity partly attributed to male labour migration to other provinces.

The province has a median age of 26 years, younger than the national median of 28, highlighting its relatively youthful population. Additionally, over 80% of Limpopo's residents live in rural areas, making it one of the least urbanized provinces in South Africa. The province hosts three municipalities, namely Polokwane, Fetakgomo-Tubatse and Thulamela which are amongst the seventeen municipalities where 50 percent of the country's population reside. Figure 16 below summarises the demographic profile of the province.



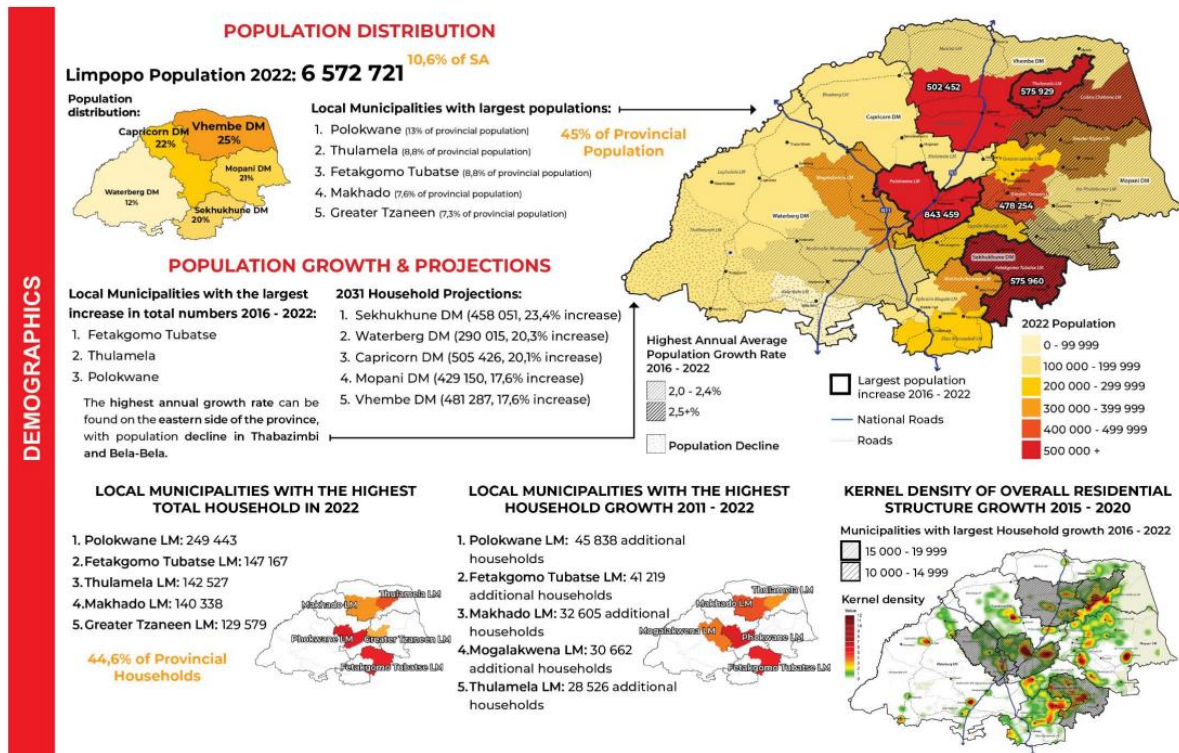


Figure 16: Summary Demographic profile of Limpopo Province

In terms of education, the province saw significant growth in school attendance between 1996 and 2022, but it still has a higher percentage of people with no schooling (14.1%) compared to the national average of 6.9%.

Regarding living conditions, 94.7% of households in Limpopo reside in formal dwellings, though a significant portion of households still face challenges in accessing basic services. For instance, only 31.4% of the population had access to piped water inside their homes, while 61.9% of households relied on pit latrines as their main sanitation facility.

5.3 Provincial Economic Outlook

Limpopo's economic growth over the past five years has been inconsistent, characterized by periods of contraction and sluggish recovery. Increased diversification, and targeted investments in high-performing sectors including agriculture could be pivotal for revitalizing and sustaining growth in the province.

5.3.1 5-year trend analysis of economic growth

Limpopo's economic growth over the past five years reflects a challenging trajectory, marked by significant fluctuations. Pre-pandemic growth in 2019 was marginal at 0.1%, underscoring structural constraints even before the onset of COVID-19. The pandemic's impact in 2020 was severe, with the province experiencing a sharp contraction of -6.5% as economic activities across certain sectors were disrupted. In 2021, Limpopo rebounded strongly with a growth rate of 5.2%, driven by base effects and the gradual reopening of the economy. However, this recovery was short-lived, as growth decelerated to 1.0% in 2022 and slowed further to 0.2% in 2023, reflecting persistent structural challenges and the fading momentum of the initial post-pandemic recovery.



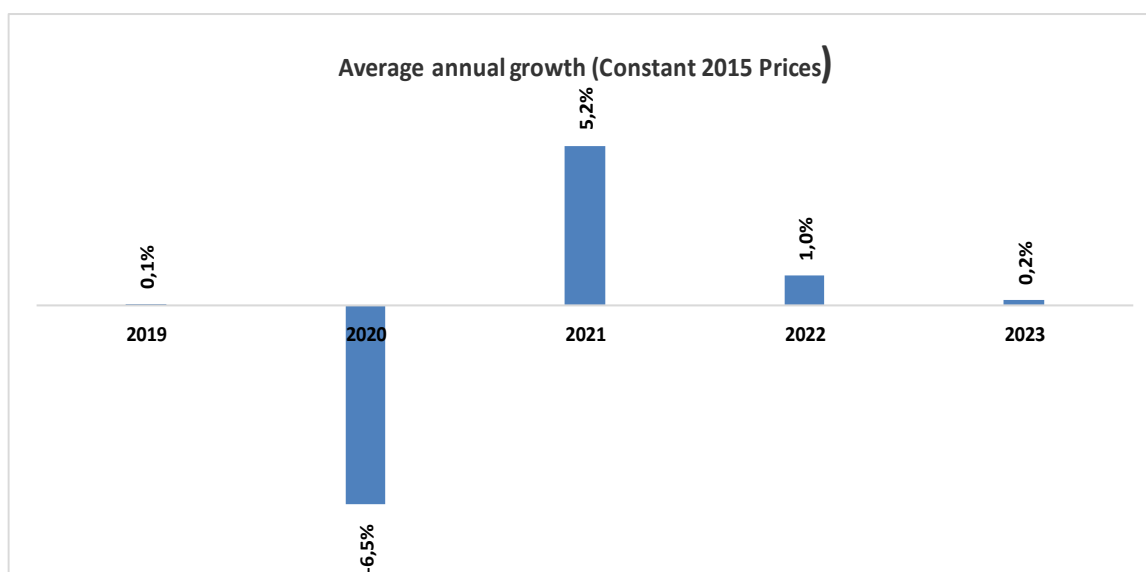


Figure 17: Average Annual Growth

5.3.2 Employment trends analysis

Employment in Limpopo Province began at 1,151,000 in Q2 2020, reflecting a low point due to the severe economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a slight recovery observed by Q3 and Q4 of the same year. In 2021, employment gradually increased, stabilizing at around 1,257,000 by Q3, signalling a recovery as pandemic-related restrictions eased. The growth continued modestly in 2022, peaking at 1,391,000 in Q3, marking a steady recovery. The upward trend persisted into 2023, with employment reaching 1,490,000 in Q3, indicating a return to pre-pandemic levels driven by an improved economic environment. By Q3 2024, employment peaked at 1,590,000, reflecting substantial growth over the five-year period, supported by contributions from sectors including agriculture and community services.

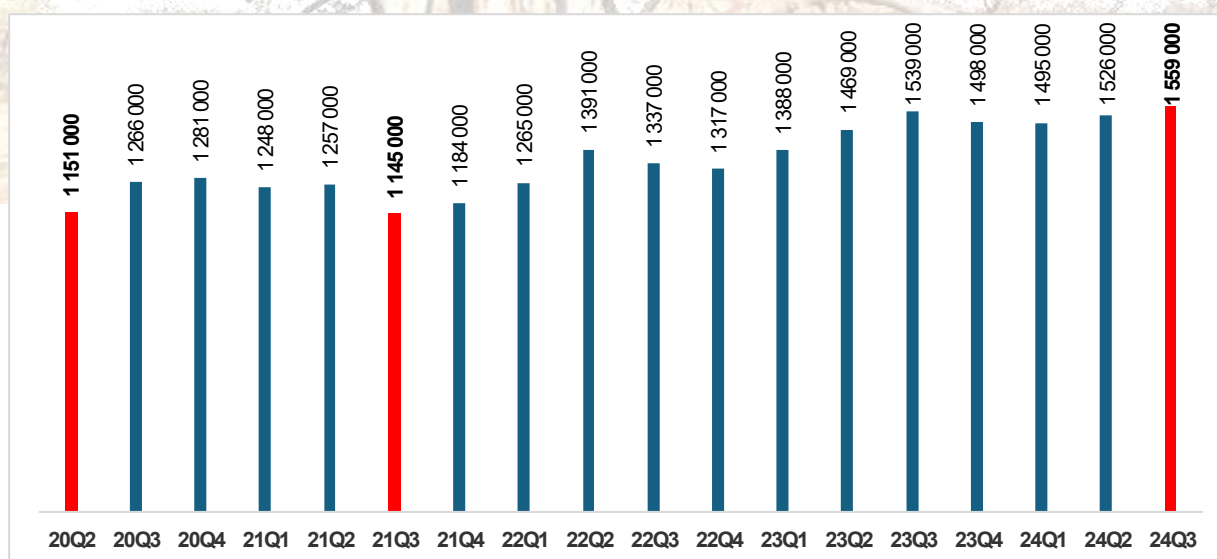


Figure 18: Number of people employed in Limpopo Province (2020-2024)



5.3.3 Percentage unemployment rate: 2020-2024

Limpopo's unemployment rate (in percentage) from Q2 2020 to Q3 2024, highlighted a notable fluctuation over this period. In Q2 2020, the unemployment rate stood at 21.9%, reflecting a relatively low level compared to subsequent quarters. It climbed steadily through 2020 and 2021, peaking at 35.6% in Q4 2021. This marked the height of job losses, probably driven by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in 2022, the unemployment rate began to decline, dropping to 31% in Q2 2022 and fluctuating slightly around the 31%-33% range throughout 2023. By Q3 2024, the unemployment rate had further decreased to 31.9%, reflecting some recovery in the labour market, although it remained significantly higher than the pre-pandemic levels. This trend reflects the need for sustained economic interventions to address persistent unemployment challenges in the province.

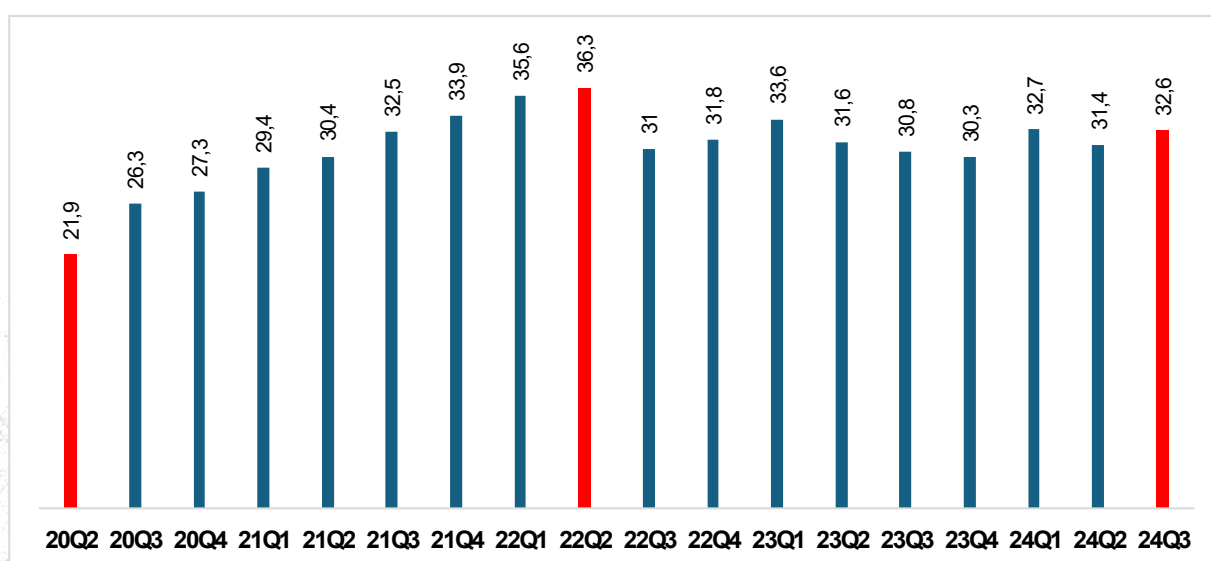


Figure 19: Official unemployment rate in Limpopo Province (2020-2024)

5.4 Economic Structure of the Province

Limpopo Province boasts immense potential, underpinned by its abundant natural resources, vibrant cultural heritage, and youthful population. Its economic structure is largely defined by a predominantly rural economy that relies heavily on agriculture and mining, complemented by substantial contributions from the informal sector and a growing tourism industry. However, despite these strengths, the province continues to face significant challenges, including high levels of poverty and unemployment. These issues are exacerbated by underdeveloped infrastructure, which impedes economic growth, access to essential services, and progression towards industrialization.



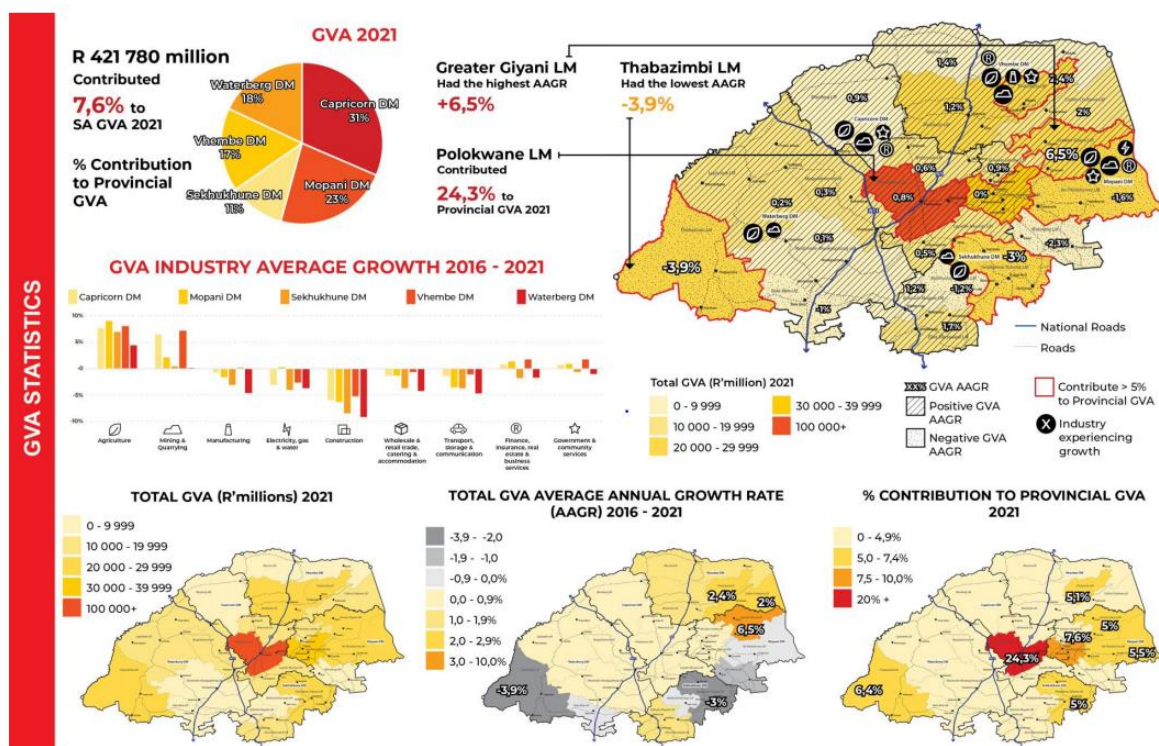


Figure 20: Gross Value Added (GVA, 2021)

The province remains committed to strengthening the following key economic sectors:



Figure 21: Limpopo key economic sectors

5.5 Mining Sector

Over the past five years (2020–2025), the mining sector has experienced notable fluctuations, influenced by global commodity price volatility, local economic conditions, and evolving policy frameworks. These factors have had a direct impact on the profitability and sustainability of mining operations. Despite these challenges, mining remains a pillar of Limpopo's economy, contributing approximately 25% to 30% to the Gross Geographical Domestic Product (GGDP). Employment in the sector faced a significant decline between the fourth quarter of 2018 and the fourth quarter of 2019, dropping from 106,000 to 86,000 jobs. However, early 2020 saw signs of recovery, driven by rising global demand and increasing prices for Platinum Group Metals (PGMs). By 2022, out

of 141 registered mines in Limpopo, only 50 were operational, with the rest under care and maintenance, a situation that has had profound implications for employment and economic output in the province.

The provincial government has reported substantial investments in the mining sector, with projections of R36.3 billion over a five-year period starting in 2020. These investments are aimed at revitalizing the sector and enhancing its contribution to the provincial economy. Mining continues to be the biggest contributor in the economy, contributing more than 22% and employing 121,000 people in the second quarter of 2024. As global mining undergoes significant transformation with shifts in capital investments, Limpopo is well-positioned to benefit from these trends due to its abundant resources and strategic initiatives.

Despite challenges such as fluctuating global prices and reduced operational mines, the outlook for Limpopo's mining sector remains optimistic. The province boasts significant reserves of PGMs, coal, diamonds, and other minerals, firmly positioning it as a key player in South Africa's mining industry.

Ongoing and planned strategic investments are expected to increase production capacity, create employment opportunities, and stimulate economic growth. Infrastructure improvements, particularly in transportation and energy, are anticipated to support mining activities and enhance market access. In summary, while the past five years have presented challenges, Limpopo's resource potential and strategic investments point to a trajectory of recovery and sustained growth.

In an effort to attract further investments, Limpopo annually hosts a conference on Mining, Energy, and Industrialization. This key platform convenes international investors, domestic business leaders, and government representatives to discuss investment opportunities, challenges, and strategic interventions to enhance economic growth in identified sectors. At the 2023 Limpopo Investment Conference, investment pledges reached R37.45 billion, with 40% allocated to mining and 25.26% directed towards the green economy, particularly solar plants, where mining operations serve as major off takers.

5.5.1 Limpopo Investment Attraction

Over the past 4 years, the province has embarked on an investment drive to increase the economic activities, create jobs, and reduce poverty. The four (4) annual investment conferences yielded pledges valued at approximately R282 billion. The pledges cover Mining and Mineral Beneficiation, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Property Development, Renewable Energy and Tourism sectors.

YEAR	PLEDGED (R Millions)	IMPLEMENTED (R Millions)	% IMPLEMENTED
2021	89,998	58,545	65.05
2022	34,561	4,455	12.89
2023	37,454	16,612	44.35
2024	120,329	To be determined	To be determined
TOTAL	282,026	79,612	

Table 4: 5-Year Investment Pledges, LEDA



It is important that the provincial government provide all the necessary support towards ensuring that these investment pledges are converted into actual commitments/physical projects which are expected to positively impact the lives of communities where they would be located.

With the vast mineral reserves identified by the Council for Geo-Science, the province is poised for future mining investments. By leveraging untapped resources, advancing infrastructure development, and fostering positive relationships with communities, Limpopo can solidify its position as a leading mining region. These efforts will also ensure sustainable and inclusive growth, balancing economic progress with environmental and social considerations.

The province tracks some of the investments through the approved Environmental Impact Assessment applications or EIA Record of Decisions issued by LEDET. This is a good yardstick to measure the level of development activities anticipated to take place in the short to medium term. The finalized EIA applications from 2022 to date are worth approximately R20 billion. This demonstrates economic growth potential of the province.

The provincial government on the other hand has set aside an average of R7 billion per annum for social and economic infrastructure. Such investments create an enabling environment for domestic and foreign investments and have direct positive spin-offs and impact on the economy. It is firmly believed that investment in these projects could yield the desired impact in terms of increased economic growth, job creation and reduced inequality.

5.5.2 Performance of key commodities

South African mining industry has diversified from the gold mining era to an industry with wide-ranging mineral resources, including the world's largest known deposits of platinum group metals (PGMs), manganese, chrome, coal, gold, copper, vanadium, and other natural resources that are considered critical for the just transition. The province is endowed with a rich array of mineral resources, including Platinum Group Metals (PGMs), coal, diamonds, chrome, and iron ore.

a) PGMs

Production of PGMs surged in 2021 recording 285.3 tonnes from 226.5 tonnes in 2020. The prices were somewhat unstable and on the downside in 2023/24. Despite the fluctuating prices of palladium and rhodium, of which South Africa supplies 38% and 81%, respectively, to the global commodities market, the PGMs sector is poised to play a catalytic role in sustaining the South African mining industry, and in the growth of the Limpopo Provincial economy. The expected growth is anchored on the electric vehicle market and renewable energy opportunities.

Limpopo holds about 41% of South Africa's PGM reserves, making it a significant player in the global platinum market. Between 2020 and 2024, PGM production in the province experienced fluctuations due to varying global demand and price volatility. However, the sector showed resilience, with production levels stabilizing towards the latter part of the period. The PGM sector remains a substantial contributor to Limpopo's GDP and employment, with major mining operations located in areas such as Mokopane and Northam.



b) Diamonds

South Africa produces approximately US\$1.5 billion worth of natural diamonds a year and it is further expected that production will remain steady in the short term. The resilient dollar per carat and polished diamond price is expected to remain steady in the coming year due to the favourable rough diamond market.

The province hosts some of South Africa's largest diamond mines, including the Venetia Mine in Vhembe District. Diamonds remain an important asset in the export mix of Limpopo Province even though the industry finds itself at a crossroads, grappling with a complex web of market dynamics and external pressures. The current state of reduced prices and increased supply poses challenges, yet the industry's history of resilience and adaptation offers hope for the future. As the industry shifts its focus towards underground operations and embraces innovative technologies, it remains to be seen whether these measures will spark a recovery in diamond prices.

c) Coal

With the critical role played by coal in generating baseload electricity, petrochemicals, steel, cement, and brick production, coal will continue to play an integral part not only in Limpopo Province but in South Africa's economy, and the world at large.

Limpopo is home to significant coal reserves, particularly in the Waterberg Coalfield including high-quality coking coal used in steel production and supporting the metallurgical industry, both locally and internationally. Coal production saw a steady increase from 2020 to 2024, driven by both domestic energy needs and export demand. The coal industry has been instrumental in regional development, notably in Lephalale, where mining activities have spurred infrastructure growth and job creation.

d) Chrome

Limpopo's chrome production experienced growth between 2020 and 2024, bolstered by demand in the stainless-steel industry. The province's chrome resources are primarily located in the Sekhukhune District. The chrome sector has enhanced economic diversification and provided employment opportunities within the province.

e) Iron Ore

Iron ore mining, particularly in the Thabazimbi area, faced challenges due to fluctuating global prices. Despite these hurdles, production levels show signs of recovery towards 2025. The iron ore industry contributes to GGDP and has potential for growth with favourable market conditions.

The mining sector's contribution to the GGDP underscores its importance to the provincial economy. Employment trends have mirrored production patterns, with the sector providing numerous jobs, particularly in rural areas. With substantial mineral reserves and ongoing investment in infrastructure and technology, Limpopo's mining sector is poised for growth. The focus on beneficiation and value addition presents opportunities for economic diversification and increased competitiveness in global markets.



5.5.3 The new wave of critical Minerals

Mining investment is shifting drastically to the 'Big Six metals': copper; PGM's (platinum and iridium); lithium; nickel; cobalt and rare earth elements. Seventy-two (72%) of South Africa's wealth of mineral reserves are in Limpopo, with untapped rare earths potential. The South African mining sector carries a major potential to boost the growth of the green economy as off-takers and investors in green economy projects.



5.5.4 Economic growth and transformation of the sector

The province is steadfast in its commitment to driving inclusive economic growth, creating jobs, and eradicating poverty. Now more than ever, there is a relentless focus on mineral beneficiation to shift away from the traditional pit-to-port approach of exporting raw mineral commodities. Instead, the emphasis is on promoting the export of value-added products, reducing the reliance on raw and intermediate product exports, which often result in the loss of jobs and profits to foreign markets. This transformative agenda has already begun with the implementation of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) programme. By prioritizing this goal, the province aims to achieve meaningful economic structural transformation and sustainable growth.

The province also remains dedicated to fostering social cohesion by encouraging mining operations to implement impactful enterprise and supplier development programs. Mines are urged to align their Social and Labour Plans (SLPs) with the specific needs of host communities, ensuring these communities benefit from employment and business opportunities and other development initiatives. Stability within mining regions is recognized as a critical factor in boosting business confidence, attracting increased foreign direct investment (FDI), and safeguarding existing investments.

The following key enablers are crucial for unlocking the mining sector's full potential, driving economic growth, and fostering a resilient, inclusive mining economy that delivers sustainable benefits to all stakeholders, both within the province and across the broader South African economy.





Figure 22: Key enablers for unlocking full mining potential

5.6 Agriculture Sector

The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies agriculture as a critical driver of economic growth and a strategic sector for addressing unemployment, poverty, and inequality particularly in rural areas where poverty is most concentrated. Agriculture has a unique potential for labour-intensive growth, meaning it can create jobs at a larger scale relative to the amount of capital invested compared to other sectors, making it a cost-effective tool for inclusive economic growth. It further provides employment opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled labour and supports livelihoods for vulnerable populations who might otherwise struggle to find work. This characteristic makes it especially valuable in a country facing high unemployment rates and widespread rural poverty.

The sector's backward and forward linkages further enhance its importance. Backward linkages refer to its connection to industries that supply inputs, such as fertilizers, machinery, and seeds. Forward linkages, on the other hand, describe its integration with industries that process



agricultural produce, such as food manufacturing, retail, and exports. Moreover, agriculture can contribute to national food security, reduce reliance on imports, and increase exports, enhancing the country's trade balance. These linkages ensure that growth in agriculture stimulates activity in other parts of the economy, creating a multiplier effect.

The NDP further emphasizes the need to overcome key challenges in the sector, such as access to land, water scarcity, market access, and the impacts of climate change. Through targeted interventions, including land reform, skills development, infrastructure investment, and support for emerging farmers, agriculture can play a transformative role in achieving the NDP's vision of a more equitable and prosperous society.

Limpopo Province stands out as one of South Africa's premier agricultural regions, renowned for its diverse and highly competitive agricultural output. The province's favourable climate, fertile soils, and availability of water resources make it a hub for the production of sub-tropical fruits, vegetables, citrus, and industrial crops such as cotton. These attributes position Limpopo as a key player in the country's agricultural economy, with the potential to contribute significantly to national growth through its competitive edge in specific high-value crops.

5.6.1 Citrus and Sub-Tropical Fruit Production

Limpopo commands the top spot in citrus production and is a leader in sub-tropical fruit production, contributing substantially to South Africa's citrus export industry, which is among the largest globally. The province commands the number one spot in the production of citrus, accounting for 57% and 55% of oranges and grapefruit production, while mandarins and lemons account for 37% and 31% respectively. The province further produces about 75% of South Africa's mangoes. Figure 23 presents Limpopo's contribution to national agricultural production for citrus fruit. This dominance underscores Limpopo's critical role in supplying both local and international markets, bolstering South Africa's position as a major citrus exporter.

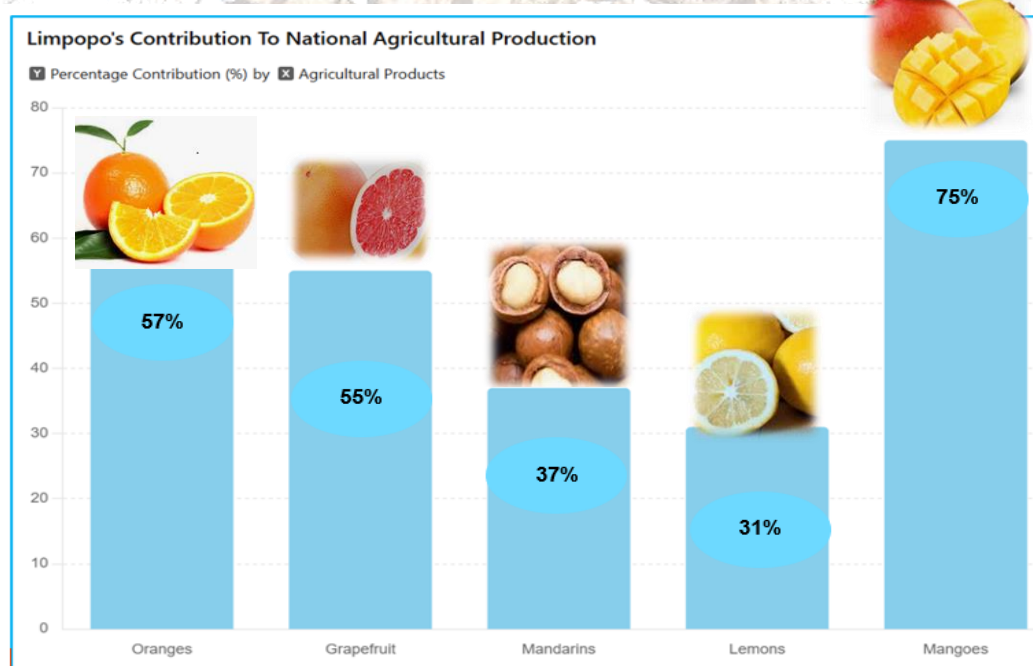


Figure 23: Limpopo's contribution to National Agricultural Production

5.6.2 Avocado Industry

Limpopo plays a pivotal role in South Africa's avocado industry, contributing 54% of the national production with 10,168 hectares under cultivation out of a total of 19,500 hectares nationwide. The Letaba region in Tzaneen stands out as the country's largest avocado-producing area, accounting for 45% (8,601 hectares) of total plantings. This is followed by the Levubu and Mooketsi regions, which together encompass the remaining cultivated hectares. These regions not only bolster domestic food security but also generate significant export revenue, driven by the growing global demand for avocados.

5.6.3 Economic Contribution and Employment

Agriculture is a vital contributor to Limpopo's economy, accounting for 7.6% of national agricultural output and 2.3% of the provincial GDP. The sector provides direct employment to approximately 129,000 people, with additional jobs created indirectly through agro-processing, logistics, and related industries. This employment is particularly significant in rural areas, where agriculture serves as a primary livelihood for many communities.

The province's comparative advantage in competitive crops has informed the development of the Revitalization of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) Plan, which is also aligned with the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP).

The RAAVC Plan aims to leverage Limpopo's strengths to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and enhance food security. This involves:

- Promoting inclusive development by ensuring emerging and small-scale farmers are integrated into value chains.
- Expanding agro-processing capacity to add value to raw agricultural produce, thus increasing profitability and export potential.
- Addressing infrastructure needs, such as irrigation systems, storage facilities, and transportation networks, to improve efficiency and market access.

5.6.4 Catalytic and Investment Projects

A significant portion of the catalytic projects identified under the RAAVC Plan require further development to achieve bankability and secure funding. These projects are intended to attract investment from both the fiscus (public funds) and strategic partners in the private sector. The success of these projects is critical for unlocking the province's agricultural potential, driving sustainable rural development, and positioning Limpopo as a leader in the national and international agricultural landscapes.

In summary, capitalizing on its strengths in agriculture and aligning its strategies with national goals, Limpopo is poised to play a transformative role in South Africa's agricultural economy, fostering inclusive growth and addressing systemic challenges in rural areas.



a) Revitalization of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) Initiatives

To unlock the province's agricultural and agro-processing potential, these initiatives are strategically designed to drive economic growth, improve value chain integration, and create employment.

Irrigation Infrastructure Development: The objective is to expand access to reliable water sources for agriculture by developing and upgrading irrigation systems. This will enhance productivity, particularly for water-intensive crops including citrus, avocados, and mangoes. To address high initial costs, maintenance, and water access rights.

Agro-Processing: The establishment of processing plants for high-value crops, such as citrus juicing, avocado and macadamia oil production, and mango drying, is essential for unlocking the full potential of the agricultural sector. Agro-processing not only adds value to raw produce but also enhances profitability for farmers and significantly boosts export potential. To realize these benefits, the province should prioritize addressing funding challenges, ensuring energy-efficient operations, and optimizing supply chain coordination to maximize efficiency and market reach.

Emerging Farmer Development Program: The program aims to empower smallholder and emerging farmers by providing training, facilitating market access, and offering funding for modern agricultural equipment. By increasing inclusivity in the agricultural sector, the initiative seeks to reduce rural poverty and promote sustainable livelihoods. Ensuring that these farmers have access to markets, financial capital, and technical expertise is critical to their success and long-term contribution to the sector's growth.

Export Market Expansion: Strengthening export infrastructure for citrus and sub-tropical fruits is vital to meeting growing international demand and enhancing the province's global trade footprint, particularly in high-value markets such as Europe and Asia. To achieve this, the province should prioritize facilitating compliance with international export standards, improving logistics networks, and expanding cold storage capacity to ensure the quality and competitiveness of its agricultural exports.

Bio-Energy Production from Agricultural Waste: The development of facilities to convert agricultural by-products, such as citrus peels and mango pits, into bioenergy and compost presents a significant opportunity to promote sustainability, minimize waste, and create additional revenue streams for farmers. Achieving these goals requires strategic investments in advanced technology and strict alignment with environmental regulations to ensure eco-friendly and efficient operations.

Integrated Logistics and Storage Hub: Establishing centralized hubs for cold storage, packaging, and transportation of agricultural products is essential to reducing post-harvest losses, optimizing supply chain efficiency, and enhancing market access. Achieving this vision requires significant capital investment and effective coordination among stakeholders to ensure seamless operations and maximum impact.

Climate-Resilient Farming Techniques: Adapting to the growing challenges posed by climate change requires a transformative approach to agricultural practices. Implementing advanced technologies for precision farming, drought-resistant crop varieties, and soil conservation



methods is critical for building resilience to climate change and ensuring sustainable agricultural productivity. These techniques offer numerous benefits, including optimizing resource use (water, fertilizers, and pesticides), minimizing environmental degradation, and maintaining crop yields despite adverse climatic conditions. The high upfront costs of acquiring new technologies, coupled with the need for specialized equipment and infrastructure, pose financial barriers, particularly for smallholder and emerging farmers. Additionally, the limited technical knowledge and skills among farmers necessitate extensive capacity-building programs, including hands-on training, access to extension services, and educational outreach to promote awareness and adoption.

By addressing these financial and educational challenges, climate-resilient farming techniques can become a cornerstone of modern agriculture, enabling farmers to mitigate the risks of climate change, safeguard food security, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future. The implementation of RAAVC will position Limpopo as a leading player in South Africa's agricultural and agro-processing sectors, fostering economic growth and rural development.

5.7 Tourism Sector

Tourism was one of the sectors severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with its impact being felt across the entire value chain from transportation and hospitality to cultural and recreational activities. However, the sector has shown remarkable resilience and recovery. According to the latest statistics from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), international tourism has nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels, with many destinations seeing visitor numbers that equal or even surpass those recorded before the crisis. This rebound is driven not only by the resurgence of international travel but also by the growth of domestic tourism as travellers rediscover destinations closer to home.

In South Africa, domestic tourism has played a significant role in the sector's recovery. The results of the 2022 Domestic Tourism Survey reveal that South Africans undertook a total of 33.1-million-day trips and 23.2 million overnight trips, contributing approximately R41.2 billion to the economy. This demonstrates the importance of domestic tourism in sustaining the industry and driving economic recovery.

Further, according to the Domestic Tourism Survey, 2022, the province has emerged as a leading destination in this resurgence, ranking as the third most visited province in the country. Limpopo captured 14.3% of total visits, following Gauteng at 20.3% and the Western Cape at 16.1%. This achievement reflects the province's proactive efforts to position itself as a top destination, leveraging its unique attractions and strategic partnerships.

A significant factor in Limpopo's rapid recovery has been its strong collaboration with the private sector. These partnerships have enabled the province to provide visitors with immersive and unforgettable experiences, showcasing its rich cultural heritage, breathtaking natural landscapes, and diverse tourism offerings. Key attractions such as the Kruger National Park, Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, and vibrant cultural festivals have played a pivotal role in drawing both domestic and international tourists.



Furthermore, Limpopo's tourism industry should focus on enhancing its infrastructure, marketing efforts, and service quality to attract more visitors and sustain growth. The integration of local communities into tourism initiatives has also created a sense of authenticity and inclusivity, further enriching the visitor experience while promoting equitable economic benefits.

As the global and local tourism sectors continue to recover, Limpopo remains committed to fostering innovation, sustainability, and collaboration to cement its status as one of South Africa's premier travel destinations. The province's strategic focus on both domestic and international markets positions it to capitalize on the growing demand for unique and sustainable travel experiences, driving long-term growth and resilience in the sector.

5.7.1 Key Tourism Sector Initiatives

The province commenced the 7th Administration on a high note by securing the bid to host the National Tourism Career Expo (NTCE) from 2024 to 2027. The first event was held from October 8 – 10, 2024, at the Peter Mokaba Stadium. This collaborative initiative by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality, and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA), and LEDET targets Grade 9 to 12 learners, TVET and university students, and unemployed graduates, offering a platform to explore diverse tourism careers through interactions with experts, educators, and stakeholders.

The Expos attract thousands of participants nationwide and spans three days of vibrant activities, including motivational talks by tourism entrepreneurs, educator seminars, and exhibitions of local tourism products. Key features include a Chef's Corner, Mixology Corner, Hospitality Corner, Conservation Corner, Virtual Classroom, Recruitment Arena, and dedicated sessions for educators. This event not only showcases career opportunities but also inspires and empowers the next generation of tourism professionals.

5.7.2 Tourism as a Priority Economic Driver in Limpopo Province

Tourism has been recognized as a priority economic driver in South Africa, as highlighted in the National Tourism Sector Strategy (NTSS), which serves as a framework for provinces to align their initiatives.

The Limpopo Tourism Growth Strategy (LTGS) focuses on six strategic tourism clusters embedded within the mega conservation cluster. These clusters underscore Limpopo's comparative advantage as a preferred destination and its diverse tourism offerings:

- Family and Recreation Cluster: Attractions catering to family-friendly activities and leisure.
- Special Interest Cluster: Tailored experiences such as birding, geology, or adventure tourism.
- Sport and Wildlife Cluster: Opportunities to engage with the province's rich wildlife and host major sporting events.
- Culture and Heritage Cluster: Showcasing Limpopo's unique cultural traditions, historical sites, and heritage.
- Safari and Hunting Cluster: World-renowned safari experiences and ethical hunting tourism.
- Business and Events Cluster: Promoting Limpopo as a hub for conferences, exhibitions, and corporate retreats.
- In addition, the province needs to expand tourism products to include adventure tourism, eco-tourism, agri-tourism, health and wellness tourism, and culinary tourism.



5.7.3 Key Enabling Factors for the Successful Implementation of the LTGS

To achieve the goals of the Limpopo Tourism Growth Strategy over the next five years, several enabling factors should be prioritized:

Public-Private Sector Collaboration: Foster effective, continuous communication, alignment, and partnerships between government and private stakeholders to ensure synergy and collective growth in the tourism sector. Also encourage collaboration between government and private sector stakeholders to fund infrastructure, marketing, and tourism projects. Develop joint ventures to attract investment and enhance the quality of tourism services.

Enhanced Air Accessibility: Improve and expand affordable air travel options to drive domestic tourism and increase ease of access to Limpopo for both local and international visitors.

Access to Information and Development Programmes: Implement initiatives to enhance:

- **General Tourism Awareness:** Educate communities and stakeholders about the value of tourism.
- **Tourism Skills Development:** Equip the workforce with skills in hospitality, guiding, and tourism management.
- **Tourism Business Support:** Provide marketing opportunities and advisory services to emerging and established businesses.
- **Access to Funding:** Facilitate financial support for tourism projects and entrepreneurs.
- **Broad-Based Benefits:** Ensure that tourism development benefits are inclusive and reach rural communities.
- **Compliance with Policies:** Support stakeholders in adhering to tourism policy and regulatory frameworks to maintain high standards.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Upgrading and maintain roads, airports, and transport networks are critical to improve accessibility to key tourist destinations. Invest in reliable utilities such as water, electricity, and telecommunications and digital connectivity to support tourism facilities and ensure visitor comfort.
- **Safety and Security:** Improve safety measures for tourists by enhancing law enforcement, providing clear safety guidelines, and securing tourist hotspots. Develop a responsive crisis management system to address emergencies efficiently.

By focusing on these strategic clusters and enabling factors, Limpopo aims to strengthen its position as a leading tourism destination, driving economic growth, creating jobs, and enhancing the overall tourism experience for both domestic and international travellers.

5.7.4 Key Tourism Sector Initiatives

a) The Limpopo Wildlife International Convention Centre

The Limpopo Wildlife International Convention (LWICC) precinct will be linked with hotels, restaurants and other wildlife value chain businesses and would dramatically increase the requisite bed capacity for the fast-growing Polokwane City. The Wildlife value chain businesses would include sectors such as tourism, production management systems, finished leather goods



and services, marketing, sales, and finance. The LIWCC would trigger the need to upgrade the Polokwane International Airport and other supporting logistic hub activities that would be geared to support the initiative.

b) Promoting Tourism in Villages, Townships, and Small Towns (VTSDs): A Pillar of the Master Plan

One of the foundational pillars of the Tourism Master Plan focuses on hosting events in Villages, Townships, and Small Towns/Dorpias (VTSDs). This initiative aims to encourage the geographic spread of tourism activities and events, ensuring that the benefits of tourism reach underrepresented regions. By distributing events across the country, the plan seeks to improve both seasonal and regional tourism dynamics, reducing the concentration of activities in traditional tourism hotspots and extending economic opportunities to rural and smaller communities.

South Africa is home to numerous small towns that have successfully capitalized on their unique offerings, using tourism as a catalyst for local economic development. Recognizing this potential, the province has prioritized supporting events and activities that align with tourism development strategies. This includes marketing such events to promote rural and township tourism. These efforts are central to the Limpopo Tourism Agency's (LTA) marketing plans, which highlight VTSD-based events as a means to boost local economies, attract visitors, and showcase the province's cultural and natural diversity.

c) Destination Development

Enhancing accessibility and visibility is critical for positioning Limpopo as a premier tourist destination. One of the key interventions in this area is the implementation of comprehensive tourism signage along the six provincial mega-conservation clusters. These clusters, which encompass the province's key conservation and tourism hubs, are integral to driving tourism growth in Limpopo.

Tourism signage plays a vital role in ensuring the seamless movement of travellers and enhancing their overall experience. No tourist destination can fully optimize its economic potential without adequate signposting. Effective signage not only guides visitors to prominent attractions but also highlights lesser-known destinations, many of which are located in remote rural areas. By directing more tourists to these routes and destinations, signage facilitates increased visibility and accessibility, allowing rural attractions to compete with urban centers.

The implementation of these initiatives is expected to yield several benefits including increased occupancy rates in rural and township destinations leading to higher occupancy rates; stimulate job creation and provide economic opportunities for local communities. By drawing visitors to VTSDs, local businesses—such as guesthouses, restaurants, and craft markets—will increase patronage, showcase, and preserve local traditions, crafts, and heritage, adding a unique dimension to South Africa's tourism offerings, create a more inclusive tourism economy that benefits communities across the province.

d) Marketing and Branding

- Promote Limpopo as a premier destination through strategic marketing campaigns targeting both domestic and international tourists.



- Highlight unique attractions such as the Kruger National Park, Mapungubwe World Heritage Site, and traditional cultural experiences.
- Strengthen digital marketing, connectivity and social media presence to attract younger and tech-savvy travellers.

e) Skills Development and Training

- Provide training programs to develop skills in hospitality, tour guiding, and customer service.
- Partner with educational institutions to create tourism-related curricula that equip locals for employment in the sector.

By addressing key enablers and implementing tourism initiatives, province can position itself as a leading tourism destination, driving economic growth, creating jobs, and showcasing the province's unique natural and cultural heritage to the world.

5.8 Cultural and Creative Industry

The Cultural and Creative Industry (CCI) is a significant driver of inclusive economic growth in the province. It encompasses various creative domains, including Performance and Celebration, Cultural and Heritage, Visual Arts and Crafts, Audio-Visual and Interactive Media (Film and Theatre), Books and Publishing), as well as Design and Creative Services.

Over the years, the creative economy's contribution to the province's overall economic growth has steadily increased. According to the South African Cultural Observatory (SACO, 2022), Limpopo contributes 5% of South Africa's CCI Gross Value Added (GVA), ranking fifth among the provinces in terms of its contribution to the national CCI.




Figure 24: Contribution of the creative industry in the SA's CCI Gross Value Added

The Creative Industry does not only contribute to the economic growth of the province but also fosters social cohesion which creates a conducive environment for the business sector in the province to thrive. The hosting of the music, films, theatre festivals, craft markets and other celebrations in the province possess the great opportunity to grow the economy of the province through the Small Medium Micro Enterprise (SMMEs). In 2022, the South African Cultural



Observatory (SACO), released a study of the impact of the Creative and Cultural industry on employment in South Africa and in Limpopo. The study revealed that, out of 1 ,053 ,547 number of job opportunities created in the Creative and Cultural industry in South Africa, Limpopo Province contributed 64,262 jobs which translates to 6% of job opportunities created in the industry. The figure below categorizes the number of jobs created in every category of the Cultural and Creative Industry:

Creative Employment in Limpopo

Domains	# of jobs	% distribution	SA Total	SA % distribution
A. Cultural & Natural Heritage	1,350	2%	5,839	23%
B. Performance & Celebration	2,683	4%	62,582	4%
C. Visual Arts & Crafts	197	0%	27,792	1%
D. Books & Press	11,110	17%	148,069	8%
E. Audio-Visual & Interactive Media	26,632	41%	394,952	7%
F. Design & Creative Services	18,541	29%	319,931	6%
G. Sports and Recreation	2,713	4%	61,377	4%
Education	1,035	2%	33,005	3%
Total	64,262	100%	1,053,547	

Overall, the creative economy accounted for 7.6% of all jobs in South Africa, which translates into just over 1 million jobs. In Limpopo 64,262 individuals were employed in the CCI&S.

Source StatisticsSouthAfrica

MEASURING & VALUING SOUTH AFRICA'S CULTURAL & CREATIVE ECONOMY

Figure 25: Creative employment in Limpopo (SACO, 2022)

The **Cultural and Natural Heritage** domain is leading in the creation of job opportunities in the Creative Industry. This domain is the main contributor of the rural economy, placing more importance in the preservation and appreciation of natural landscapes, sites, monuments and other unique cultural artefacts in rural areas. Limpopo is predominantly a rural province, with a comparative advantage of being the custodian of unique, rich cultural and heritage sites that can be showcased to the rest of the country and the world as heritage tourists' destinations that have the huge capability of creating jobs, growing the rural economy and preserving the sites for protection of history, generational use and social cohesion. The declared sites such as the Mapungubwe, Makapans Valley, Tjate, Mapoch caves, Malebogo Makgabeng Plateau, Lake Fundudzi , Modjadi Cycad have a huge potential for development of cultural villages, craft shops, interpretive centres, hiking trails, social camps and cultural performances that subsequently create jobs and grow the township and village economy.

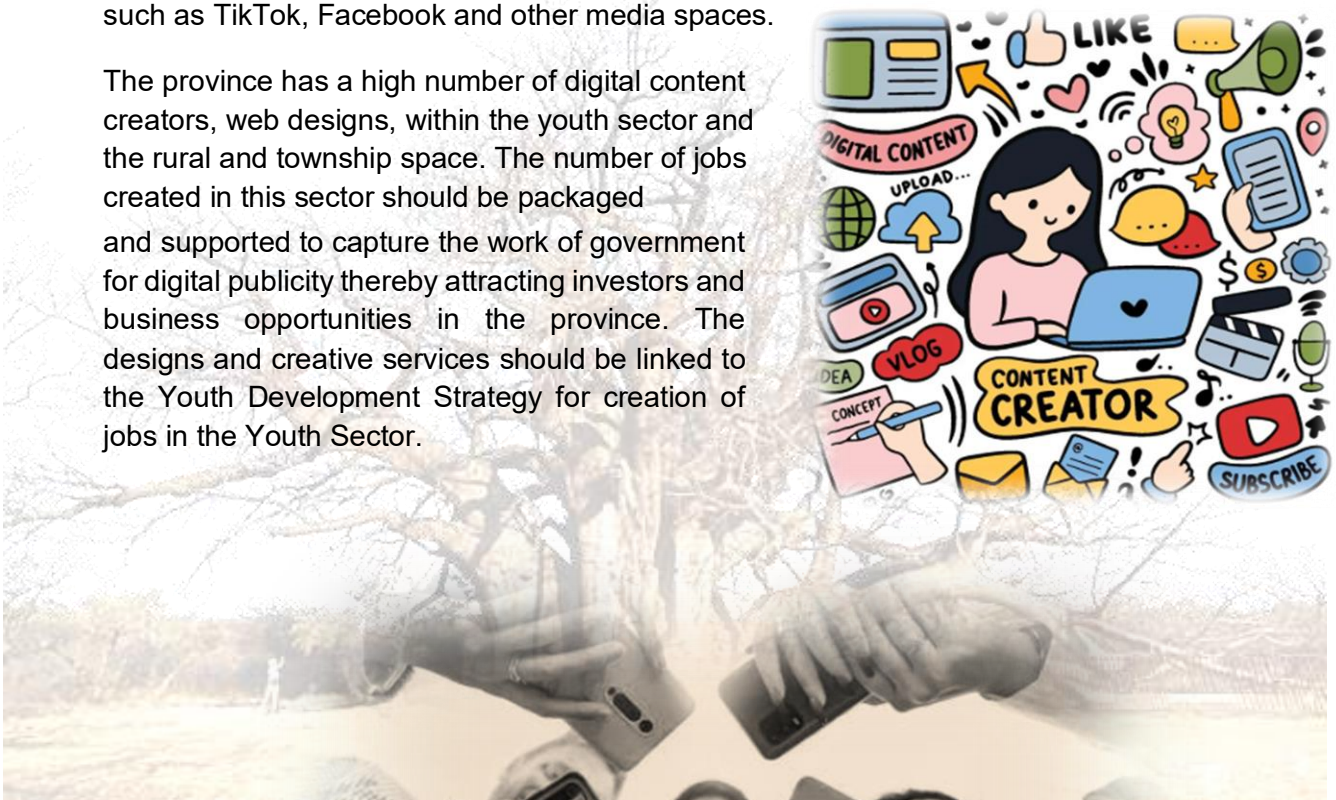


The cultural and natural tapestries include the monuments installed in the province that have the ability to create a liberation heritage route that connects monument sites to heritage sites in the province in all the five districts. The Kgoshi Makgoba monument, Hosi Ngungunyani, Khoshikhulu Makhado, Kgoshi Malebogo, Kgoshi Maraba, Kgoshi Sekhukhune is a liberation heritage route that explores the heritage of the province for tourism growth. This route has the unique ability to connect the districts of the province for tourism growth, rural and township economy.

The elevation of the domain of the Designs and Creative Services as an element that contributes to the economic growth of the province is of pivotal importance. The design and creative services include digital content creation, web designs, advertising, graphical design, interior designs, animation, writing, design, video, software, music, publishing, photography, performance art, games and research.

The digital content produced in the province is contributing to the growth of Digital Economy through the job creation by developing creative content that is sold in social media platforms such as TikTok, Facebook and other media spaces.

The province has a high number of digital content creators, web designs, within the youth sector and the rural and township space. The number of jobs created in this sector should be packaged and supported to capture the work of government for digital publicity thereby attracting investors and business opportunities in the province. The designs and creative services should be linked to the Youth Development Strategy for creation of jobs in the Youth Sector.



6 INDUSTRIALISATION AGENDA

6.1 Industrialisation rationale

Limpopo Province holds significant potential for industrialization, driven by its abundant natural resources, strategic location, and growing infrastructure base. The province's industrialization strategy focuses on leveraging its comparative advantages in agriculture, mining, tourism, and manufacturing, while fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Manufacturing remains a vital component of Limpopo's economy, consistently ranking among the top contributors to the Gross Geographic Domestic Product (GGDP). In 2022, manufacturing was among the top four industries in the province although the percentage is still low.

Diversification will drive the expansion of manufacturing industries connected to key economic sectors. In mining, this includes smelting, refining, and mineral beneficiation, while in agriculture, agro-processing industries will unlock value from raw produce. The forestry sector will also benefit from enhanced timber and paper production, creating new opportunities for industrial growth. Promoting emerging industries such as renewable energy, waste reduction technologies, chemical production, and construction material manufacturing will further broaden the province's industrial base.

Over the past five years, Limpopo's manufacturing sector has experienced modest growth, contributing to the province's economic development. The sector has been a significant employer, providing jobs in various sub-sectors such as agro-processing, metal fabrication, and chemical production. However, employment levels have faced challenges due to economic fluctuations and global market dynamics. The manufacturing industry in Limpopo has encountered obstacles, including infrastructure constraints, energy supply issues, and the need for skilled labour. These factors have impacted the sector's growth and competitiveness.

In summary, while Limpopo's manufacturing sector has shown resilience and remains a key economic contributor, addressing existing challenges through targeted interventions is essential to enhance its performance and sustainability in the coming years.

To support this growth, it is essential to strengthen backward and forward linkages in sectors including mining and agriculture, stimulating the development of local supplier networks and creating opportunities for small, medium, and micro-enterprises (SMMEs). Encouraging innovation and the adoption of advanced technologies will improve productivity, enhance competitiveness, and position the province as a leader in sustainable and inclusive industrial development.

Industrialization is a driver of job creation, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing, agro-processing, and construction. Investment in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs is essential to equip the workforce with the skills required for industrial jobs. Ensuring that industrialization benefits rural and marginalized communities, creating opportunities for broad-based economic participation

Industrialization in Limpopo Province has the potential to transform its economy, create jobs, and uplift communities. By focusing on resource beneficiation, infrastructure development, and



sustainable practices, Limpopo can unlock its industrial potential and become a hub of economic activity in South Africa. Through strategic investments and inclusive development, the province is poised to drive industrial growth that benefits both its residents and the broader economy. During 2025-2030, the province will measure manufacturing share as a percentage of GDP. This metric acts as a proxy for industrialization and economic diversification, key components of a resilient and sustainable economy. It highlights the contribution of manufacturing activities to the provincial GDP, reflecting progress toward building an industrial base. Data for this indicator will be sourced from Statistics South Africa (StatsSA), ensuring accuracy and alignment with national economic reporting.

6.2 Key Drivers of the Industrialisation Agenda

Limpopo's economy is heavily reliant on primary sectors including mining and agriculture. Industrialization is essential for diversifying the economy by creating value-added industries and exploring sunrise industries..

6.2.1 Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Programme

The SEZ Programme is a flagship initiative designed to accelerate industrial growth by focusing on energy-intensive industries, metallurgical processing, and logistics, with a strategic emphasis on the export of high-value finished goods. It is poised to serve as a catalyst for economic transformation, attracting billions of Rands in investment, generating thousands of sustainable jobs, and stimulating economic activity in surrounding communities. By fostering industrialization and enhancing global competitiveness, the SEZ Programme is set to significantly boost regional development and solidify Limpopo's position as an economic hub.

To realize this vision, the province has earmarked the development of two Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ), designated in 2016, is already driving investment in metallurgy, mineral processing, and logistics, while the proposed Fetakgomo- Tubatse SEZ, currently pending designation, is envisioned as a key center for hydrogen fuel cells, battery manufacturing, and mineral beneficiation.

These SEZs are strategically designed to attract investment in cutting-edge industries, promote beneficiation activities, and stimulate economic growth, ensuring Limpopo maximizes its abundant natural resources while advancing its industrial capabilities. Together, these zones form the cornerstone of the province's industrialization strategy, driving inclusive economic development for the region.

a) Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ)

The Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (MMSEZ) is strategically located along the N1 North-South corridor, a critical trade route into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, near the border between South Africa and Zimbabwe. This positioning makes the MMSEZ a pivotal component of the Trans-Limpopo Spatial Development Initiative (SDI), aligning with the province's grand vision to transform the Vhembe District into one of South Africa's leading industrial and agro-processing hubs.



The MMSEZ is designed to drive rapid industrialization by leveraging its status as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to promote investment and implement industrial policy. Its primary goal is to attract both foreign and domestic investors to resource-based industries, fostering economic growth and enhancing regional competitiveness.

The MMSEZ consists of two distinct sites, hosted by the Musina and Makhado municipalities in the Vhembe District. The North Site (Farm Antonvilla), covering approximately 3,500 hectares, is located between Musina town and the Limpopo River. This site is earmarked for the development of light and medium manufacturing industries, focusing on sectors such as logistics and agro-processing. These industries are critical for adding value to agricultural products and enhancing supply chain efficiency.

By strategically positioning the MMSEZ as a gateway to regional and international markets and aligning its objectives with the province's industrialization strategy, Limpopo is poised to maximize the economic potential of the Vhembe District, creating a sustainable and inclusive industrial economy that benefits both local communities and the broader South African economy.

Opportunities for MMSEZ include amongst others:

Energy and Metallurgy	Agro-processing	Logistics	General Manufacturing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel Plant / Stainless Steel Plant • Coking Plant • Pig Iron Plant • Ferro Manganese Plant • Ferro Chrome Plant • Chrome Plating • Lime Plant • Renewable Energy Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Processing Facility • Fresh Produce Handling • Canning facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics Services • Warehousing • Distribution • Container Yard • Vehicle Distribution • Cold storage • Bonded warehouses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light Industries • Basic assembly or operations • Electromechanical plants • OE Manufacturing plants • Component manufacturing • Fertilisers • Agro-chemicals • Petro-chemicals

Table 5: Opportunities for MMSEZ

b) Fetakgomo-Tubatse Industrial Park (FTIP) and Proposed SEZ

The establishment of the Platinum Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Fetakgomo-Tubatse, located in the Sekhukhune District, is a strategic initiative driven by South Africa's promising mining and beneficiation outlook for Platinum Group Metals (PGMs). This region holds unparalleled potential, as it is situated in the eastern limb of the Bushveld Igneous Complex (BIC), home to the world's largest reserves of PGMs, alongside, the area is also rich in iron ore, tin, chromium, titanium, and vanadium, further solidifying its position as a critical resource hub for the country.

Currently, 15 mining operations are active in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse area, with an additional 22 new mines expected to commence operations in the near future. This mining activity underscores the region's significant contribution to the national and global mining sectors, making the Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ an essential component of South Africa's industrial strategy.



The Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ is designed to be a global leader in green energy manufacturing, agro-processing, and mineral beneficiation, focusing on processing and producing high-value finished products including platinum-based components for hydrogen fuel cells, battery technologies, and catalytic converters, aiming to maximize economic benefits, boost export revenues, and create skilled jobs.

It is positioned as a center of excellence for sustainable green energy solutions, which plays a pivotal role in advancing green technologies such as renewable energy systems and hydrogen fuel cell production. This focus aligns well with global trends toward decarbonization and clean energy, ensuring the SEZ contributes to South Africa's transition to a low-carbon economy. Further, this SEZ will include facilities for agro- processing and adding value to agricultural products. This will support local farmers, stimulate rural economies, and promote food security.

The Fetakgomo-Tubatse SEZ is expected to deliver transformative social and economic benefits such as creating direct and indirect employment opportunities in mining, manufacturing, and agro-processing industries, and significantly reduce unemployment. Training and upskilling programs will be implemented to empower local communities, enabling them to participate in high-value industries and contribute to long-term economic sustainability. Additionally, the SEZ is set to attract domestic and foreign direct investment, driving industrial growth, and elevating South Africa's position in global markets for PGMs and green technologies.

The founding clusters and opportunities for the FTSEZ includes the following:

Sector	Clusters	Investment Projects/Opportunities	Products
Mineral Beneficiation	Platinum	Smelter and Refinery	• Refined Platinum
	Chrome	Chrome Chemical Ferrochrome plant,	• Chrome Chemicals • Ferrochrome
	Vanadium	Vanadium Pentoxide plant,	Lithium & Redox Batteries
Mining Supply Inputs	Manufacturing, Assembling Components	Assembling and Fabrication plant Electrical and electronics Engineering Services	• Mining equipment's and Components • Roof bolts • Off-road tyres • Hydrogen fuel cell dozers
	Green energy Fossil fuel	Solar Energy generation Pyrolysis Plant, Oil Blending plant	• Solar energy • Diesel and gas • Tyre carbon black • Lubricants
General Manufacturing	Chemical, Pharmaceutical, General Processing	Sweet sorghum processing plant Modular concrete slab manufacturing plant Water pipes manufacturing plant	• Ethanol and sugar • Modular concrete products • Pipes • Mining equipment • PV modules • Protective clothing



Sector	Clusters	Investment Projects/Opportunities	Products
		Heavy metal assembly plant PV modules manufacturing plant Yarn mill Torrefication plant	Charcoal

Table 6: Founding clusters and opportunities for the FTSEZ

c) Industrial Parks Programme

The Industrial Parks Programme plays a pivotal role in advancing Limpopo's economic and industrialization strategies by attracting private investment and promoting sustainability. Industrial parks contribute to job creation, economic growth, and the long-term competitiveness of the province's industrial sector.

These parks promote economic activities in rural and underdeveloped areas by establishing industrial hubs that capitalize on local resources and reduce economic disparities by creating opportunities in these areas. Provides affordable facilities and infrastructure for small, medium, and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) to thrive and encourage local entrepreneurs to participate in industrial activities, fostering economic inclusion and innovation.

The establishment of industrial parks in the province serves as a cornerstone of its economic transformation strategy. By focusing on resource utilization, value addition, job creation, and infrastructure development, these parks aim to unlock the province's full economic potential, drive industrial growth, and create a sustainable and inclusive economy to benefit the rural and underdeveloped communities.

Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA) owns six Industrial Parks out of a total of 554 investment property portfolio with 268 factories/warehouses, of which 201 factories are occupied by 156 tenants and a total of 9 599 jobs created.

Performance of Industrial Parks

INDUSTRIAL PARK PORTFOLIO			
AREA	NUMBER	OCCUPANCY	JOBS CREATED
Thohoyandou	56	77%	1 178
Seshego	77	66%	985
Nkowankowa	91	86%	6 933
Mkhuhlu	22	77%	352
Lebowakgomo	16	44%	81
Giyani	6	100%	70
Total	268	Average – 75%	9 599

Table 7: Performance of Industrial Parks



The Industrial Parks Programme is part of key initiatives aimed at facilitating economic transformation, job creation, and empowerment of SMMEs for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

6.3 Better Africa and the World

The National Development Plan and Agenda 2063 sets out a Vision for a future Africa and the World. Limpopo has the unique advantage of bordering three (3) countries, namely Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique that offers significant regional integration opportunities for the province. The province has an opportunity to export goods and services to these neighbouring countries, establish trade relations and forge a strategically integrated region, the continent, and the global political economy.

These opportunities are primarily centred on trade, infrastructure development, tourism, agriculture, and economic cooperation, which can drive inclusive growth and job creation in Limpopo.

Limpopo can leverage on its strong sectors, such as agriculture, mining, and manufacturing, to export products such as citrus fruits, avocados, nuts, vegetables, and maize, platinum, coal, copper, and diamonds mining resources. Manufactured goods, agro-processed products, construction materials, and consumer goods.

Limpopo businesses can benefit from SADC Free Trade Area (FTA) agreements, which allow for reduced tariffs and improved access to a market of over 350 million people. Limpopo forms part of key regional transport and trade corridors, including the North-South Corridor, linking South Africa to Zimbabwe, Zambia, and beyond, and the Maputo Development Corridor, providing access to the Port of Maputo in Mozambique.

Opportunities exist to develop and upgrade cross-border infrastructure, such as roads, railways, and border facilities, to reduce trade bottlenecks and improve logistics for regional trade. Cross-border cooperation in energy infrastructure can promote investment in renewable energy projects including solar and hydroelectric power, contributing to Limpopo's energy security and economic growth. Limpopo's proximity to iconic natural attractions including the Kruger National Park and Transfrontier conservation areas such as the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park (shared with Mozambique and Zimbabwe) presents opportunities to attract international tourists. Value addition to agricultural products through agro-processing can open markets in neighbouring countries while creating jobs locally. Limpopo's fertile land and strong agricultural base provide opportunities to become a regional food supplier within SADC, especially for maize, fruits, and vegetables. Partnering with neighbouring countries for knowledge sharing, research, and infrastructure development in agriculture can improve productivity and ensure food security in the region.

Joint management of transboundary water resources such as the Limpopo River Basin can ensure sustainable water use for agriculture, industry, and communities. Leveraging on the SEZ programme including the Musina-Makhado SEZ, Limpopo can position itself as a regional hub for trade, manufacturing, and logistics, attracting investors from across the SADC region. Limpopo can attract investments from SADC countries for joint ventures in mining, agriculture, and infrastructure development sectors.



Limpopo province's strategic location and economic strengths offer significant opportunities for integration within the SADC region. By focusing on trade facilitation, infrastructure development, tourism, agriculture, mining, and investment promotion, Limpopo can position itself as a regional economic hub. Tapping into SADC opportunities will not only drive economic growth but also create jobs, improve infrastructure, and enhance cooperation with neighbouring countries to achieve shared prosperity.

6.3.1 Limpopo Trade with Africa

The African market serves as a destination for some of Limpopo's export products. Limpopo is exporting more in value to African markets as compared to the imports from African countries. For the period under review, there is a notable increase of exports to African markets although these products are mostly exported as raw material.

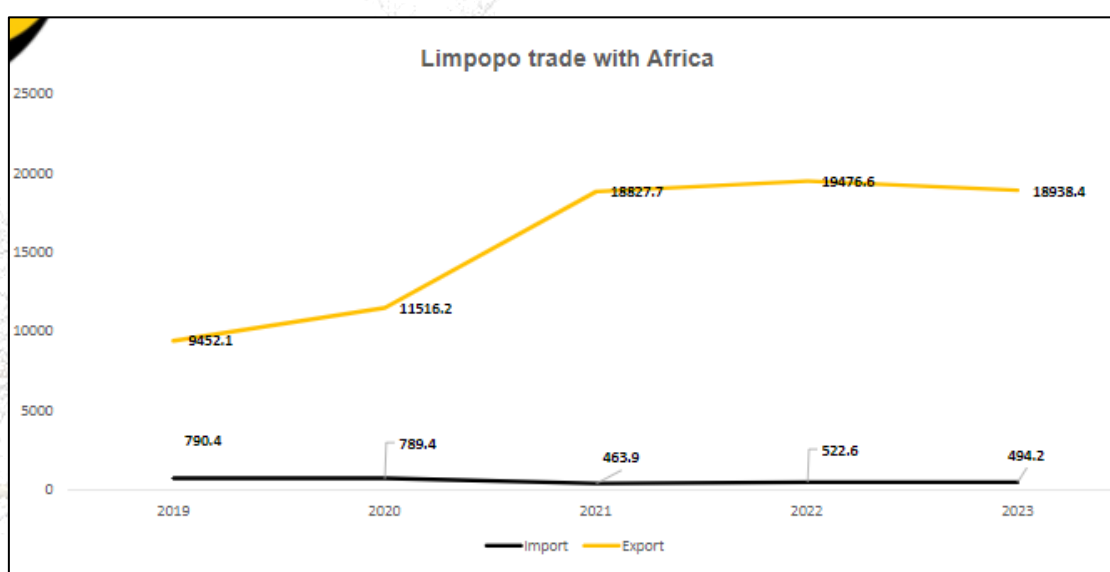


Figure 26: Limpopo Trade with Africa

6.4 Human Capital Investment

6.4.1 Skills for the economy

Skills development is a cornerstone for economic growth in Limpopo, as it addresses critical gaps in the labour market, boosts productivity, and drives sustainable development. Given the province's economic structure, which relies heavily on agriculture, mining, tourism, and manufacturing sectors, skills development plays a pivotal role in unlocking potential and fostering inclusive economic participation. Below are key reasons highlighting its importance:

Limpopo struggles with youth unemployment and underemployment, which exacerbate poverty and inequality. Skills development equips individuals, particularly the youth, with relevant skills to access employment or create entrepreneurial opportunities. It is critical to develop technical and vocational skills which are aligned to key industries such as,



Mining: Training in technical trades such as engineering, geology, and machine operation supports the growth and sustainability of the mining sector, as one of Limpopo's key economic drivers.

Agriculture: Skills development in agribusiness, irrigation systems, and sustainable farming practices enhances agricultural output and food security.

Tourism: Building skills in hospitality, marketing, and cultural resource management boosts tourism, a sector rich in opportunities due to Limpopo's natural attractions.

Entrepreneurship and SMMEs Development: By providing skills in business management, finance, and digital literacy, individuals can start and manage their own businesses. Developing SMMEs stimulates local economic growth, creates jobs, and reduces reliance on large industries for employment.

Reduction of Inequality and Promotion of Inclusion: Skills development ensures that **women, youth, and marginalized communities** are included in the economy by providing equitable access to training and employment opportunities. Programs focusing on rural and underserved areas help reduce economic disparities, aligning with the province's development goals.

Embracing the 4IR: Skills in digital technologies, data analysis, automation, and ICT are essential as Limpopo transitions into a knowledge-driven economy.

Skilled workers are more efficient, innovative, and capable of performing complex tasks, which increases overall productivity. Industries can benefit from a workforce that can adapt to technological advancements and global trends, positioning Limpopo as a competitive economic player in South Africa and beyond.

Investment in **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)** education ensures the production of a workforce that can adapt to technological advancements and increase global competitiveness.

A skilled and capable workforce attracts local and international **investments** into Limpopo, as businesses seek regions with competent labour for expansion. Improved skills reduce reliance on external expertise, keeping resources and profits within the province. Skills development provides individuals with the ability to **reskill** and **upskill** as industries evolve, ensuring they remain employable even as market demands shift.

Skills development is essential for driving economic transformation and sustainable growth in Limpopo. Youth development and empowerment can be realised by the implementation of targeted skills development programmes for the youth, targeting those Not in Employment, not in Education, not in Training (NEET). By aligning skills training programs with the province's economic priorities and industries, Limpopo can tackle unemployment, boost productivity, and create a skilled workforce ready to contribute to economic growth. This, in turn, fosters inclusive development, reduces poverty, and positions the province as a hub of opportunity and innovation.

The Office of the Premier spearheaded the process of reviewing the Human Resource Development (HRD) Strategy 2020 – 2030 Limpopo Human Capital Investment (HCI) Strategy.

6.4.2 Limpopo HCI Strategy

The 2020 – 2030 Human Capital Investment Strategy provides an overarching strategic intent towards developing skills for the provincial economy both for the public and private sectors. The



strategy creates a worthy platform for collaboration among stakeholders within the skills development sector through its Implementation Plan. The targets detailed in the Implementation Plan seek to achieve integrated skills development throughout the learning and training value chain from kindergarten (Early Childhood Development) to Institutions of Higher Learning. The implementation of the strategy is spearheaded by the provincial administration.

The strategy is designed to guide skills development towards the attainment of sustainable socio-economic development in alignment with the National Development Plan (NDP), Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) priorities and Limpopo Development Plan (LDP).

The strategy is anchored by the following 6 key objectives: i) strengthening the public education system, ii) improving the skills of the provincial economy through TVETs and universities, iii) building a capable work force, iv) forming strategic partnerships to drive skills development in the growth points, v) focusing on higher education, training, research, and vi) innovation, and aligning bursary awards with the skills required by the provincial economy.

Limpopo skills development drive is designed to ensure among others that Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Basic Education obtains priority attention as it lays a solid foundation in respect of quality throughput of a cohort that will pursue skills development in subjects such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, languages, and literacy. According to skills development literature the subjects listed above are essential towards developing skills for the future of work underpinned by Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) imperatives.

The thrust of Limpopo HCI Strategy is to, amongst others, improve performance in service delivery, build sustainable and inclusive economic development in partnership with all stakeholders within the skills development sector. Studies show that people with skills demanded by the economy have better prospect in getting employment, becoming entrepreneurs, and technological innovators.

The HCI Strategy is aimed to:

- Support the broader goals of the National and Provincial Government which is to reduce unemployment, alleviate poverty, address service delivery challenges, and reduce the societal inequalities through skills development undergird by education and training.
- Prioritise skills development and retention for designated groups such as women, youth and people living with disability to support the implementation of LDP.
- Foster collaboration and cooperation between various role players such as Institutions of Higher Learning, Education and Training Centres, SETAs, Civil Society, Organised Labour, and the private sector to support skills development in Limpopo.
- Create a responsive and demand-driven approach in skills development informed by the Provincial and National development skills and strategies.
- To significantly contribute to the socio-economic goals of the province to bridge the technology divide.


The Office of the Premier managed to establish functional Skills Development Fora, namely, the Limpopo Human Resource Development Council (LHRDC) and Limpopo Skills Development Forum. The Council provides a strategic platform for an integrated approach in skills development to bridge skills gap and support skills needs of the province. Furthermore, the Council provide



leadership, unlock challenges or bottlenecks, and make decisions in support of human resource initiatives in the province.

Through the above fora, the province managed to garner skills development support for the province and secured key strategic skills development support. SETAs contributed of over R1.2 billion from 2021 to 2024 with 26 400 beneficiaries or learners in the province (primarily youth). The SETAs contributions is aggregated at over R430 million per year with an average of over 8 000 beneficiaries supported per year.

6.4.3 Skills required to support SEZ initiatives (MMSEZ and Proposed FTSEZ)

MMSEZ: CRITICAL SKILLS		
		
Construction of Anchor Plants: Artisans	Civil engineers	Coking and Thermal power plant: Artisans, Chemical controllers, Truck mechanic, equipment mechanic, plant operators, Plumbers,
Brick layers	Environment engineers	Water quality technician
Carpenters	Architecture	Electricians, Broiler operators
Plumbers	GIS	Coke oven operator
Machine operators	Construction Specialists /managers	Megatronics technician assistant
Caulkers	Town Planning	Gas well driller
Electrician	Mechanical Engineering	Metallurgical plants: Metallurgical engineering, mining engineering, materials engineering, industrial engineering
Acoustical installers	Chemical controllers	Logistic and Transport skills



PROPOSED FTSEZ REQUIRED SKILLS



<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mechanical engineering; 2. Industrial engineering; 3. Electrical engineering; 4. Electronics engineering; 5. Metallurgical engineering; 6. Metallurgical Control Analyst 7. Mining Engineers 8. Process Engineers 9. Chemical engineers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Quality of skills supply 11. Information Technology 12. Logistics and Packaging 13. Telecommunication 14. Environmental Management 15. Environmental Technicians 16. Waste Management officers 17. Tools making 18. Artisans 19. Diesel mechanics
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Geochemists 21. Geological Engineers 22. Geological Technicians 23. Geologists 24. Mine Cutting and Channelling Machine Operators 25. Mine Safety Inspectors 26. Mining Machine Operators 27. Agricultural scientist 28. Food safety inspectors 29. Food Technologists & Scientists 30. Boiler making 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 31. Risk Managers 32. Quality managers 33. HIV & AIDS experts & officers 34. Occupational health & Safety officers 35. IT services management 36. Call Centre officers 37. Green energy engineers (solar, fuel cells, biodiesel, lithium batteries etc) 38. Aviation
<h3>THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY SKILLS</h3> <p>As informed by the Chemical Industries Education & Training Authority (CHIETA), the FTSEZ will also facilitate skills development in the following areas:</p>	
Hydrogen fuel cell technicians	Hydrogen storage specialist
Hydrogen policy analysts	Hydrogen systems safety analysts
Hydrogen pipeline installers	Electrolysis engineers
Hydrogen power plant managers	Hydrogen production engineers
Hydrogen sales and marketing consultants	Carbon capture specialist
Hydrogen fuel transporters	Hydrogen project managers
Hydrogen vehicle electricians	Commercial hydrogen managers
Hydrogen power system electricians	Hydrogen fuelling station designer and project engineer
Emission accounting and reporting consultants	



7 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure development in Limpopo Province is central to its transformation, fostering economic growth, reducing inequalities, and improving the quality of life for its residents. Infrastructure investment by the government has been on average R7 billion per annum in the last Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The largest portion of the infrastructure budget is allocated to maintenance and repairs, limiting investment in new infrastructure development, which is essential for enabling social and economic development. Continued investment, innovation, and collaboration are key to achieving the province's developmental goals.

To track progress and impact, the province measures investment share as a percentage of GDP, a metric that serves as a proxy for gross fixed capital formation, reflecting infrastructure investments within the economy. This measure is calculated based on the total rand value of investments from both public and private sectors. The public sector contribution includes data sourced from the provincial and municipal Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budgets, covering economic and social infrastructure for both new developments and ongoing maintenance. For the private sector, the investment data is derived from environmental impact assessments (EIAs), capturing infrastructure investments approved for economic activities.

7.1 Water and Sanitation Overview

Water is a fundamental resource essential for both domestic well-being and economic growth. Its availability and management directly influence quality of life, public health, and the economic stability of communities and nations.

The long-term vision of ensuring universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as outlined in SDG 6, includes several specific targets addressing various aspects of water and sanitation. These targets encompass universal access to safe drinking water, access to adequate sanitation and hygiene, improvement of water quality, increased water-use efficiency, integrated water resource management, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems. Aligned with SDG 6, the Africa Agenda 2063 envisions a continent free of water and sanitation poverty, with sustainable water resources that support economic growth, food security, and biodiversity. It also emphasizes equitable access to water and sanitation as a cornerstone for improving living standards and enhancing resilience to climate challenges.

The National Development Plan (NDP) shares these aspirations, aligning closely with both SDG 6 and the Africa Agenda 2063, as illustrated in Figure 27. Together, these frameworks provide a comprehensive roadmap for addressing water and sanitation challenges at global, continental, and national levels.



7.1.1 SDGs targets on Water and Sanitation



NDP aspirations on water and sanitation

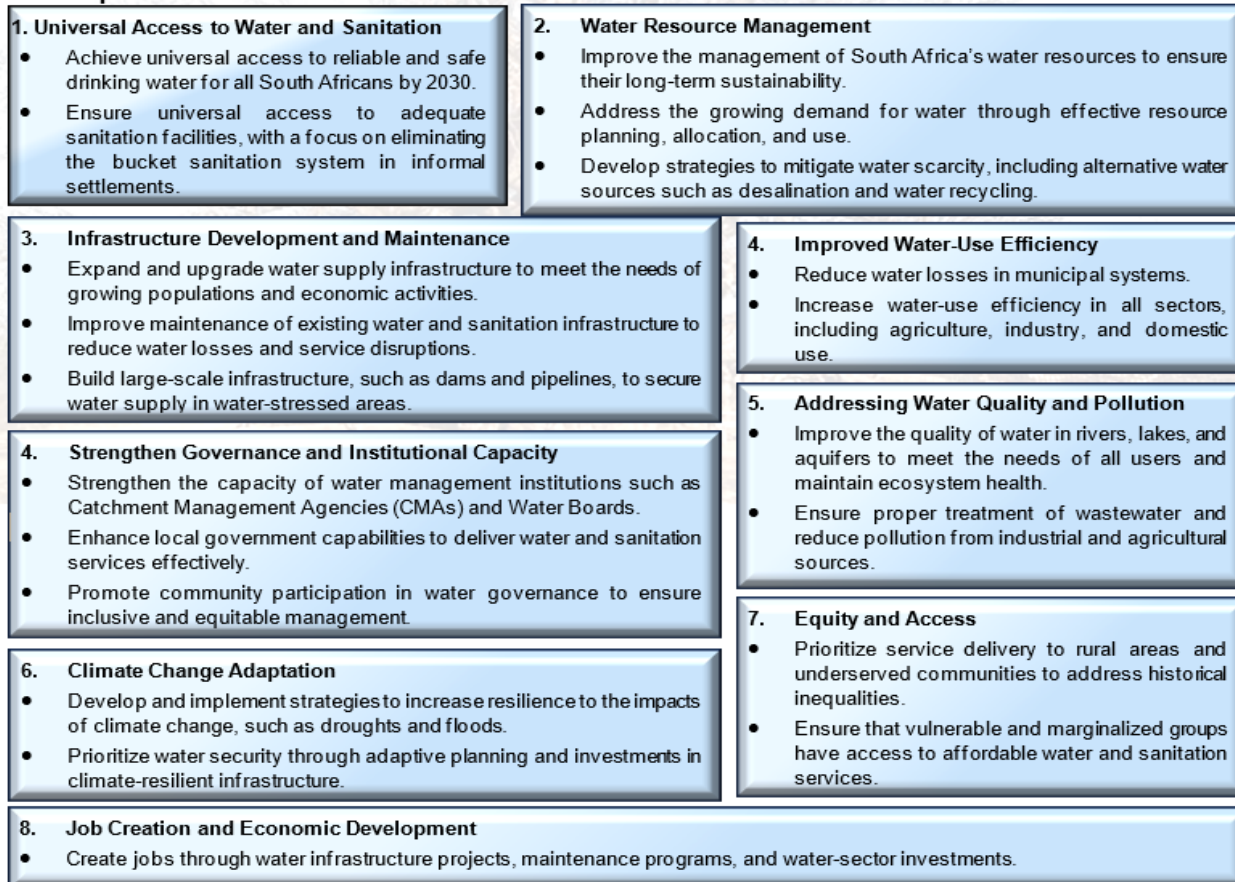


Figure 27: NDP alignment to SDG 6 and Africa Agenda 2063 on Water and Sanitation

7.1.2 Water Resources in Limpopo Province

The Limpopo Province's Water Supply Systems (WSS) are an integral part of the province's infrastructure and fall under two distinct Water Management Areas (WMAs), namely the Limpopo WMA and the Olifants WMA. These WMAs are crucial for managing and distributing water resources across the province, ensuring sustainable water usage and allocation for agricultural, industrial, and domestic purposes. The two Water Management Areas (WMAs) are depicted in figure 28 below to assist in effective water resource management and planning.



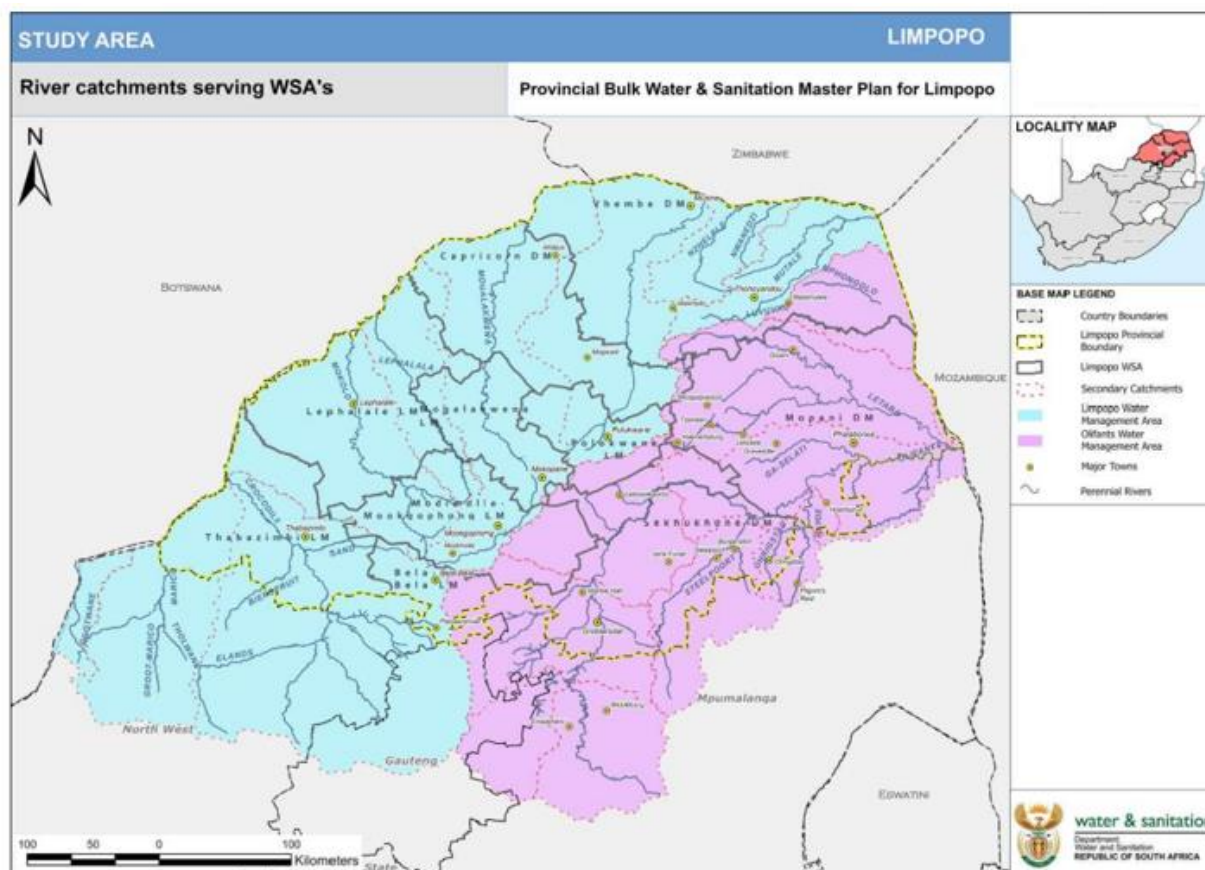


Figure 28: Water Management Areas serving the province

Further, the key large WSSs in Limpopo includes Olifants WSS, Luvuvhu - Letaba WSS and Crocodile West WSS. The Olifants WSS is centered around the Olifants River basin which supports a wide range of activities, including urban and rural water supply, agriculture, and industrial operations, particularly the mining sector, which is a key economic driver in the province. The Olifants WSS also extends into parts of Mpumalanga Province, emphasizing its strategic importance in South Africa's broader water management framework.

The Luvuvhu-Letaba WSS is located in the northeastern part of Limpopo, encompassing the Luvuvhu and Letaba River catchments. It primarily serves agricultural users, especially those involved in irrigation, as well as providing water for domestic consumption in rural and peri-urban communities. The system is critical for maintaining biodiversity in the region, including areas within the Kruger National Park, which rely on the rivers for ecological sustainability.

The Crocodile West WSS spans the southwestern portion of province, extending into Gauteng and North West provinces. Two local municipalities in Limpopo are supplied from the system, namely, Thabazimbi and Bela Bela. This system is vital for supporting urban areas and industrial zones, particularly in the water-scarce regions of the Crocodile River basin. It is heavily utilized for irrigation, mining, and municipal water supply, reflecting its role in underpinning economic activities and addressing the needs of growing populations. The Water Supply Systems are supported by various supply area catchments shown in figure 29.



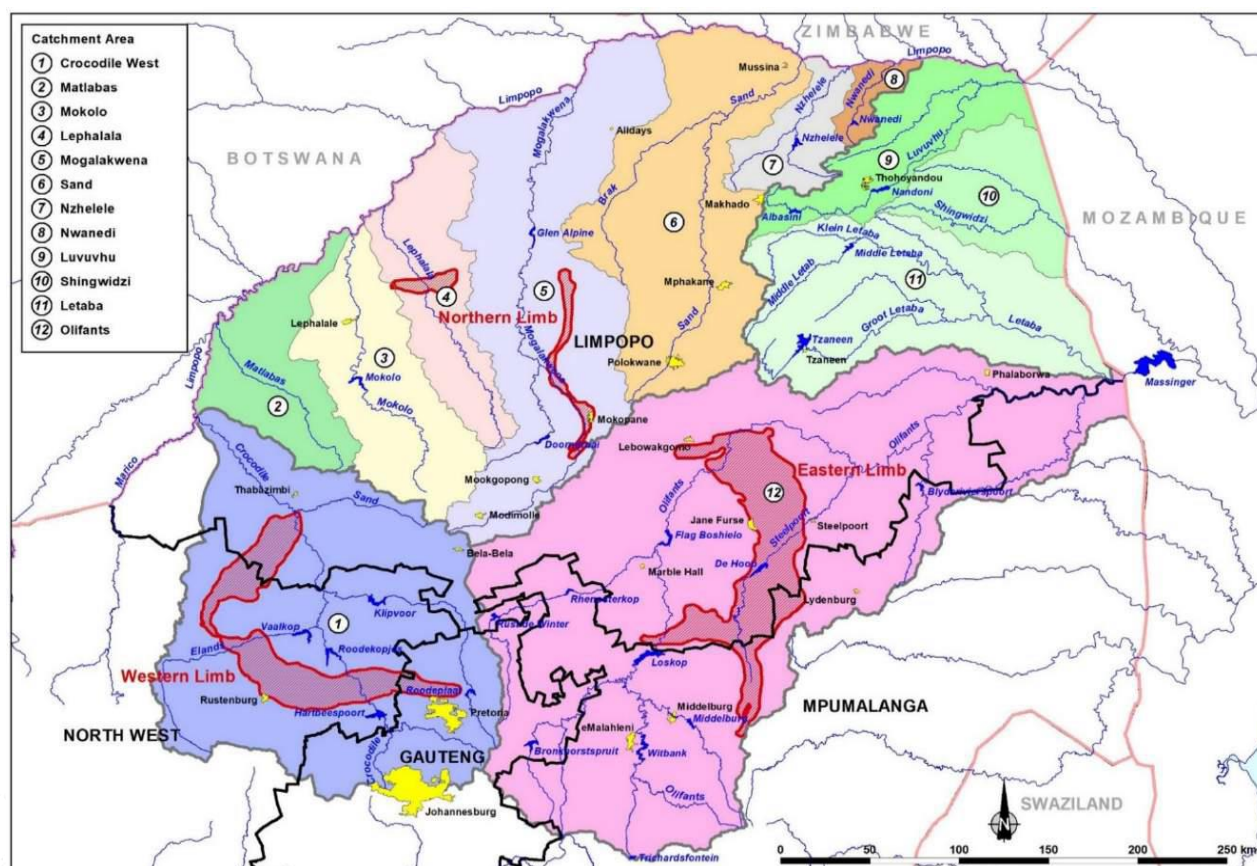


Figure 29: Limpopo Supply Area Catchments

7.1.3 Strategic interventions to keep the key large Water Resource Systems in Limpopo in balance:

Water Resource (WR) System	Description of the system and its supply area	Strategic Interventions to keep the system in balance for a period of at least 25 years
Crocodile West River System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consists of dams such as Hartebeespoort, Vaalkop, Klipvoor (supply Thabazimbi and Bela Bela), and Roodekoppies Supplies water to Tshwane, Madibeng, Rustenburg, Brits, Mining mainly platinum group metals and Large Irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement water conservation and water demand management Treat and Re-use effluent in the Rand Water (RW) service area Optimize the operation of the system Transfer water from the Crocodile River to Lephalale area by constructing the Mokolo Crocodile (West) Water Augmentation Project (MCWAP)



Groot Water System	Letaba Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consists of Dap Naude Dam, Ebenezer Dam, Tzaneen Dam and other smaller dams Supplies Polokwane, Tzaneen and surrounding areas, large irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement water conservation & water demand management Treat and reuse wastewater as well as acid mine drainage. Develop and utilize groundwater Reallocate water Groot Letaba Water Augmentation Project (GLEWAP) (Nwamitwa Dam & Raising of Tzaneen)
Olifants River System		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consists of Dams such as Witbank, Loskop (Grobledal and Moutse), Flag Boshielo, (supply flag East and West) De Hoop, and Blydepoort Supplies water to Polokwane, Burgersfort, Ba-Phalaborwa and the Kruger National Park areas, large irrigation, Mining mainly coal and platinum group metals in the Steelpoort and surrounding areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement water conservation & water demand management Treat and reuse wastewater as well as acid mine drainage. Develop and utilize groundwater Reallocate water Develop bulk water conveyance infrastructure to integrate newly completed De Hoop Dam into the system

Table 8: Strategic interventions to keep the key large Water Resources Systems in Limpopo in balance

7.2 Provincial Water and Sanitation Services

The water catchment area boundaries serving the province do not necessarily align with the administrative boundaries of Limpopo; instead, they extend across provincial and municipal borders. There are 10 municipalities in the province that are responsible for Water & Sanitation services and are referred to as Water Service Authorities (WSAs). Water Service provision is the WSA's responsibility as mandated through section 11(1) of the Water Service Act, 108 of 1997. The Act clearly states that "Every water services authority has a duty to all consumers or potential consumers in its area of jurisdiction to progressively ensure efficient, affordable, economical and sustainable access to water services".



7.2.1 Performance of the province on Water provision

Households access to piped water

According to Census 2022, as shown in Figure 30 below, Limpopo has an overall water access rate of 79.5%. The Census variables included households with piped water inside the dwelling, piped water inside the yard, and piped water on a community stand. A detailed breakdown of the 79.5% from the 2022 Census reveals the following:

Piped Water Inside the Dwelling: 31.4% of Limpopo households have piped water directly inside their dwellings which is far below the national average of 59.7%. This suggests that in-home water access in Limpopo is significantly underdeveloped compared to most provinces.

Piped Water Inside the Yard: 29.8% of households in Limpopo have piped water available inside their yards which is above the national average of 22.7%.

Piped Water on Community Stand: The proportion of households in Limpopo using community stands for water is 18.3%, which includes 6.7% of households who travel more than 200m distance from dwelling to access water, and of which 1.3% travel more than a km from the dwelling. This is more than double the national average of 8.9%.

No Access to Piped Water: Limpopo has the second-highest percentage of households without access to piped water, at 20.5%. This is significantly higher than the national average of 8.7%, indicating a considerable portion of the households without direct access to piped water.

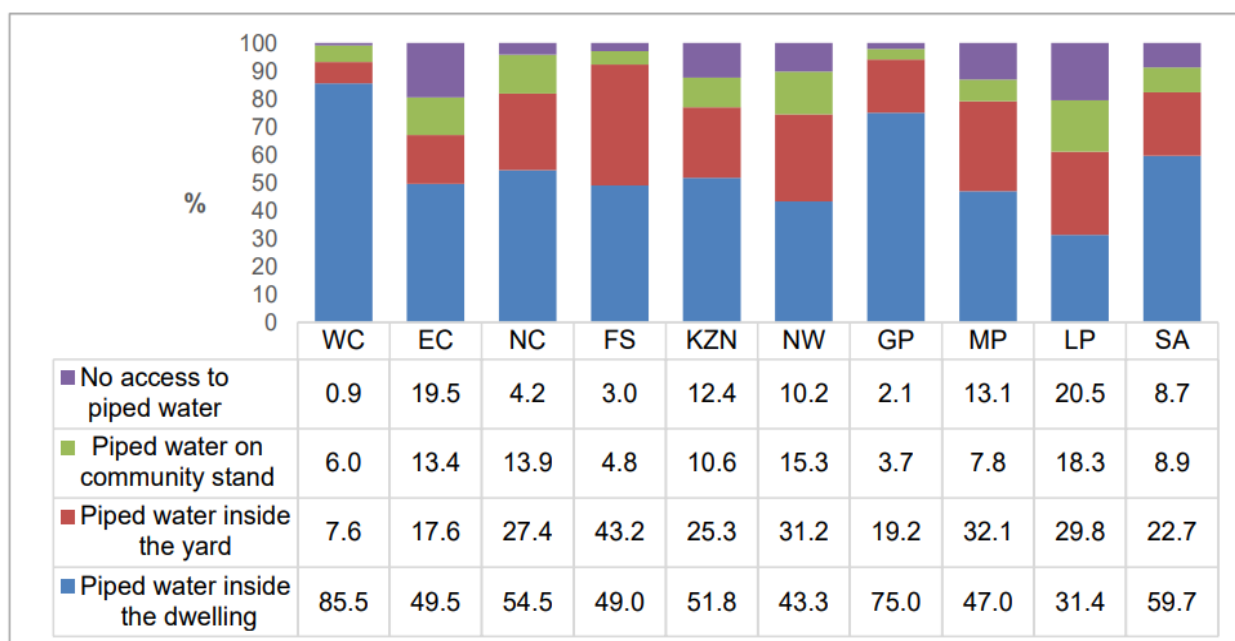


Figure 30: Performance of the province on Water Provision

On the other hand, the General Household Surveys (GHS), which track annual performance in water provision, have indicated a gradual regression over the years. According to the 2023 GHS, approximately 25% of households rely on alternative sources of water, such as rainwater tanks on site, neighbours' taps, water carriers or tankers, water vendors, boreholes outside yards,

flowing water from streams or rivers, stagnant water from dams or pools, wells, or springs. These alternative sources can pose health risks and lead to inequitable access to water. Notably, there has been a decline in households with safe water access, dropping from 71.3% in 2020 to 64.2% in 2023, indicating a consistent downward trend over the four-year period, as shown in Figure 31 below.

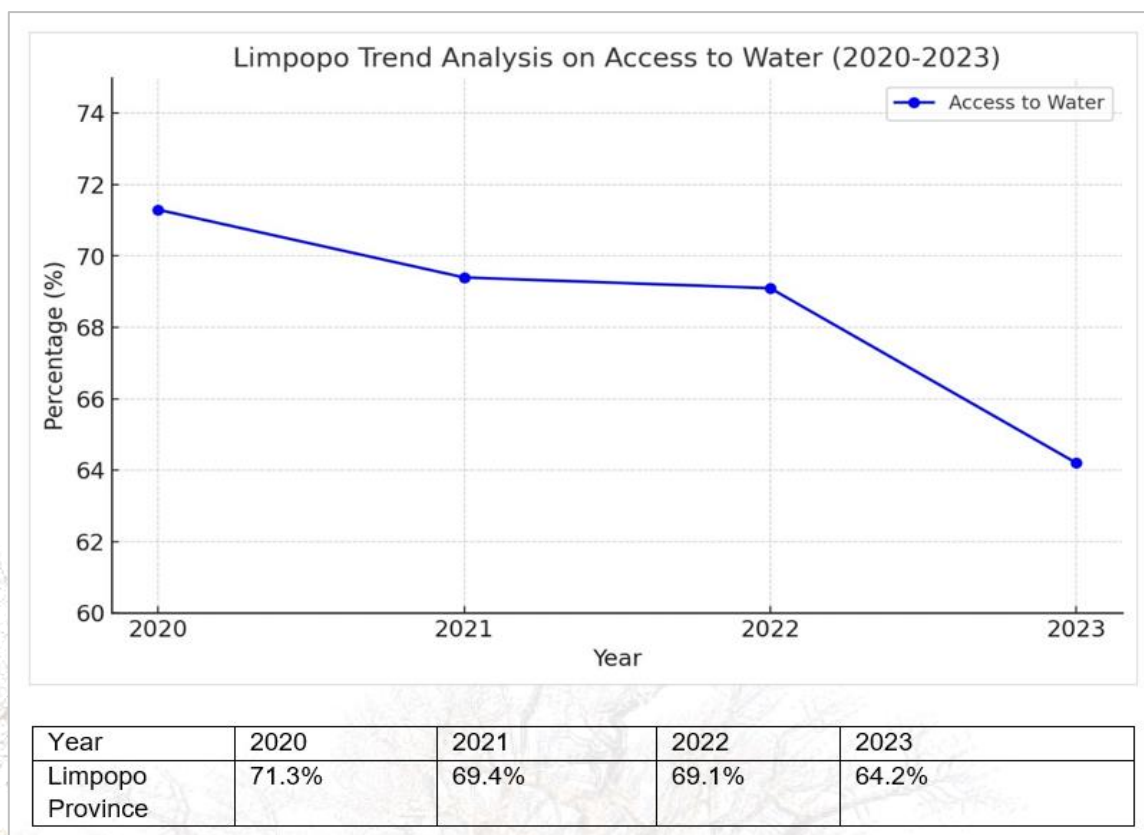


Figure 31: Limpopo Trend Analysis on Access to Water (2020-2023)

To address these challenges, the province will measure access to water utilizing GHS data due to its regular publication between Census periods, providing a reliable means to determine targets for safe and equitable access to water.

7.2.2 Water interruptions

Access to reliable and continuous water supply is a cornerstone of public health, economic development, and overall quality of life. Limpopo's rate of water interruptions in terms of Census 2022 is at 54.5% which is above the national average (48.4%). This indicates that over half of the households in Limpopo who made use of a regional/local water scheme have experience interruptions in water supply for a period of not less than 2 days. The GHS 2023 indicates an increase in water interruptions in Limpopo to 57.2%, significantly higher than the national average of 35.8%. The provision of safe and reliable water is important for public health and poverty reduction. Targeted interventions are necessary to improve water reliability and delivery of water infrastructure projects including infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.

7.2.3 Safe, clean, and reliable water

Water treatment plants are critical for ensuring the provision of safe, clean, and reliable water for domestic, industrial, agricultural, and recreational use. The facilities are responsible for treating



water from natural sources to make it safe for consumption and complaint to national and international water quality standards.

The Water Treatment Works (WTW) / Water Treatment Purification plants (WTPP) earmarked for refurbishment includes Seshego, Steelpoort, Laaste Hoop, Molotone, Dithabanang and Ramokgopa WTW.

7.3 Key Bulk Water Resource Initiatives

The Mokolo and Crocodile River West Augmentation Project (MCWAP): MCWAP is a critical water infrastructure initiative aimed at addressing the growing water demands in the Lephalale region of the province, which is a hub for energy production, mining, and urban development. The project is being implemented in multiple phases to ensure a reliable water supply for key stakeholders, including municipalities, industries, and power stations. MCWAP Phase 1 was completed in 2015, operational and comprised of the construction of a 4,5 MW pump station at Mokolo Dam and 46 km of new raw water pipeline to Lephalale, supplying 30 Mm³/a to various end users including Lephalale municipality, Matimba and Medupi power stations. MCWAP Phase 2 of the project will provide water to ESKOM, EXARRO and Lephalale town from Mokolo river through a 160 km pipeline with a capacity of 75 Mm³/annum.

Olifants Management Model (OMM): The project includes 2 dams (De Hoop and Flag Boshlelo dams), and the construction of bulk pipelines to supply water to Sekhukhune, Capricorn, Polokwane, and Mogalakwena municipalities. This is a ten-year project which DWS is undertaking, and an agreement was reached with Lebalelo Water User Association (obo Mining Houses) on implementation model called Olifants Management Model (OMM). The program as shown in figure 32 below will provide potable water at yard connections, ensure water security for mining and industrial investment.

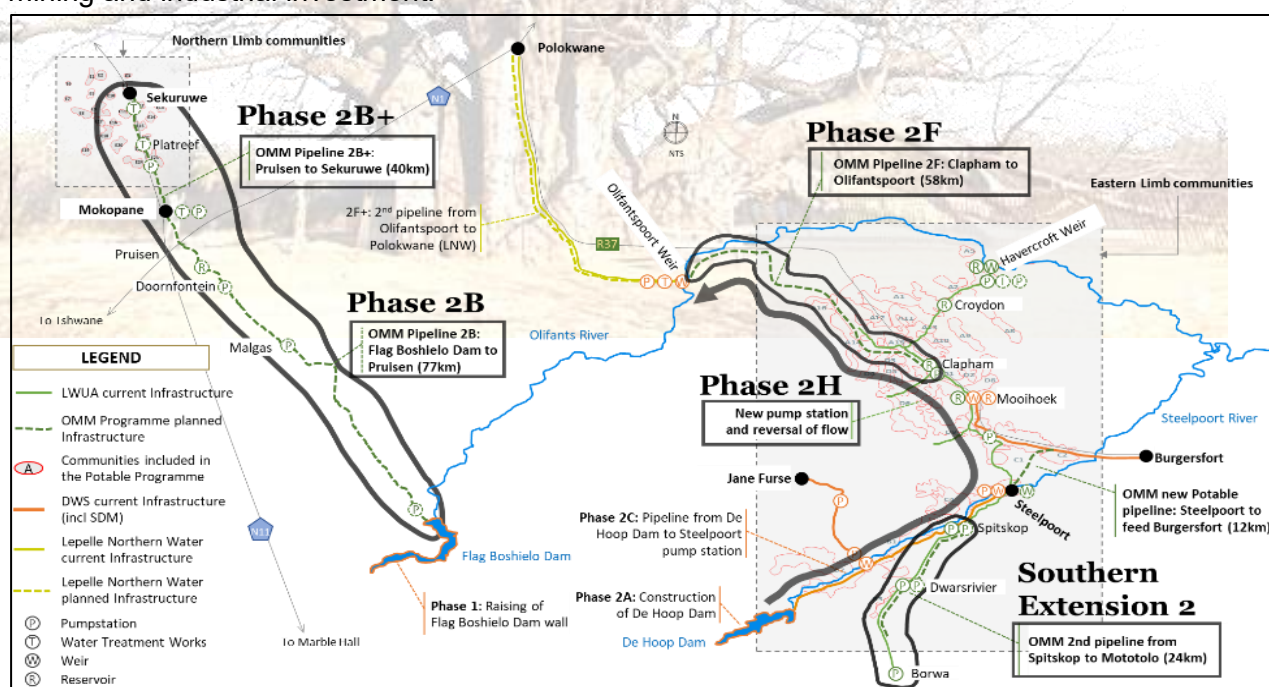


Figure 32: Olifants Management Model (OMM)



Greater Letaba Water Development Project (GLEWAP) – Raising of Tzaneen Dam Wall: This project is augmenting the water supply in the Greater Letaba River by raising the dam wall by 3 meters to increase the yield of the dam to address water shortages in Tzaneen and surrounding areas. The project will increase the storage capacity of the dam by 24% from 157 million m³ to 195 million m³ and the project will benefit the agricultural sector and domestic sector by supplying areas such as Nkowankowa, Modjadjiskloof, Kgapanne, and Relela.

Greater Letaba Water Development Project (GLEWAP)- Nwamitwa Dam Project: The project involves the construction of dam with a yield of 14 million m³/a and a storage capacity of 187 million m³ in the Great Letaba River to provide for the ecological water reserve, domestic and irrigation water requirements in Mopani District. The dam will augment water supply to Letaba Ritavi WSS.

Water Resources Augmentation Interventions for Musina (supporting MMSEZ)

Phase 1 – Development of the local groundwater resources and refurbishment of Campbell, Musina and Nancefield WWTW (*Short Term*)

Phase 2 – Transfer of water from Zimbabwe (*Medium Term*). Earmarked to supply 15 million m³/a (41 Ml/d) of treated water to the Musina area

Phase 3 – Building of new dams (*Long Term*). Proposed dam on the Mutale River for use in the Luvuvhu-Letaba catchment as well as transfer of water to Musina. Abstraction of water from the Limpopo River and storing it in a series of two dams (the Musina Dam and the Sand River Dam), coupled with distribution infrastructure to Musina Town.



Figure 33: Phase 2 - RSA/Zimbabwe cooperation to share water

Mametja Sekororo Bulk Water Supply Project: The project entails construction of 19km raw water pipeline, 15Ml/d WTW, reservoirs and 9,8km potable bulk pipelines to households in Maruleng LM.



Babanana Bulk Water Supply: The project is part of GLEWAP phase1 and will supply water to villages in the Letaba-Ritavi, Thapane, Lower Motolotsi, and Worster-Motobeki Water Supply Schemes.

Upgrade of Politsi Water Scheme: Politsi Water Supply Scheme is located within the jurisdiction of Greater Letaba LM in the Mopani District Municipality (DM) and operated by Lepelle Northern Water (LNW) and supplying households in Modjadjiskloof, Ga-Kgapane, Mokgoba and Commercial farmers.

Giyani Water Services (Bulk Distribution Infrastructure) – Reticulation of 55 Villages: Construction of 325km bulk pipelines and reservoirs from Giyani WTW to households in 55 villages around Giyani

Makhado West (Sinthumule Kutama) - Incl. Mavambe Vuwani - Luvuvhu GWS: The project will supply water from Nandoni dam to Vuwani, Valdezia, Air Force Base (AFB) and Sinthumule Kutama area. The project will benefit households in 39 villages.

Nandoni WTW Upgrade: The upgrade from 60 MI/d to 120 MI/d will feed the bulk water pipeline projects that DWS is implementing to extend the supply from Nandoni WTW to Malamulele, Vuwani, Elim, Makhado and Kutama Sinthumule areas.

Polokwane Regional Wastewater Treatment Works: Development of the new Polokwane Regional Wastewater Treatment Works (20MI/day) and outfall sewer pipelines. Refurbishment of the existing Polokwane Wastewater Treatment Works to 32MI/day. Refurbishment of the existing Seshego Wastewater Treatment Works to original 7MI/day.

Mogalakwena Bulk Water Supply Project: The project entails development of wellfields, construction of WTW, reservoirs and over 102 km bulk pipelines to supply water to villages within Mogalakwena Local Municipality. The project is planned to ultimately provide 15 Mm³/a of potable water to 135 villages. Phase 1 was completed in 2016/17 financial year, comprising of the Jakkalskuil wellfield development, storage tanks, and pumpstations. Phase 2 of the project is under construction.

Mooihoek Bulk Water Supply Project: The project entails refurbishment of 12 MI/d WTW, construction of bulk pipeline and reservoirs to supply water to about 33 333 households in 13 villages within Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality including Burgersfort Town.

Nebo Bulk Water Supply Project: The project entails construction of approximately 85km bulk pipeline and reservoirs to supply water to 32 704 households in 40 villages within Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality & Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

- **Phase 1-** Pipeline from Malekana **12MI/d** WTW to Jane Furse.
- **Phase 3B-** Pipeline from Jane Furse to Marulaneng
- **Phase 3C-** Pipeline from Makgeru to Schoonoord pipeline
- **Phase 3E-** Pipeline from Jane Furse to Lobethal.

Moutse Bulk Water Supply Project: The project entails upgrading of the Groblersdal WTW, construction of 85,1km bulk pipeline and reservoirs to supply water to 31 villages under Elias Motsoaledi and Ephraim Mogale Local Municipalities.



Loskop Bulk Water Supply Project: The project is intended to supply water to both Limpopo and Mpumalanga. The project will benefit villages within Elias Motsoaledi in Sekhukhune District. The Loskop Bulk Water project is implemented and administered by Nkangala District Municipality as the Implementing Agent. The project implementation has been split into 5 Work Packages (WP), and the following will benefit Limpopo:

- Work Package 1 (WP1): Raw Water Abstraction Works at Loskop, 2.2km pipeline from Loskop to Pump Station1 (PS1), 11km pipeline from PS1 to PS2, 2x Booster Pump Station (PS1 and PS2), 3Ml/d Water Treatment Package Plant and 6ML Reservoir provision for 8 villages (Tambo square, Malaineng, Ntoane/Mametse, Marapong, Thabakhubwedu, Phooko, Bloempoort/Iutspanning A and B and Elandsdoorn) benefiting 11 154 households in Moutse.

7.4 Sanitation provision

Improved sanitation, as defined by Stats SA, refers to flush toilets connected to a public sewerage system or a septic tank, or a pit latrine equipped with a ventilation pipe. According to the 2022 Census, 61.9% of households in Limpopo used pit latrines (both with and without ventilation pipes) as their main type of toilet facility. The percentage of households in the province using pit latrines with ventilation pipes, chemical toilets, and flush toilets is collectively recorded at 57.7% in 2022.

Due to scarcity of water resources and infrastructure, there is limited scope to upgrade to full waterborne systems in the WSAs. Table 9 below provides data on sanitation levels across 10 WSAs in the province, divided into three categories: sanitation below basic level, at basic level, and above basic level. Sanitation in Limpopo Province reflects a mix of progress and ongoing challenges. Urbanized areas such as Polokwane and Capricorn show higher levels of development, while rural districts including Mopani, Sekhukhune, and Vhembe still struggle with significant gaps in basic and advanced sanitation services. Interventions, including infrastructure upgrades and equitable resource allocation, are essential to improve sanitation across Limpopo.

Water Authority (WSA)	Sanitation Level Below Basic Level		Sanitation at Basic Level	Sanitation Level above Basic Level
	Chemical, Other and None (HH)	Bucket, and	VIP and Pit toilets (HH)	Flush toilets (HH)
Bela-Bela (22 449)	458		4154	17 837
Capricorn (177 731)	11 210		107 804	58 717
Lephalale (43 832)	2 192		20 015	21 627
Modimolle-Mookgophong (46 119)	3 934		6 003	36 181
Mogalakwena (109 294)	4 018		58 648	46 628
Mopani (358 153)	30 781		223 759	103 613
Polokwane (249 443)	8 130		120 916	120 397
Sekhukhune (340 753)	24 458		233 158	83 138

Thabazimbi (26 832)	2 457	3 603	20 771
Vhembe (436 959)	37 649	271 056	128 254

Table 9: Provincial sanitation summary of the Below Basic and Above Basic level settlements

Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW), play a crucial role in ensuring proper sanitation and environmental protection, by treating wastewater generated from domestic, industrial and commercial sources. These facilities are designed to remove harmful contaminants, pathogens, and pollutants from wastewater, making it safe discharge into the environment or for reuse. The proper functioning of WWTWs is essential to achieve global goals on sanitation and environment. The province needs to prioritise refurbishment of identified Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTWs) in high need, illustrated in Figure 34 below.

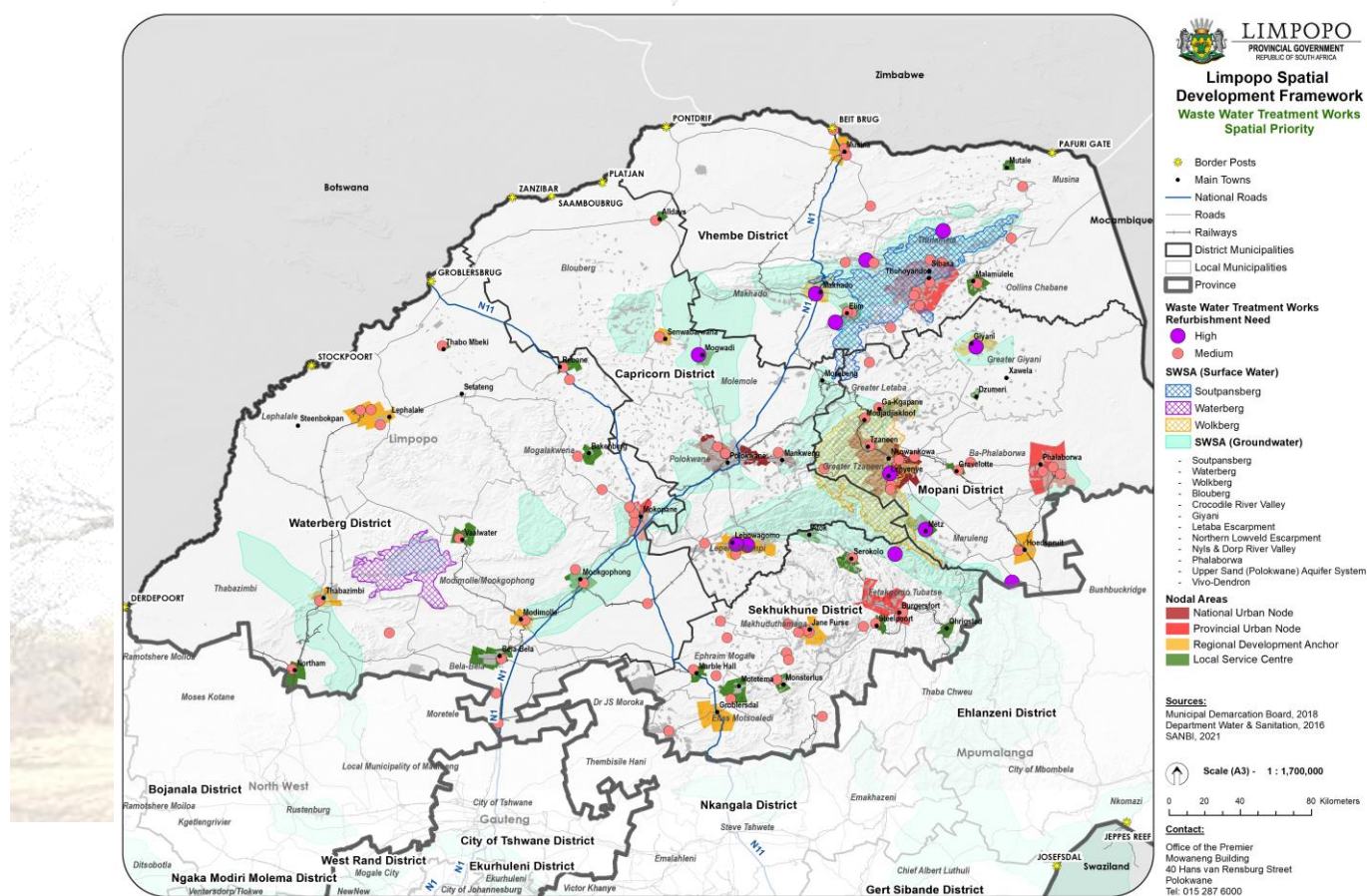


Figure 34: Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW)

7.5 Energy

7.5.1 Electricity Transmission

According to Eskom, the transmission network of the province comprises 400 kV and 275 kV and is interconnected via the 132 kV underlying distribution network as depicted in figure 35 below. There is sufficient transmission network capacity to also integrate future planned Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in the province.



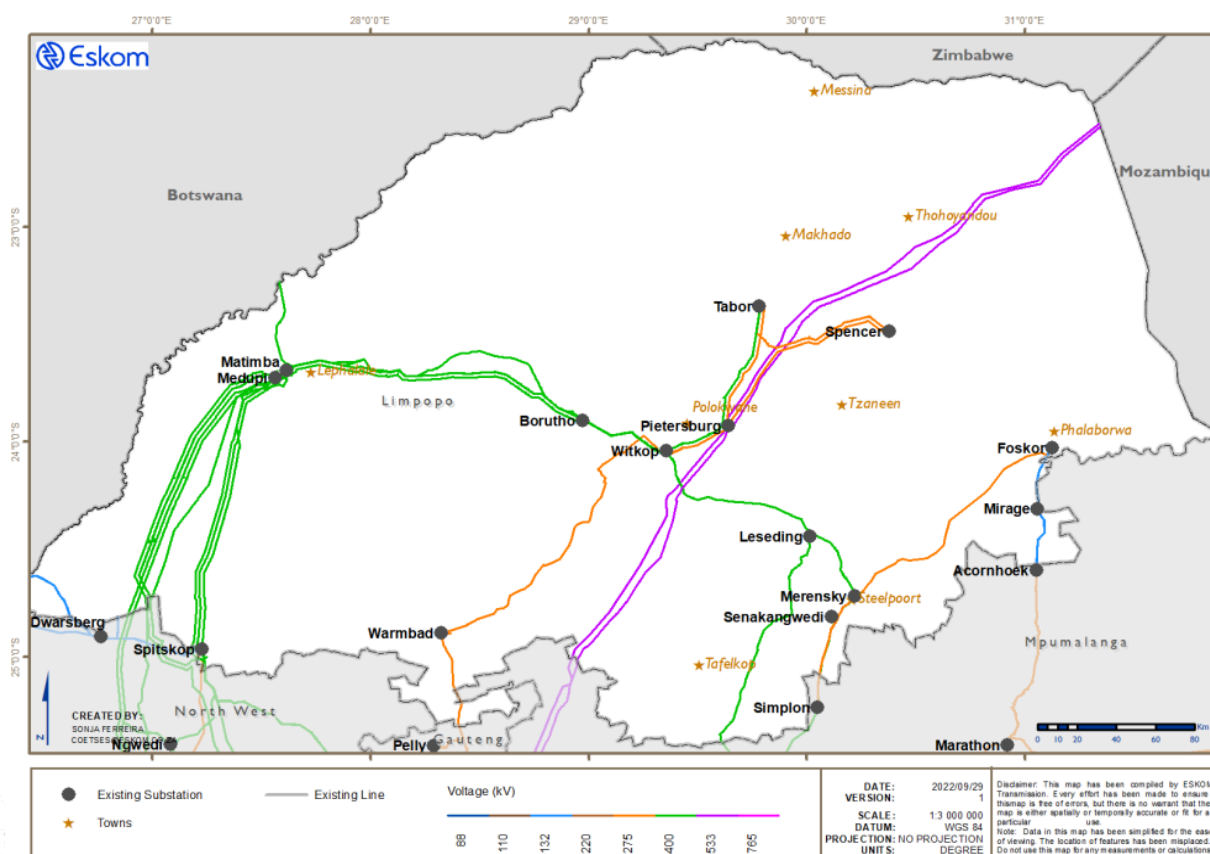


Figure 35 : Transmission network of the province

7.5.2 Electricity for households

In Limpopo, the percentage of households using electricity as the main source of energy for lighting increased from 87.3% in 2011 to 95.5% in 2022. Nationally, the percentage of households using electricity for cooking rose from 47.4% in 1996 to 64.9% in 2022. However, in Limpopo, the percentage of households relying on electricity for cooking decreased slightly, from 50.0% in 2011 to 49.3% in 2022.

The use of gas for cooking in South Africa increased sharply between 2011 and 2022, with 25.7% of households using gas for cooking in 2022 compared to just 3.5% in 2011.



7.5.3 Network strengthening projects

The following network strengthening projects are planned for the period between 2024 and 2034:

TDP Scheme	Project name	Expected Year	Phase
Medupi Transmission Integration	Medupi-Ngwedi 1st 765 kV line (Energised at 400 kV)	2024	Execution
Waterberg Generation 400 kV Stability Enhancement	Medupi – Witkop 1 st 400 kV line	2024	Execution
	Borutho – Silimela 1 st 400 kV line	2028	Definition
Polokwane Reactive Power Compensation	Tabor 2 x 36 Mvar Capacitor Banks	2027	Concept
	Spencer 2 x 36 Mvar Capacitor Banks	2027	Concept
Warmbad Transformation Upgrade	Warmbad 1 st 500 MVA 275/132 kV transformer	2027	Definition
Acornhoek Transformation Upgrade	Acornhoek additional 250 MVA 400/132 kV transformer	2029	Definition

TDP Scheme	Project name	Expected Year	Phase
Borutho Transformation Upgrade	Borutho 3 rd 500 MVA 400/132 kV transformer	2028	Concept
Highveld North-West and Lowveld North Reinforcement-Phase 1	Emkhiweni – Silimela 400 kV line	2028	Definition
Foskor & Acornhoek 275/132 kV Transformation Upgrades	Foskor-Merensky 400 kV Line	2029	Definition
Leseding Transformation Upgrade	Leseding 3 rd 500 MVA 400/132 kV transformer	2029	Definition
Limpopo East Corridor Strengthening	Establish 400 kV busbars at Spencer Substation and Foskor Substation	2030	Definition
	Foskor 1 st 400 MVA 400/275 kV Transformer		
	Spencer 1 st 500 MVA 400/132 kV Transformer		
	Foskor - Spencer 1 st 400 kV line (110km)		
	Merensky-Foskor 2 nd 275 kV line change-over to 400 kV line		
Limpopo Strengthening to Enable RE Integration	Tabor 2 nd 500 MVA 400/132 kV transformer	2029	Pre - Concept
	Warmbad B 1 x 500 MVA 400/132 kV Substation	2032	Pre - Concept
	Masa 1 x 500 MVA 400/132 kV Substation	2036	Pre - Concept



TDP Scheme	Project name	Expected Year	Phase
Sekhukhune Integration Phase 1	Sekhukhune 400/275/132 kV Substation (1 x 800 MVA 400/275 kV transformer & 2 x 500 MVA 400/132 kV transformers)	2029	Definition
	Loop in Amot –Merensky 400 kV into Sekhukhune Substation		
	Manogeng – Sekhukhune 1 st 400 kV line		
	Sekhukhune - Senakangwedi 1 st 275 kV line		
Nzhelele 400 kV Integration	Nzhelele 400/132 kV Substation (2 x 500 MVA 400/132 kV Transformers)	2030	Definition
	Tabor - Nzhelele 400 kV line		
	Borutho-Nzhelele 1 st 400 kV line		
Sekhukhune Integration Phase 2	Witkop – Sekhukhune 1 st 400 kV line	2032	Concept

Table 10: Network strengthening projects 2024-2034

7.6 Renewable Energy

Renewable energy offers numerous environmental, economic, and social benefits, making it a vital component of sustainable development. The global shift towards renewables presents a significant opportunity for South Africa, with Limpopo ideally positioned to capitalize on abundant solar and in some instance, biomass resources which offer the potential for sustainable growth and a more liberalized energy sector. However, transitioning from coal requires careful planning to manage social and economic impacts.

The province developed a renewable energy strategy as a first step towards addressing energy security, economic development and transitioning towards just energy. Renewable energy technologies including Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and wind are becoming increasingly cost-competitive, dropping significantly in price over the past decade.

This, coupled with climate change concerns, has driven a global boom in renewable energy deployment, supported by falling battery storage costs. This presents exciting possibilities for Limpopo to contribute to the country's clean energy goals and achieve economic development via the renewable energy value chain. In 2023 Limpopo Province had a 3% share of the renewable energy installed capacity by the IPPs in the country which totals about 118MW. However, the province still has a grid connection capacity of up to 3360 MW, with limitations at local and substation levels.



7.6.1 Renewable Energy Initiatives

Some of the key renewable energy initiatives under implementation in the province are:

Project	Sub-Sector	Location	Project Value
Samancor PV Plant	Solar Plant	Fetakgomo-Tubatse	R2bn
Kona Maanda	Solar Plant	Musina (MMSEZ)	R 36bn
Skyworth	Solar Plant	Musina (MMSEZ)	R4bn
Giyani Solar	Solar Plant	Giyani	R7bn
Generic Core Sustainable Energies	Solar Plant	Waterberg	R8.6bn
Kulani Energy	Solar Plant	MMSEZ/FTSEZ	R10bn
Bolobedu Solar PV (148 MW)	Solar Plant	Mopani	R2.46bn
Lephalale Solar PV (68 MW)	Solar Plant	Waterberg	R1.56bn
Zero Carbon Charge	Battery Storage	Along N1 and N11	R7.2bn
T Conversion to EV	Transport	Polokwane	TBC
DPWRI&I Building Retrofitting and Conversion to Solar Power	Property Development & Real Estate	All Districts	R30m

Table 11: Renewable Energy Initiatives

Renewable energy provides a pathway to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. By reducing environmental harm, creating economic opportunities, and addressing energy access challenges, it plays a crucial role in ensuring a resilient and equitable energy transition for all.

7.7 Waste Management

Effective waste management service delivery, including refuse removal, management of refuse dumps, and solid waste disposal, is a cornerstone of sustainable development. Prioritizing investment, infrastructure, and community engagement, governments and stakeholders can ensure cleaner environments, healthier populations, and thriving economies for present and future generations.

7.7.1 Refuse removal

Urban areas in the province have better access to formal refuse removal compared to rural areas. Regular refuse removal in urban areas stands at 89.8%, higher than the national urban average of 84.4%. However, rural areas in Limpopo are more reliant on own refuse dumps at 80% and have limited access to formal waste services. The percentage of rural Limpopo households with access to regular refuse removal is at 7.8% and falls below the national rural average of 12.5%, indicating a clear disparity in service delivery.



The overall reliance on own refuse dumps in Limpopo is at 65.3% which is higher than the national average of 28.9%, indicating the province's limited access to formal waste management services. The reliance on informal methods can lead to environmental degradation, groundwater contamination, and public health risks. This highlights the urgent need for targeted rural development policies, investments in waste management infrastructure in rural areas to bridge the service delivery gap and address the pressing need for formalized waste collection systems.

7.7.2 Solid Waste Disposal

The province has made progress in solid waste disposal through a combination of municipal efforts, private sector involvement, and recycling initiatives. Municipalities have introduced structured waste collection and disposal services, particularly in urban areas, while private companies have stepped in to provide specialized services, such as hazardous waste management and recycling operations. Moreover, recycling initiatives, such as waste buy-back centers and public awareness campaigns, have encouraged resource recovery and reduced the volume of waste destined for landfills sites or waste disposal sites.

However, despite these efforts, rural areas in Limpopo often lack formal waste collection services, forcing communities to rely on informal methods such as open dumping or burning, illegal dumping due to insufficient waste management infrastructure, and limited public awareness about proper waste disposal and recycling practices. These challenges are compounded by a lack of enforcement of waste management regulations and inconsistent monitoring of waste disposal sites.

7.7.3 Reuse and Recycling

Reuse and recycling play pivotal roles in sustainable waste management, contributing to environmental conservation, economic development, and resource efficiency. These practices extend the lifecycle of materials, reduce waste generation, and minimize environmental impact.

Despite efforts to manage waste, challenges persist, especially in rural areas where waste management services are limited, there is inadequate waste collection, lack of infrastructure, and insufficient public awareness, hindering effective reuse and recycling practices or activities or initiatives.

There is a need for improved waste separation at the source and better landfill operations to enhance reuse and recycling through various programs and community engagements. Strengthening infrastructure, expanding educational outreach, and fostering public-private partnerships will be crucial in advancing the province's waste management performance.



7.8 ICT and Broadband Infrastructure Network

The investment in ICT and broadband infrastructure network in the province reflect a growing emphasis on improving connectivity and digital accessibility across the province. The key providers include OpenServe, Broadband Infraco, and Limpopo Connexion, which contribute to extending broadband services. This government initiative aims to bridge the digital divide by connecting underserved areas.

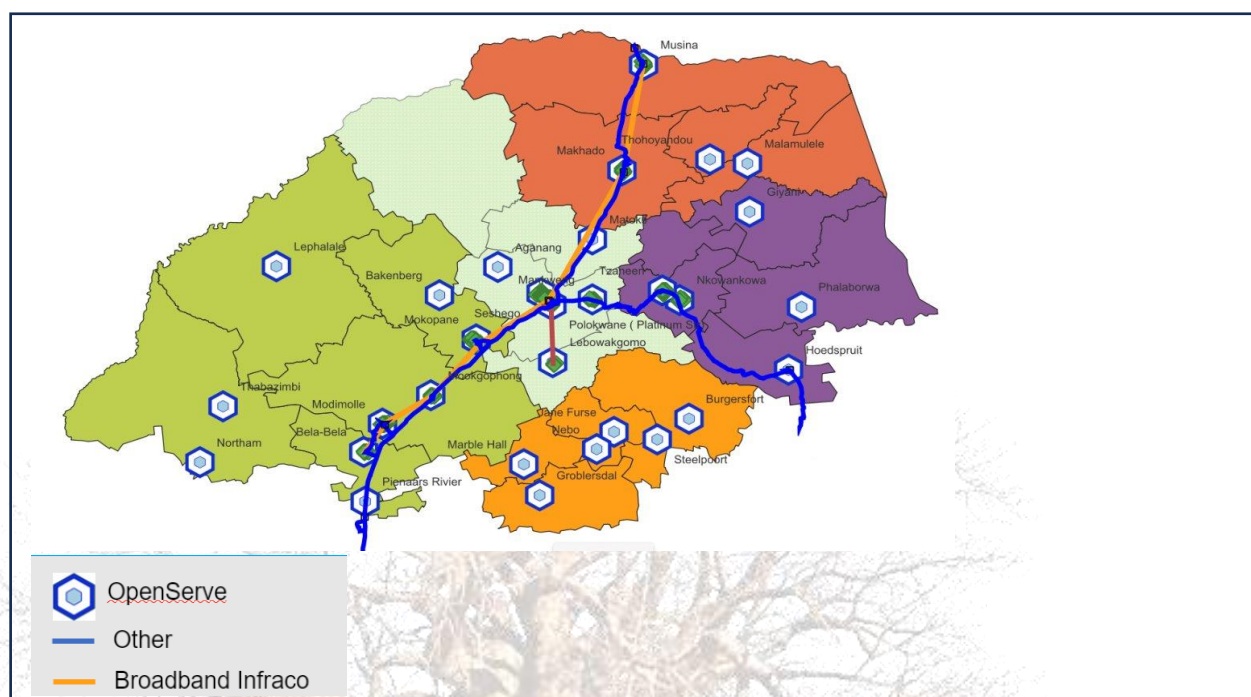


Figure 36: ICT and Broadband Infrastructure Network

The current broadband network in Limpopo shows progress in connecting major urban and semi-urban areas, with notable hubs such as Polokwane, Seshego, and Mokopane serving as key connectivity nodes. Polokwane has the largest area at 30,327 km² and functions as a central hub for broadband infrastructure, ensuring the surrounding areas benefit from improved digital access. Smaller but strategically important areas, such as Mankweng, Nkowankowa, and Lebowakgomo, are increasingly connected, reflecting efforts to expand the network to underserved communities.

Despite these advancements, rural and less densely populated areas, such as Modimolle and Mookgophong, face challenges in achieving robust broadband access due to the expansive geographic spread of the province. The total network spans 142,896 km², emphasizing the need for ongoing investments and partnerships to enhance connectivity, particularly in Musina and Tzaneen, which require improved integration into the provincial broadband framework. Expanding broadband access remains critical for fostering economic development, improving education, and ensuring digital inclusion.



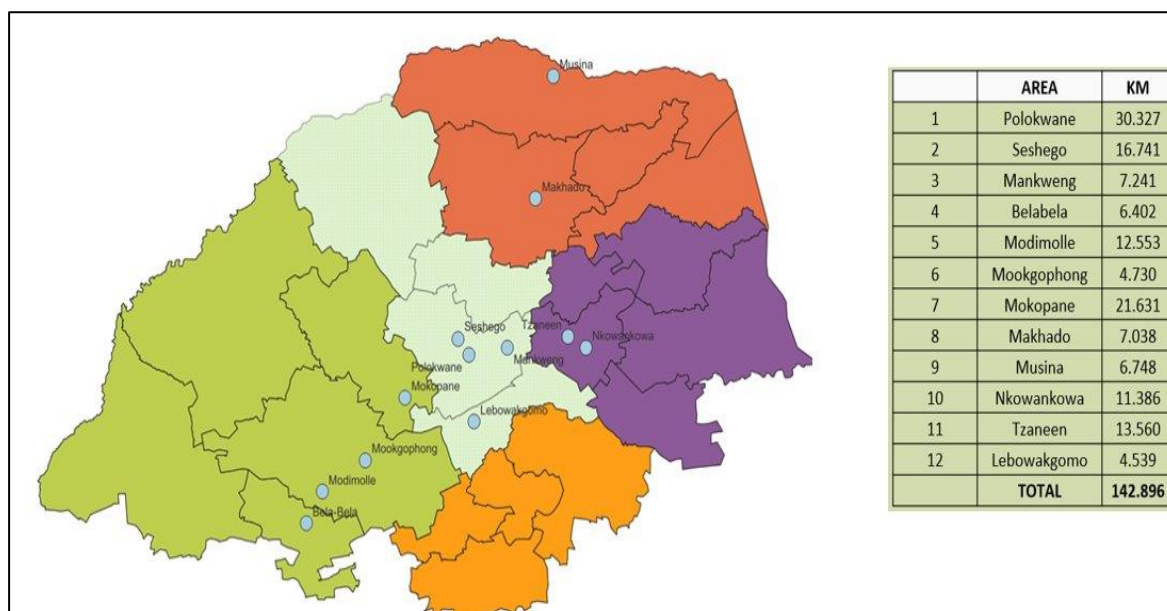


Figure 37: The distribution of network between urban and rural

7.8.1 Internet Connectivity

The National Development Plan 2030 highlights that ICT is a critical enabler of economic activity in an increasingly networked world. Telecommunications networks form a critical base for effective communication between businesses, communities and people and the necessary internet connectivity that is critical for the operation of a modern digital society on which the 4IR depends on. According to the General Household Survey 2023 (StatsSA 2024), 94.1% of the 1,775,000 households in Limpopo, were exclusively utilising cellular phones for communication and the province is the second highest in the country. On the other hand, the province has the least access to the Internet through any means, including using mobile Internet (i.e. cellular phones). Figure 38 below Percentage (%) distribution of households with access to the Internet in Limpopo and the country and type of internet access.

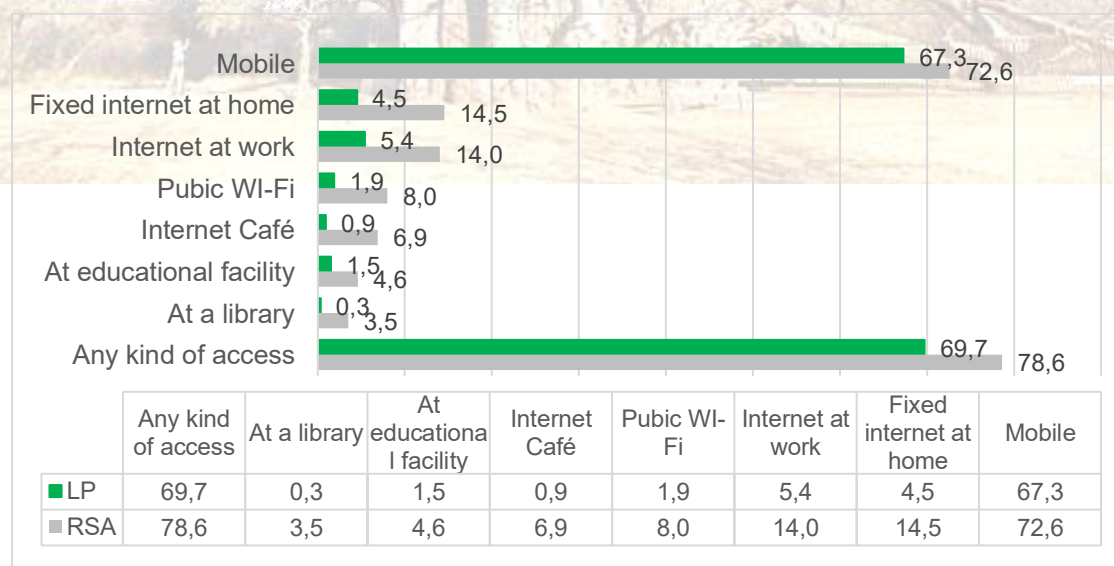


Figure 38: % distribution of households with access to the Internet in Limpopo and RSA



The province's vast road network spans 19,884 km, of which 6,697.8km is paved and 13,186.2 km remain unpaved or gravel. The condition of these roads varies, with a significant portion requiring maintenance or upgrades to improve accessibility and mobility within the province. This presents a severe bottleneck in rural-urban connectivity and directly impacts accessibility, operations, competitiveness, safety and security in the sectors of the economy. With limited annual budget allocation, the province faces a daunting task of upgrading gravel roads to tar. Figure 39 below illustrates the province's total road network and the varying conditions.



The management of the province's road network is as follows:

- National roads that are managed and operated by the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL), except for some sections of the N1 which is operated by Bakwena on a concession. SANRAL has a programme for the construction and upgrading of several roads under their custodianship in the province.
- Provincial roads are managed by the Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL). RAL continues with the identification of unpaved priority roads. Top on the waiting list for paved roads is Waterberg with 77% of its roads still to be paved. Second is Capricorn district at 71%, followed by Vhembe at 63%, Mopani at 53% and Sekhukhune at 52%.
- Local roads (including district roads and urban streets comprising of the district collector, distributor and access roads) are managed by district municipalities and local municipalities.

7.9.1 5-Year Performance overview

The Roads Agency Limpopo has consistently demonstrated the ability to capitalize on favourable weather conditions to overachieve its road infrastructure targets, particularly in the rehabilitation and maintenance of surfaced roads. In years where the province experienced less-than-average rainfall during the summer seasons, the construction and maintenance schedules have significantly benefited, as drier conditions are more conducive for efficient roadwork. This environmental factor allows contractors to work uninterrupted and at an accelerated pace, exceeding original output expectations. While leveraging low rainfall seasons is advantageous, this strategy is unpredictable, as it depends on uncontrollable natural factors. The Agency should balance this with long-term planning for periods of high rainfall, ensuring there are contingency measures in place to sustain progress.

Table 12 and Figure 40 below reflects a clear trend with a steady increase in the percentage of targets achieved, even as the number of targets stabilizes. 2019-2020 had 74 targets, significantly higher than in other years. The following years (2020-2024) had fewer targets, ranging between 25 and 27. In 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 the highest achievement rates were recorded, with 78% and 88%, respectively. The achievement rates for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 were lower, at 56% and 62% respectively, this was attributed to external challenges such as the construction slowdown caused by COVID-19.

	2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	TARGETS	ACHIEVED	TARGETS	ACHIEVED	TARGETS	ACHIEVED	TARGETS	ACHIEVED	TARGETS	ACHIEVED
NUMBERS	74	52	25	14	26	16	27	21	25	22
PERCENTAGE		70%		56%		62%		78%		88%

Table 12: Summary of 5- Year performance overview



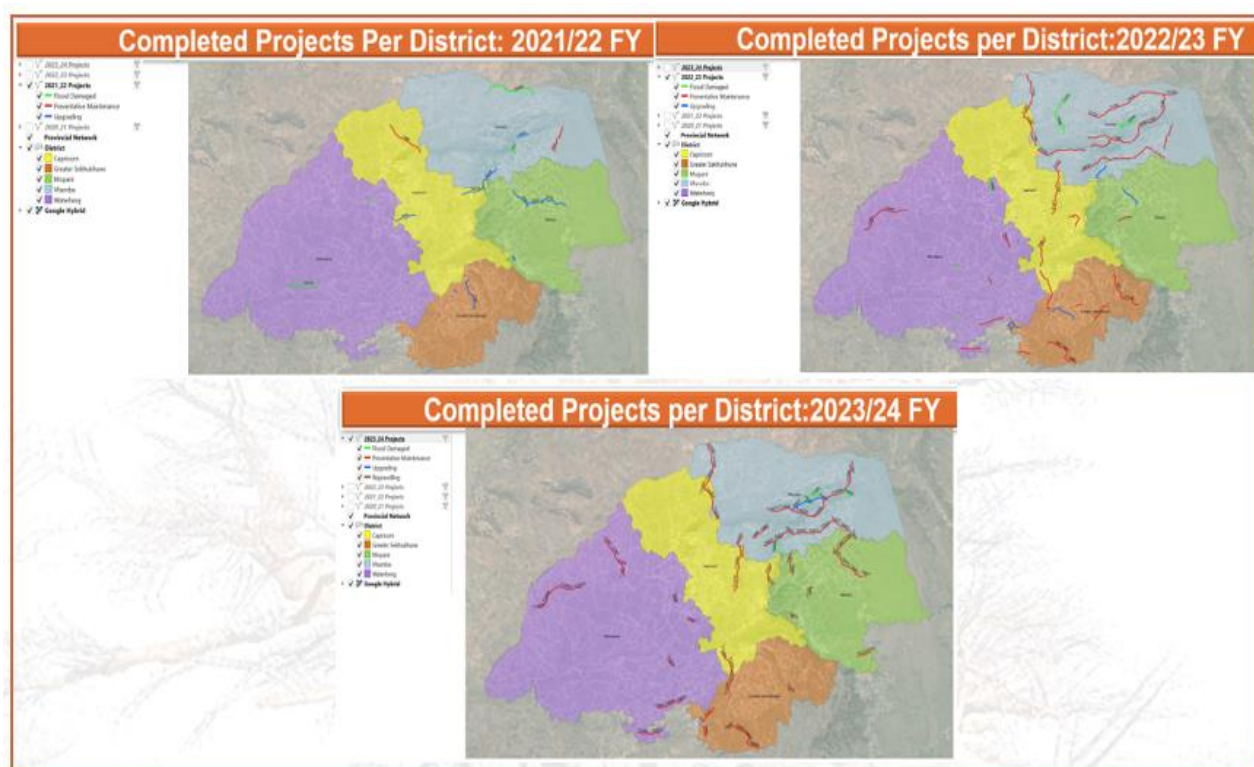


Figure 40: Visual projection of projects completed from 2021-2024

7.9.2 Inter-governmental cooperation on roads infrastructure

The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, in collaboration with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, is progressing with the implementation of 17 planned “Welisizwe” bridges. This initiative is well underway, with four (4) bridges currently at an implementation phase, while the remaining thirteen (13) are scheduled for execution during the 2025/2026 financial year. All the bridges in this program will be constructed by the SANDF, contributing significantly to improving connectivity and accessibility within the province.

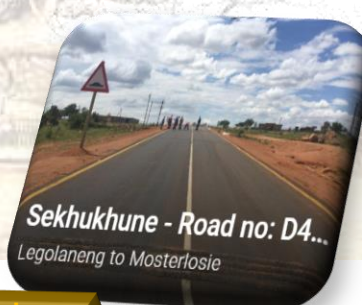
Fruitful engagements with the national Department of Transport have resulted in critical road networks in the province being handed over to SANRAL. The Minister of Transport has gazetted roads, totalling 613.27 km, for transfer to SANRAL as shown in Table 13 below. This paves the way for critical maintenance activities on major provincial roads, which SANRAL will maintain on behalf of the province as traffic volumes on these roads increase. This intervention enables the national government to invest in the maintenance of roads in Limpopo, helping to alleviate the province's budget constraints.

Road	Section	Route Description	Length (km)
N11	Section 13	Mokopane - Groblersbrug	2,27
R574	Section 2	Maleetse - Steelbridge	33,83
R81	Section 2	Giyani - Malumumele	47,78



R516	Section 2	Bela-Bela - Settlers	22,5
R516	Section 3	Settlers - R33 Intersection	37,35
R519	Section 2	Roedtan - Mathibela	41,5
R521	Section 3	Vivo - Alldays	40,25
R523	Section 2	N1 Intersection - Thohoyandou	64,5
R527	Section 1	R36 Intersection - Hoedspruit	31,94
R555	Section 5	Burgersfort - R36 Intersection	32,37
R572	Section 3	Tom Burke - Maasstroom	63,41
R572	Section 4	Maasstroom - Alldays	73,32
R578	Section 2	Giyani - D3980 Intersection	47,89
R578	Section 3	D3840 Intersection - R71 Intersection	38,2
		TOTAL	613.27 km

Table 13: Limpopo Roads Gazetted by SANRAL



Connecting the people of Limpopo Province.



7.9.3 Public Private Partnerships

Mines in Limpopo have expressed interest in contributing to road infrastructure development, with some making significant financial investments in major road construction projects within their areas of operation. These partnerships benefit both communities and businesses in various ways.

One notable project depicted in figure 41 below is the Ga-Malekane Steelpoort Bridge, located on road D2219 and connecting to the R555 in the Sekhukhune district. This initiative is a collaborative effort between RAL and mining companies in the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality.

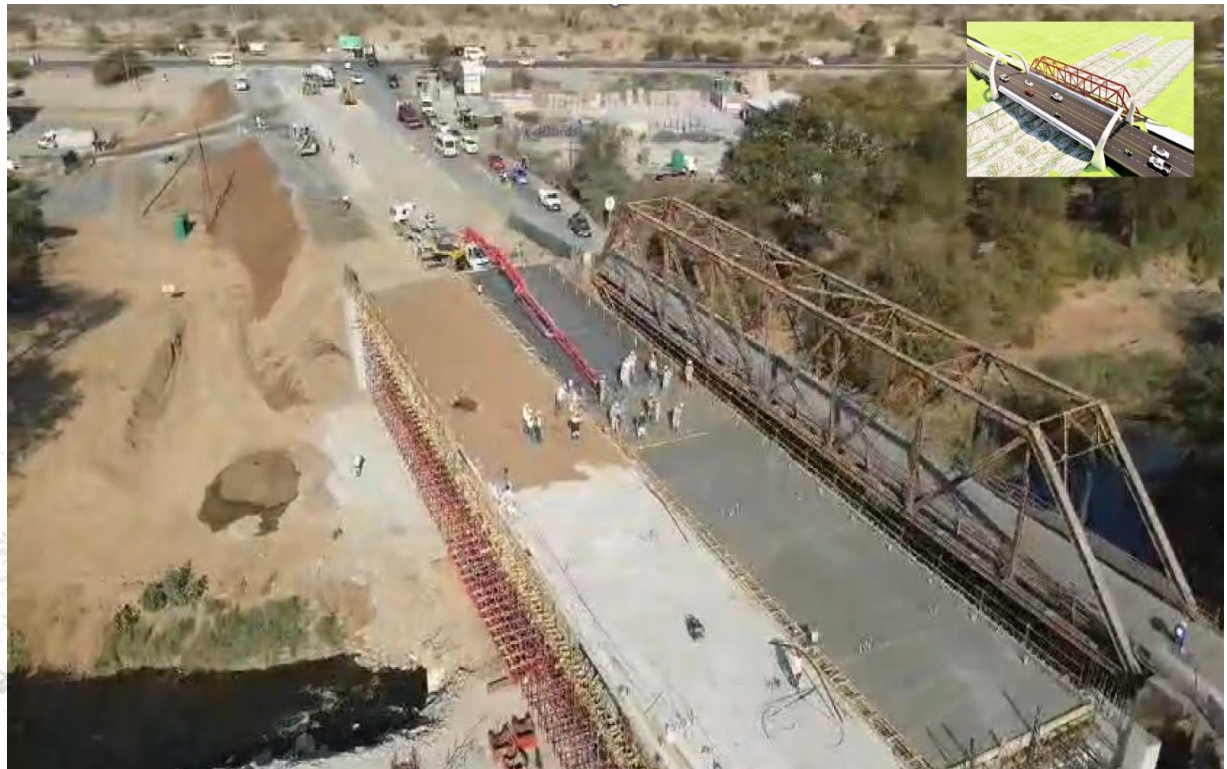


Figure 41: Ga- Malekane Steelpoort Bridge, Strategic Partnership between FTLM and Mines

Similarly, The Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) securing R41 million in funding through a Memorandum of Agreement with Northam Platinum in the Waterberg District demonstrates a collaborative approach between public institutions and the private sector to address infrastructure or community needs. This funding could be directed towards critical projects such as road development, maintenance, or improving accessibility in the district, especially considering the mining industry's dependency on efficient transport infrastructure. It's also a testament to Northam Platinum's commitment to corporate social responsibility and development.

7.9.4 Dikgerekgere programme

The initiative by the Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure (LDPWRI) is aimed at addressing the critical issues of deteriorating roads infrastructure in the province and



accelerate service delivery by re-graveling and blading strategic roads leading to government services, growing the economical hub and improve the overall quality of life of communities.

The comparative analysis of Quarter 2 versus Annual Target of the 2024/2025 financial year performance following the Dikgerekgere Programme highlights significant achievements across key areas. In regravelling, the total achieved through the Dikgerekgere Programme exceeded the annual target by an impressive 62.9% (73.3% vs 45%). Similarly, blacktop patching showcased exceptional progress, with performance surpassing the annual target by nearly 194%. Meanwhile, blading recorded a total of 31,214km in Quarter 2 against an annual target of 40,000km and this suggests a strong potential to double the performance by the end of the financial year.

The Dikgerekgere programme further addresses the provincial backlogs by using the departmental resources (in-house): own personnel and own machinery. The province has procured additional yellow fleet in 2024/2025 financial year to accelerate road maintenance efforts. These heavy-duty vehicles, essential for construction and road repair, are expected to improve the efficiency and pace of infrastructure development in the province. By investing in this equipment, Limpopo aims to address pressing road network issues, enhance connectivity, create jobs and support economic growth in the province.

7.9.5 Key strategic considerations for the 7th Administration

- The effective implementation of the Limpopo Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy (LIMS) to promote sustainable infrastructure development, optimize resource utilization, and enhance service delivery across the province.
- Maintenance of public infrastructure through dedicated programmes such as EPWP.
- Implement “Operation Dikgerekgere” rapid response initiative campaign to enhance strategic gravel roads, improving accessibility and resilience against weather impacts.
- Ensure the efficient implementation of infrastructure procurement processes in alignment with the Framework for Infrastructure Delivery and Procurement Management (FIDPM), fostering transparency, compliance, and the timely delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects.
- Explore and implement innovative approaches to utilizing alternative materials, focusing on sustainability, cost efficiency, and enhancing the resilience and environmental impact of infrastructure projects.
- Repeal of the RAL Act, along with the MOA and the governance structure.
- Implement Phase V of Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) targets through strategic integration, effective coordination, and the professionalization of EPWP initiatives.
- Prioritize skills development by fostering partnerships with various Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) to empower participants and enhance workforce capacity.
- Facilitate Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Encouraging collaborations with the private sector to invest in key road projects by seeking innovative funding solutions to support road infrastructure projects.
- Incorporating eco-friendly practices in construction and maintenance, leveraging innovative technologies, and minimizing environmental impact which are interconnected strategies that collectively promote sustainable and resilient road infrastructure development.
- Continuous maintenance and upgrading of the following priority and catalytic roads:



Road	Functionality
N1	A major national route traversing Limpopo from south to north, connecting cities such as Polokwane and Musina, and extending to the Beitbridge border post with Zimbabwe.
R101	Runs parallel to the N1, linking towns of Mokopane and Polokwane.
R523	It begins at the N1 near Waterpoort, northwest of Makhado. It runs through settlements leading to Thohoyandou where it intersects with R524. Creating a triangle shape in support of the Musina Makhado SEZ.
R524	Connects Makhado to Thohoyandou, serving as a vital link in the Vhembe District.
R572	Serving as an important route for local and cross-border connectivity, The R572 begins at Swartwater, near the Botswana border. It provides access to key agricultural and mining areas in the province. The R572 terminates near Alldays, a town that serves as a gateway to the Mapungubwe National Park. The R572 intersects with other critical roads that directly lead to the SEZ, including the N1, and D2692.
R578	Connecting Makhado to Giyani over approximately 90 kilometers. It begins at the N1 near Makhado and extends east-southeast through several communities, including Elim, Waterval, and Bungeni, before terminating at an intersection with the R81 in Giyani.
R521	Links Polokwane to Alldays, passing through Dendron (Mogwadi).
R71	Extends from Polokwane to Phalaborwa, passing through Tzaneen and providing access to the Kruger National Park.
R81	R81 begins in Polokwane passing Moeketsi to Giyani and connects to Thohoyandou through the R524. It is also as an alternative route to the R71 for travellers heading towards Giyani.
R527	R527 starts at Hoedspruit connecting to R36 leading to Tzaneen and intersecting with R71 leading to Polokwane. R527 is well-known for its proximity to major tourist attractions, including game reserves and scenic landscapes, making it popular for travellers exploring Limpopo and Mpumalanga.
R36 Section in Limpopo	The R36 reaches Tzaneen, a major agricultural hub, where it intersects with the R71 forming an important link in Limpopo Province's Road network.
R37	Links Polokwane to Lydenburg, passing through Lebowakgomo and Burgersfort.
R573	R573, often referred to as the Moloto Road, run through multiple provinces, including Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Gauteng, connecting communities to larger urban centers. Known for high traffic volumes and the need for regular maintenance and safety upgrades.
R555	Steelpoort to Ohrigstad, traversing the Sekhukhune District, plays a vital role in supporting the mining sector in Steelpoort, connecting agricultural producers to markets, and serving as a gateway to tourist attractions such as the Blyde River Canyon and surrounding nature reserves in Ohrigstad.



N11	The N11 begins at the Botswana border near Groblersbrug, a key border post for trade and travel between South Africa and Botswana. From Groblersbrug, the N11 runs south through the towns of Mokopane and Marble Hall. It connects with other major routes such as the N1 near Mokopane, making it a strategic link in the national road network. Beyond Limpopo, the N11 continues into Mpumalanga, passing through Middelburg, and eventually terminates in KwaZulu-Natal at the city of Ladysmith.
R518	Runs from Mokopane to Marken, facilitating access to the Waterberg region.
R510	Plays a key role in connecting mining towns. R510 begins in Lephalale, moves south, reaching Thabazimbi and proceeding south into the North West Province, where it serves Northam and surrounding areas, a mining hub for platinum. The road ends in Rustenburg, a major city in the province, where it connects to the N4 Platinum Highway, an important route on the Maputo Corridor.
R516	The R516 begins in Thabazimbi, a mining town known for iron ore production, where it connects with the R510 in Lephalale which is known for coal mining and power generation.
R519	The R519 begins in the town of Bela-Bela where it connects with the R101 and the N1 Route
R33	Runs from Modimolle to Vaalwater, providing access to the Waterberg Biosphere.
All D-Roads	District roads connect communities to main arterial routes, such as provincial (R roads) and national roads (N roads), facilitating access to essential services, agricultural and economic support enabling movement of goods and produce to market, processing plants and export hubs.
All Local Roads and Access streets	Ensure intra-community connectivity providing access within villages, neighbourhoods, and urban areas, linking homes, schools, shops, and other local facilities while access streets provide access directly to properties.

Table 14 : Limpopo priority and catalytic roads

7.10 Rail network

The rail network plays a critical role in the economic and logistical landscape of the province, with a focus on freight services and passenger rail operations. The network comprises several main and branch lines, along with key rail yards and freight terminals, connecting Limpopo with both domestic and international trade routes. The network serves as a key conduit for regional and international trade within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). With links to neighbouring countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Zambia through Beitbridge and Komatipoort border posts.

7.10.1 Freight Rail Services

Limpopo's freight rail network is anchored by the North-East Corridor (NEC), a vital component of South Africa's freight system managed by Transnet Freight Rail (TFR). This corridor facilitates the movement of key commodities such as magnetite, chrome, coal, and rock phosphate through clusters including:

- Beitbridge–Polokwane–Phalaborwa Cluster, connecting the province to ports such as Maputo and Richards Bay.



- Witbank to Komatipoort Cluster, which links Limpopo with Mpumalanga and supports the export of bulk goods.

Key freight terminals include Pietersburg Station (Polokwane), Phalaborwa Container Terminal, and Lephalale Terminal. Despite its strategic importance, the freight network faces constraints such as aging infrastructure, low train frequencies, speed restrictions, and growing capacity demands that are projected to worsen by 2035.

7.10.2 Passenger Rail Services

Passenger rail in Limpopo is limited to a single service provided by the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA). The Shosholozha Meyl long-distance passenger train operates three times per week between Johannesburg and Musina via Polokwane. This economy-class service caters to long-distance travellers but DoEs not provide comprehensive commuter rail services within the province. The absence of local commuter rail highlights a significant gap in the province's transportation infrastructure. To address the limitations, several proposals have been made, including extending the Moloto Rail/Road Corridor into Limpopo, developing new passenger rail routes in the Sekhukhune Corridor to Burgersfort, Makhado-Thohoyandou Link, developing a high-speed rail line between Pretoria and Polokwane, and upgrading existing freight lines and adding capacity to alleviate projected constraints by 2035.

While Limpopo's rail network is strategically positioned to drive economic growth and trade, immediate investments in infrastructure modernization, capacity enhancement, and service expansion are required to unlock its full potential for both freight and passenger transport.

7.10.3 High Speed Rail

The African Integrated High-Speed Railway Network is a flagship project of the AU's Agenda 2063. This project aims to connect African capitals and commercial centers through a High-Speed Rail (HSR) network, thereby promoting connectivity and trade across Africa.

The Master Plan 2033 of rail links prioritises the rail link between Mbeya-Lilongwe-Harare-Johannesburg-Maseru: 3,115 km. This link includes connecting Musina to Harare to the north, and Musina to Johannesburg



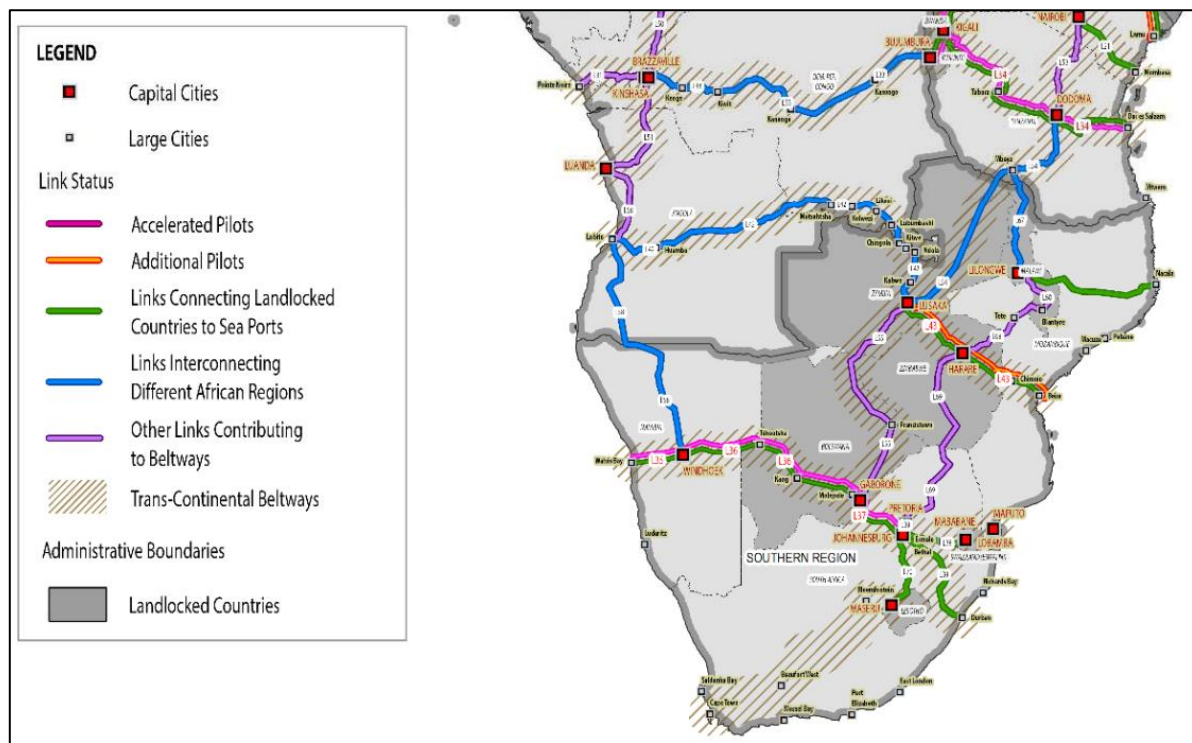


Figure 42: Africa Integrated High Speed Rail Network Master Plan 2033 priority links

Nationally, the HSR Framework, identified the Johannesburg to Durban corridor as the highest-ranking potential high-speed rail corridor, with the Pretoria–Mbombela–Komatipoort corridor, and Johannesburg-Pretoria-Polokwane-Musina corridor, ranking second for potential development.

Similarly, the province has prioritised the development of the High-speed rail which will revolutionise the connectivity and mobility by linking major economic nodes including those within the SADC region. The proposed High-Speed Rail project connecting Gauteng to Musina is an ambitious infrastructure plan aimed at improving transportation efficiency in South Africa. This rail line would connect the economic hub of Gauteng to the northern border town of Musina, near the Beitbridge border post, a key gateway to Zimbabwe and other neighbouring countries. The project is part of South Africa's long-term infrastructure development strategy, focusing on enhancing both passenger and freight transport capabilities.

Route and Connectivity: The proposed route would extend from Gauteng, through Limpopo, to Beitbridge, which serves as an important trade route into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. This would significantly improve accessibility to nodal towns such as Polokwane, Tzaneen, Burgersfort / Steelpoort and Musina, both for passengers and freight services.

Economic Impact: By linking Gauteng to Musina and Beitbridge, the High-Speed Rail could provide faster, more reliable transport for goods, especially minerals, agricultural products, and other commodities moving from Limpopo to regional markets. The rail line would also promote cross-border trade and tourism by providing a more efficient route to Zimbabwe and other neighbouring countries.



Reduction of Road Traffic: Currently, a large volume of freight travels by road, causing congestion and deterioration of Limpopo's Road network. The HSR would alleviate pressure on highways such as the N1, reducing wear and tear on roads and lowering fatalities and transportation and maintenance costs.

Passenger Services: The project aims to provide high-speed passenger services, which could drastically reduce travel time between Gauteng and northern Limpopo. This would benefit commuters and potentially stimulate tourism and business activities along the route.

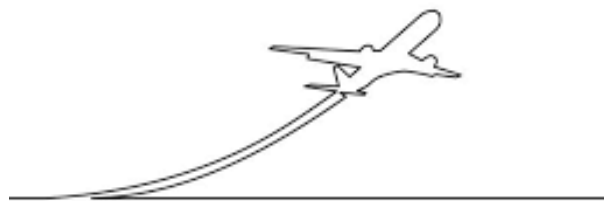
Risk considerations: The project might face several challenges, including securing funding, managing environmental concerns, and ensuring stakeholder involvement. Building such large-scale infrastructure requires substantial investment, public-private partnerships, and careful planning to avoid environmental degradation and displacement of communities.

If successfully implemented, the Gauteng-to-Musina high-speed rail line could be a transformative project for regional transport, boosting economic activities in Limpopo and beyond, while promoting regional integration across Southern Africa.

7.11 Air Transport

Air transport infrastructure in the province is anchored by three significant airports: Polokwane International Airport, Eastgate Airport in Hoedspruit, and Kruger Park Gateway Airport in Phalaborwa. Polokwane International Airport, an international port of entry offering passenger and cargo services. Eastgate Airport, converted from the Hoedspruit Air Force Base, primarily serves tourists visiting Kruger National Park and nearby private game reserves, making it a key driver of regional tourism.

Similarly, Kruger Park Gateway Airport in Phalaborwa, located near the park's gate, supports national flights and tourism. It is proposed that Polokwane retain its international port status while Eastgate and Kruger Park Gateway airports function as link airports connecting with OR Tambo International Airport and Polokwane to enhance tourism. Additionally, plans are underway to upgrade Eastgate Airport with an international license to develop it as a regional precinct. Numerous smaller municipal airfields across the province cater for private small aircraft but are not commercially significant.



7.12 Integrated Human Settlements

The Human Settlements Development trajectory is strategically designed to address the growing demand for sustainable and inclusive urban and rural development. The strategic importance of human settlements development lies in its ability to integrate housing, infrastructure, and services, creating environments that empower individuals and communities.

At the core of human settlements delivery is the establishment of Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDAs), which serve as focal points for driving equitable access to housing, integrated service delivery, and economic opportunities. These designated areas aim to accelerate the development of well-planned, functional, and sustainable communities, promoting spatial transformation and reducing inequalities. This enhanced focus on PHSHDAs reinforces the commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents while addressing the challenges of rapid urbanization, spatial fragmentation, and environmental sustainability.

The province hosts a total of 11 PHSDAs, distributed across 5 districts, with the following 8 municipalities being highlighted: Tzaneen and Giyani in Mopani, Lephalale and Thabazimbi in Waterberg, Polokwane in Capricorn, Thulamela, Musina, and Makhado in Vhembe, and Fetakgomo Tubatse in Sekhukhune detailed in Figure 43 below.



Figure 43 : Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDAs): Limpopo

The common challenges identified in human settlements development include persistent spatial inequalities and injustices, which exacerbate socio-economic disparities. Rural areas face

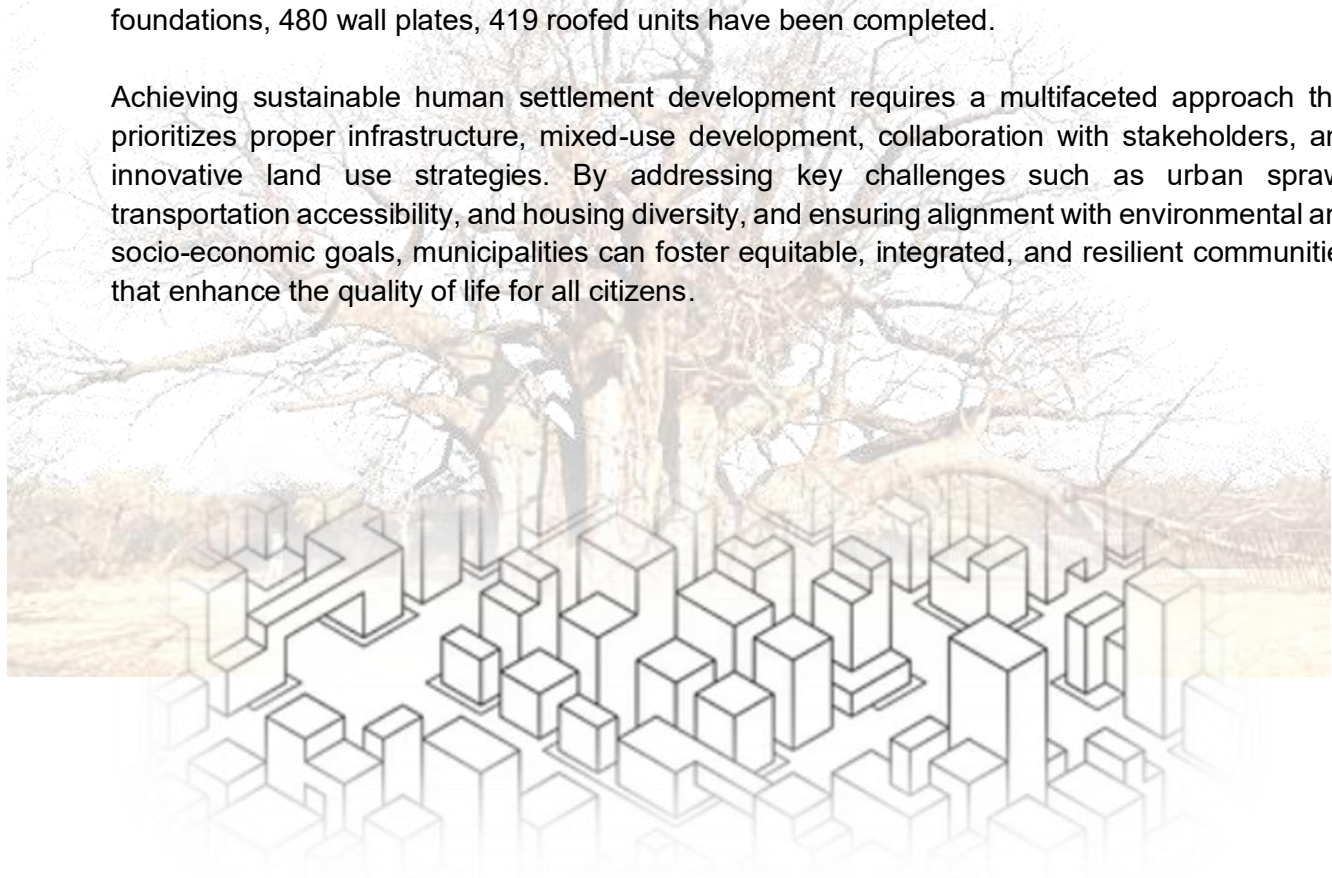


inadequate ownership of land, limiting security of tenure, growth and equity. The illegal occupation of RDP housing units remains a pressing issue, hindering efforts to address housing backlogs and achieve universal housing coverage. The lack of available serviced land for service delivery, due to the rural nature of the province further hampers human settlements development. Further, the overlapping laws that have not been repealed by SPLUMA create regulatory complexities and delays.

The province has a total of 82 informal settlements, of which 17 fall within the declared Priority Human Settlements and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDAs). These settlements are distributed across key development areas, including Fetakgomo-Tubatse, Giyani, Northam, Lephalale/Marapong, Polokwane Central Business District (CBD) and surrounds, and others. Polokwane CBD and surrounds have the highest concentration, with 5 informal settlements. This data highlights the need for targeted interventions in these areas to address informal settlement challenges and promote sustainable development.

The province is implementing three catalytic projects, namely, Marapong CRU, Altoostyd, and Bendor Extension 100 aimed at delivering a combined total of 6,675 housing units. 158 units in Bendor have been completed targeting middle-income groups. In Marapong CRU, 503 foundations, 480 wall plates, 419 roofed units have been completed.

Achieving sustainable human settlement development requires a multifaceted approach that prioritizes proper infrastructure, mixed-use development, collaboration with stakeholders, and innovative land use strategies. By addressing key challenges such as urban sprawl, transportation accessibility, and housing diversity, and ensuring alignment with environmental and socio-economic goals, municipalities can foster equitable, integrated, and resilient communities that enhance the quality of life for all citizens.



8 SOCIAL SECTOR

The social sector, particularly education and health, is crucial for sustainable development, reducing inequality, and improving quality of life. Education empowers individuals, drives economic growth, and creates intergenerational benefits, while a healthy population boosts productivity and strengthens economic progress. Together, these sectors form the foundation of a prosperous and cohesive society.

8.1 Education Sector

All South Africans have a right to basic education and the Bill of Rights obliges the government to progressively make education available and accessible to everyone through reasonable measures. Limpopo's districts exhibit notable variations in the distribution of schools, reflecting diverse educational needs and resources. Vhembe East leads with the highest total number of schools, standing at 516, highlighting its role as a key educational hub in the province. This is closely followed by Sekhukhune South with 432 schools and Sekhukhune East with 429, showing a concentration of schools in the Sekhukhune region. Capricorn South and Capricorn North also play significant roles, housing 423 and 407 schools respectively. In contrast, Waterberg has the fewest schools, totalling only 163, indicating a lower density of educational institutions. Mopani East and Mopani West host 354 and 314 schools respectively, while Vhembe West contributes 393 schools to the province's educational infrastructure. Finally, Mogalakwena features 238 schools, further showcasing the provincial disparities in school distribution across Limpopo's districts. These figures underscore the varying educational landscapes within the province, with some areas serving larger student populations than others. Figure 44 below shows the number of schools in the province in terms of districts.

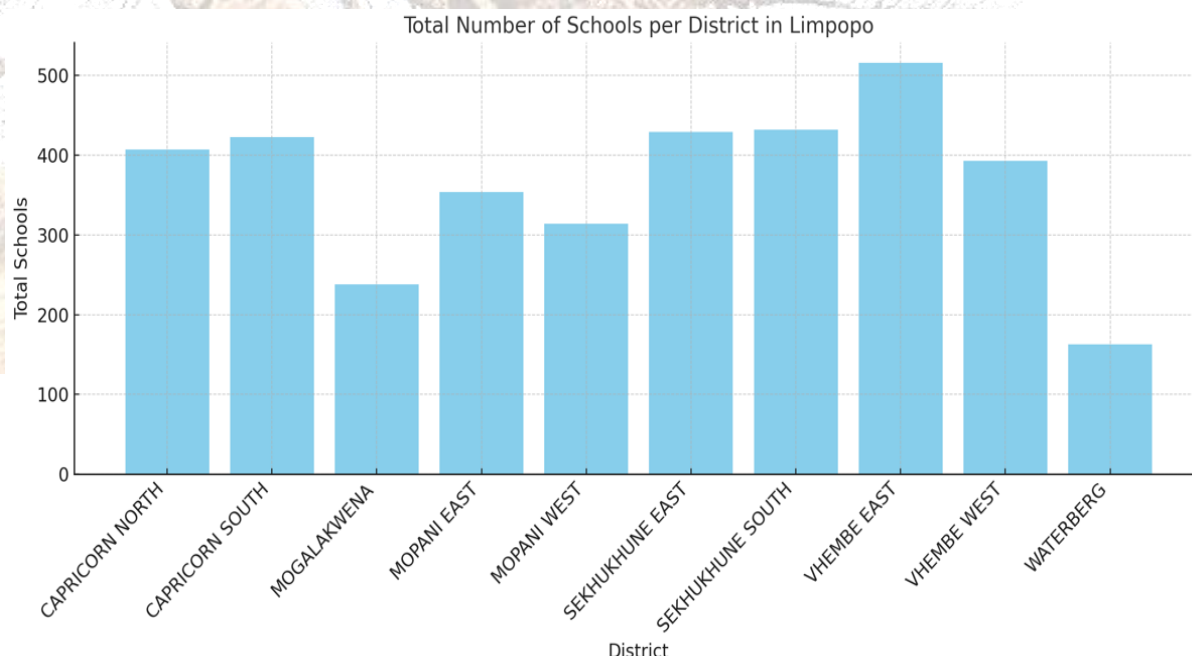


Figure 44: Total number of schools per District in Limpopo



8.1.1 Matric pass rate

The trend analysis reflected in Figure 45 indicates that in 2020, the province achieved a pass rate of 68.2%. In 2021, this rate experienced a slight decline to 66.7%. However, in 2022, the pass rate improved significantly, reaching 72.1%, a 5.4% increase compared to the previous year. The upward trend continued in 2023, with the province achieving an impressive pass rate of 79.5%, marking a 7.4% improvement from 2022. The class of 2024 contributed significantly to the province's achievement in meeting and exceeding the LDP target of 80.01% of matric pass rate.

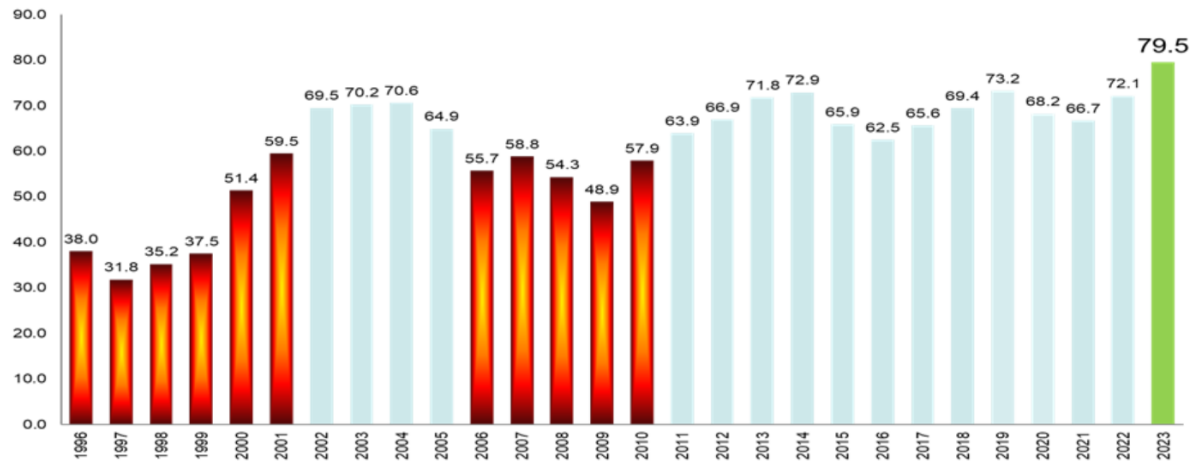


Figure 45: Matric pass rate trend analysis 2020-2023

8.1.2 Learner Migration

Limpopo Province, being predominantly rural, is impacted by both internal and external learner migration. Internally, learners move from rural villages to urban and suburban areas. Externally, its proximity to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana drives a growing influx of learners seeking education in South Africa. Currently, immigrant learners account for 1% of the total enrolment, with 18033 learners out of 1,827,906 being from neighbouring countries.

8.1.3 Undocumented Learners

The Limpopo Department of Education is currently facing a significant challenge with a high number of undocumented learners, which impacts school management and the overall quality of education. This issue complicates resource allocation, learner tracking, and effective educational interventions. Across the province, 4% of the total learner population is undocumented, with certain districts experiencing higher rates. Mopani East and Vhembe East have the highest percentages of undocumented learners at 6% which is 2% above the provincial average. Districts such as Capricorn North, Sekhukhune East, and Sekhukhune South each reported 2%. The following chart shows statistics of undocumented learners against the learner enrolment in Limpopo schools (*both public and independent*):



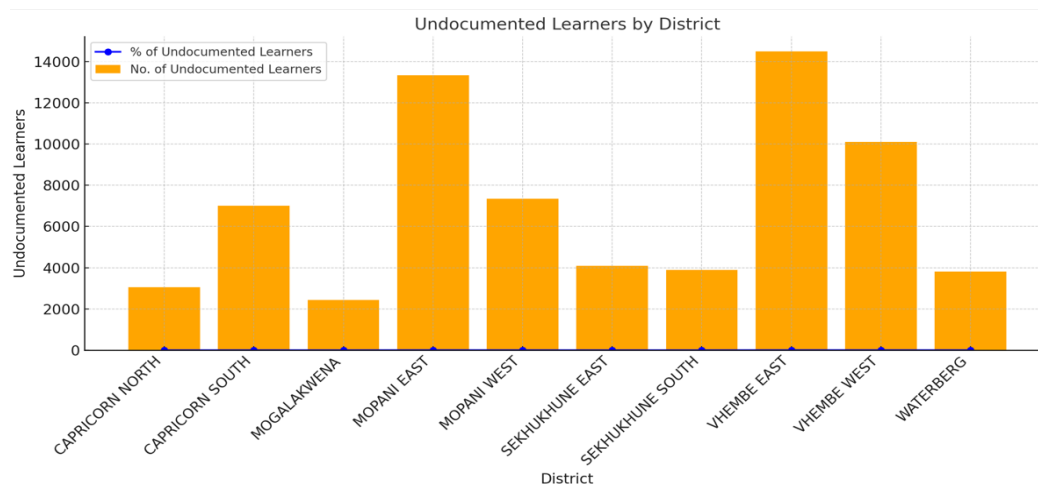


Figure 46: Undocumented learners by Districts

8.1.4 Merging of small non-viable schools

The Department has, over the years implemented Section 12A and 33 of the South African Schools Act, 1996 regarding the merger and closure of non-viable schools. In Limpopo, a total of 23 schools were merged across various education districts and local municipalities, reflecting efforts to consolidate resources and improve efficiency. In Capricorn North, one (1) school was merged in the Blouberg municipality, while in Capricorn South, three (3) schools were merged in Polokwane. Mogalakwena district saw two (2) schools merged within the Mogalakwena municipality. Mopani East experienced a merge involving one (1) school in Greater Giyani and two (2) in Greater Letaba. Sekhukhune South had the highest number of merged schools, with one (1) in Ephraim Mogale, five (5) in Elias Motsoaledi, and one (1) in Makhuduthamaga. Vhembe East merged two (2) schools and Vhembe West also saw two (2) schools merged. In Waterberg, the mergers were distributed across three municipalities: Modimolle, Lephalale, and Thabazimbi, with one (1) school merged in each. These mergers aimed to optimize school distribution across municipalities while addressing local educational needs.

8.1.5 Access to Early Childhood Development (ECD): 0–4-year-olds

Several milestones were achieved by the Department since the finalisation of the function shift from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education and by extension, to the Limpopo Department of Education. One of the milestones was the successful completion of a low-cost ECD centre at Masisi village with the capacity to accommodate 160 children. The National Integrated Early Childhood Development Policy was implemented by the Department during the financial year 2023/24 and a total number of 138 226 children accessed registered ECD programmes. The Department has funded 2100 ECD centres and 5 mobiles across the province, benefiting a total of 105 849 children. The Department also conducted training for ECD practitioners in partnership with Feed, Uplift, Educate, Love (FUEL). A total of 100 new ECD centres were targeted to be registered and 106 new ECD centres have been registered. The Department also completed the renovations of 54 ECD Centres that benefitted from maintenance improvements and upgrades.

8.1.6 School Safety

Various forms of school safety challenges have been identified in schools. The challenges range from bullying to substance abuse. These challenges rob learners of a safe environment required for effective learning. School Safety Programmes will be strengthened, and their implementation



fast-tracked in collaboration with SAPS. Building the capacity of relevant officials, SGBs and relevant partners so that schools can be supported well in dealing with the challenges. Governance officials and Circuit Managers were trained on the Drug Testing Procedures. The learners who use drugs will be tested using urine and saliva tests which will enable the department and schools to impose appropriate sanction and remedial actions.

8.1.7 Integrating ICT in teaching and learning

The department's current ICT infrastructure is insufficient to meet the evolving needs of modern teaching and learning and implementing differentiated learner programs and integrating digital technologies into teaching practices, a robust and future-proof ICT framework is essential. The department has introduced the following programmes:

a) E-Education Initiative: This initiative is heavily reliant on internet connectivity, particularly broadband access. Prioritizing broadband connectivity and utilizing schools as connection hubs would not only benefit educational institutions but also nearby communities and businesses. Secure and fast internet access has the potential to link local markets to international ones, thereby expanding economic opportunities. In this regard, the Department had previously engaged with SENTECH to provide broadband and satellite connectivity in the Sekhukhune East area, but this project was delayed due to budgetary constraints. The mining sector, through the Impact Catalyst initiative, is now rolling out internet connectivity in their areas of operation and has expressed interest in partnering with the Department to extend this service to more schools. This collaboration, facilitated through a co-funding process, would expedite the provision of affordable internet access to schools.

b) Provision of Tablets and Laptops: The Department is currently rolling out the provision of tablets and laptops to schools, exploring the possibility of adopting the model implemented by Ceibal in Uruguay. As part of this initiative, the Department aims to utilize local service providers for the supply and maintenance of these devices, thereby creating employment and skill development opportunities for unemployed ICT graduates. This approach not only supports education but also contributes to local economic development. The Department is actively engaging with the national Department of Basic Education (DBE) and Ceibal to gather further information on the feasibility of this model for the province.

c) Science and discovery centre

The Limpopo Department of Education has initiated several key projects aimed at enhancing economic growth within the province, one of the most significant being the development of a Science and Technology Discovery Centre. This initiative is poised to become a cornerstone for STEM education, fostering skills development in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The centre is earmarked to be a World-Class, High-Tech Science and Technology Discovery Centre. This represents a transformative opportunity to elevate STEM education within the province, making STEM subjects more appealing to learners from Grade R to 12. This will increase the intake and uptake of STEM education in the province.

8.1.8 School Infrastructure Building Programmes

The Department is spearheading extensive infrastructure development programmes that are crucial for both improving education and stimulating provincial economic growth. These initiatives, which include the provision of water and sanitation, the construction of additional classrooms, and



the upgrading of existing facilities, are designed to meet school-level needs while contributing to the local construction and service industries.

Over the past five years, the province made significant strides in improving the quality of education infrastructure across the province. A total of 494 additional classrooms have been delivered in existing public schools, enhancing teaching and learning environments for thousands of learners. Concurrently, the province prioritized the dignity and well-being of learners by expediting the provision of adequate sanitation facilities and access to clean water in schools.

a) School Sanitation Overview

Following the conclusion of the Komape case on 17 September 2021, the Limpopo Department of Education, developed a comprehensive plan aimed at eradicating pit latrines in schools and improving overall school sanitation. Schools were categorized into three priorities based on the condition of their sanitation facilities as follows:

- Priority 1: Schools with inappropriate sanitation, that is, using only pit latrines
- Priority 2: Schools with decent but non-compliant sanitation and still have some pit latrines that should be demolished
- Priority 3: Schools with compliant sanitation but in need of infrastructure maintenance

8.1.9 Post-school and skills gaps

Limpopo Province offers a range of post-school institutions, including universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, which provide diverse educational opportunities for students pursuing higher education and vocational training. These institutions include the University of Limpopo, the University of Venda, the Polokwane Campus of Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), and several TVET colleges across the province. Figure 47 reflects that Limpopo's post-school education rate (14.1%) is below the national average (15.8%). There is a need to expand focus schools, TVET colleges, and universities in underserved areas. Additionally, strengthening the foundation phase and improving Grade 12 outcomes is essential to ensure that students are better prepared and able to access post-school institutions.

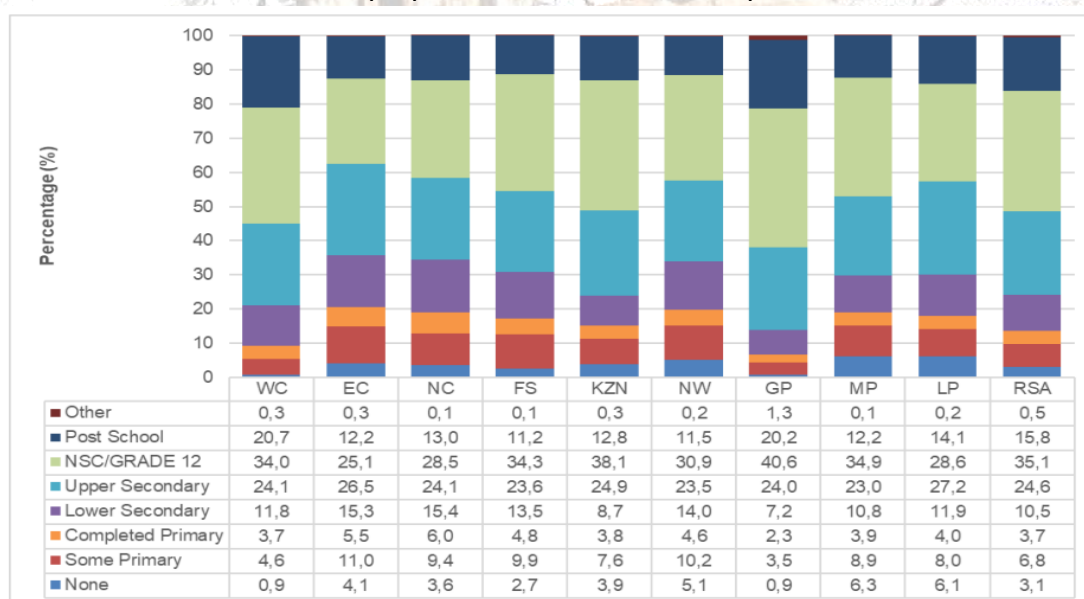


Figure 47: Education attainment for individuals aged 20 years and older by province



8.2 Health Services

8.2.1 Public Health Facilities

Capricorn district is the only district in the province that hosts two tertiary hospitals and has no regional hospital as shown in Table 15. As a result, the district hospitals within Capricorn district refer directly to the tertiary hospitals. The two tertiary hospitals further receive referrals from all regional hospitals and some district hospitals in the other four districts. Concomitantly, that leaves the tertiary hospitals overburdened leading to Capricorn district having the highest maternal mortality in the province. Central to the overburdening of tertiary hospitals is the regional and district hospitals not providing health services optimally according to their service packages due to inadequate specialists. The impending implementation of the geographic service area model and the construction of the Limpopo Central and Academic hospital will stabilise the service delivery platform and strengthen the provision health services in the province.

	Capricorn District Municipality	Mopani District Municipality	Sekhukhune District Municipality	Vhembe District Municipality	Waterberg District Municipality	Grand Total
Clinic	96	96	86	115	56	449
Community Health Centre	3	8	3	8	3	25
District Hospital	6	6	5	6	7	30
EMS Station	12	10	13	10	12	57
Provincial Tertiary Hospital	2	0	0	0	0	2
Regional Hospital	0	1	2	1	1	5
Specialised Hospital	1	1	0	1	1	4
Grand Total	123	123	109	141	84	580

Table 15: District distribution of health facilities

While Sekhukhune, Waterberg and Capricorn districts have the lowest number of Community Health Centres (CHCs), Capricorn district is worst affected given that it has the second largest population size. However, some PHC clinics (e.g. Evelyn Lekganyane Clinic) are functioning at the level of a CHC. Regarding health infrastructure, the department is currently focused on maintenance and repurposing the old primary healthcare facilities including some CHCs to ensure compliance with ideal clinic status, rather than planning to construct new PHC facilities. In the future, the implementation of the NHI will explore contracting of private multidisciplinary practices to service areas that qualify for a physical facility in relation to distance and population.

The department currently utilises mobile outreach services to service under-served areas by visiting almost 2000 service points every week to deliver primary healthcare services in pursuit of universal health coverage. To collaborate with communities, the Department extends health services to the household level to deliver health education, health promotion and targeted tracing of defaulters through over 7000 Community Health Workers (CHWs) attached to various PHC facilities.



8.2.2 Ideal Clinic Status

An Ideal Health Facility (IHF) is a health facility that provides good clinical care to the healthcare service users it serves. It provides the users with a good experience of care through its good infrastructure, adequate staff, adequate medicine and supplies, good administrative processes, and adequate bulk supplies. The National Operation Phakisa that was launched in 2014 sought to ensure that PHC facilities in the country obtain ideal clinic status in preparation for accreditation by the Office of Health Standards Compliance which conducts inspections and certifies facilities as ready for contracting with the National Health Insurance (NHI) fund.

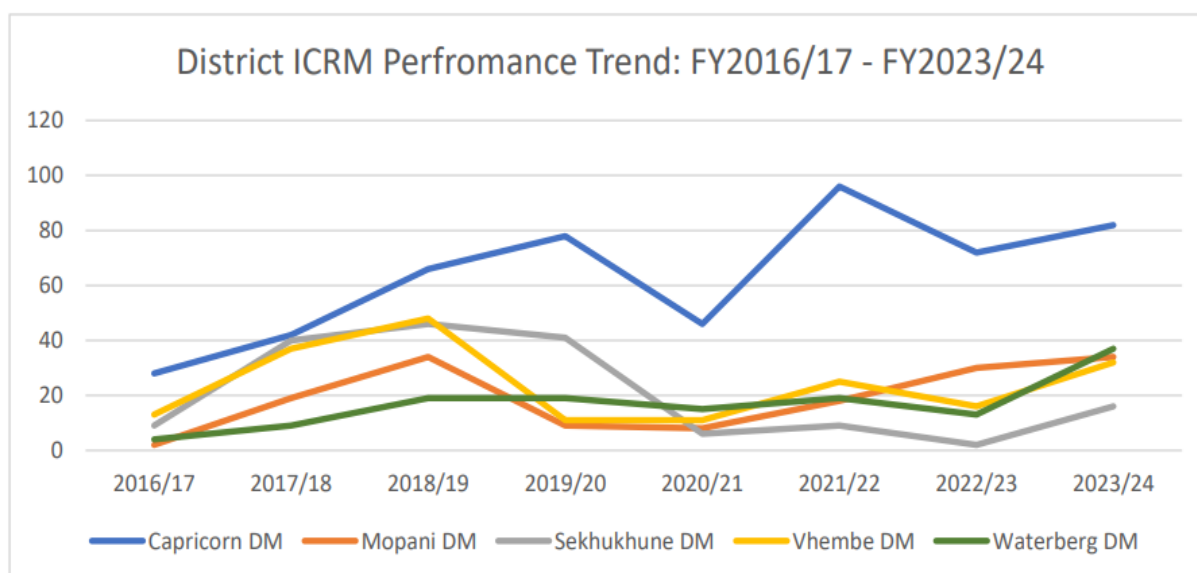


Figure 48: District ICRM Performance Trends: FY2016/17- FY2023/24

In the province, the Ideal Clinic Realization and Maintenance (ICRM) performance was on a steady incline between the start of the programme in 2014/2015 until 2017/2018, the decline started when the focus was turned to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the pandemic years, performance has fluctuated, showing signs of improvement from 136 (28%) in 2022/23 to 201 (41%) PHC facilities in the 2023/24 financial year obtaining Ideal status.

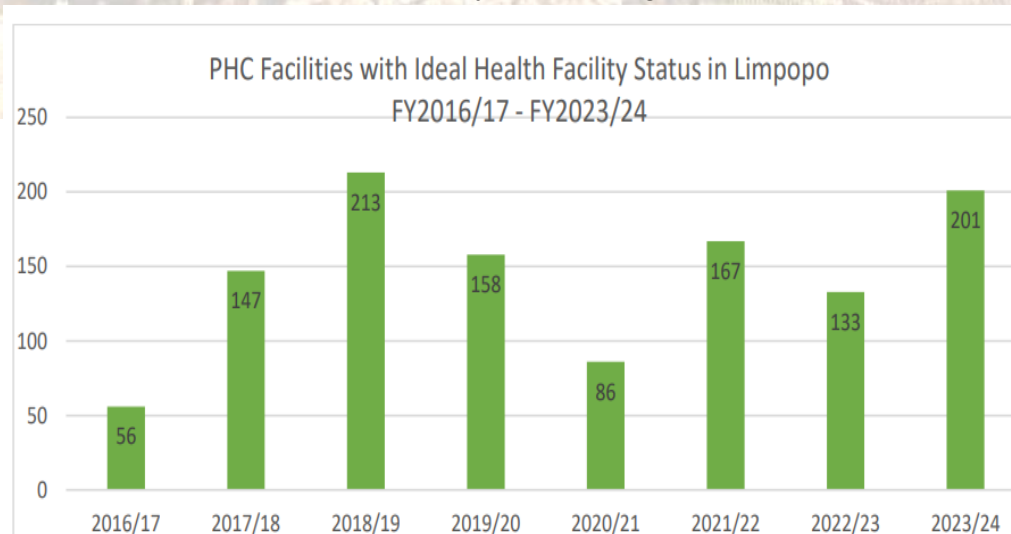


Figure 49: PHC facilities with Ideal Health Facility Status in Limpopo



The factors that contribute to fluctuation of the ideal clinic status by facilities include amongst others shortage of vital equipment and medicines for the emergency trolley, specifically the non-negotiable vitals, due to local and international supply chain disruptions and some infrastructure maintenance issues. The implementation of the Geographic Service Area (GSA) model in the province, implementation of quality improvement plans and training of operational managers and staff on quality improvement methodologies has yielded positive results as evidenced by the significant increase in the number of ideal health facilities in the 2023/2024 financial year across all districts.

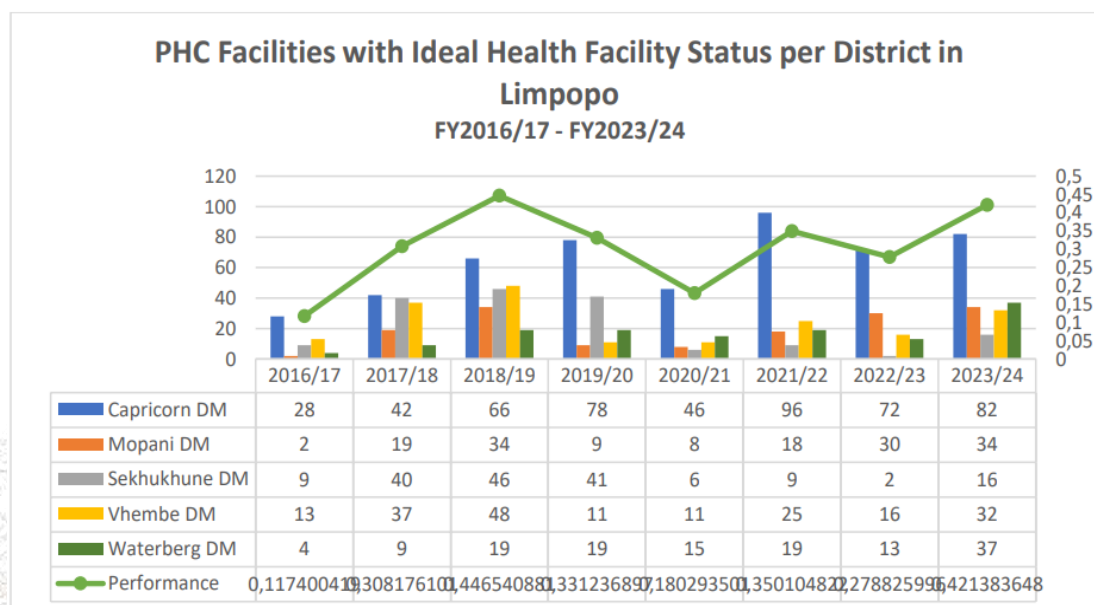


Figure 50: PHC facilities with Ideal Health Facility Status per District in Limpopo: FY2026/17-FY2023/24

8.2.3 NHI Readiness and Compliance

As at October 2024, the province had 53% of facilities that were inspected by the OHSC and certified as compliant as shown in Table 16. To continue to improve on the OHSC compliance status, implementation of the geographic service area model with hospital technical services assisting feeder PHC facilities with maintenance projects, capacitation and support of facility managers and an increase in the infrastructure budget to ensure that facilities meet the minimum requirements for contracting with the National Health Insurance (NHI) Fund.

District	PHC facilities inspected	PHCs facilities Compliant	PHC Compliance Rate
Vhembe	86	39	45%
Capricorn	89	79	88.7%
Waterberg	52	27	51.9%
Mopani	105	17	16.35%
Sekhukhune	61	50	81.96%
TOTAL	399	212	53.1%

Table 16: PHC facilities compliant to OHSC norms and standards, Oct 2024



Although not all hospitals were inspected, the quality improvement plans from inspected hospitals are used to get all hospital ready for the next OHSC inspection. Of the 23 hospitals inspected, five (5) were found to be compliant. The low compliance rate is reflective of the dilapidated state of the facilities as most findings relate to inadequate infrastructure and some deficiencies in the leadership and governance in terms of management systems and processes.

District	Hospitals inspected	Hospitals with compliant Status	Hospital Compliance rate
Vhembe	3	0	0%
Capricorn	6	2	33.3%
Waterberg	4	1	25%
Mopani	7	0	0%
Sekhukhune	3	2	66.6%
TOTAL	23	5	21.7%

Table 17: Hospital compliance rate to OHSC norms and standards, Oct 2024

The Department will strengthen regular self and peer assessments as per the Ideal Clinic Realization and Maintenance and Ideal Hospital Framework, lobby for more infrastructure funding for maintenance of facilities through the geographic services area model and train managers and staff on the achieving and maintaining the expected standards.

8.2.4 Epidemiology and Quadruple Burden of Disease

Epidemiologically South Africa is confronted with a quadruple Burden of Disease (BOD) because of HIV and TB high maternal and child morbidity and mortality, rising non-communicable diseases and high levels of violence and trauma. Despite the quadruple BOD, the realisation of the increased life expectancy is vital towards achieving SDGs.

a) Life expectancy

The 2024 Mid-Year Population Estimates report indicates that the total life expectancy at birth for 2024 for South Africa is estimated at 66.5 years. When broken down by gender, life expectancy is 63.6 years for males and 69.2 years for females, with the difference between females and males standing at 5.3 years. These figures indicate a positive trend in the province's overall health outcomes, with Limpopo having the third highest life expectancy of all provinces.

The Limpopo Department of Health envisages the achievement of a life expectancy of 70 years by 2030 for both males and females in alignment with the NDP and LDP as possible. Changes in the health-seeking behaviour, and interventions such as Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT), vaccination, and improved access to Antiretroviral Treatment (ART), have seen the life expectancy in the province improving steadily post the 2002 – 2006 impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic.



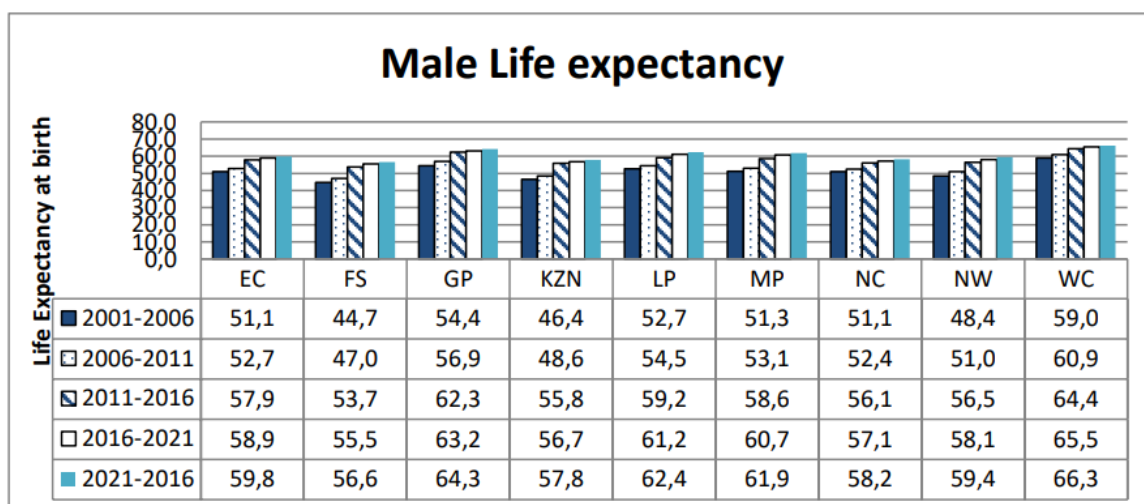


Figure 51: Male life expectancy 2001-2026, Mid-year population estimates 2022

Recent challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and a rise in incidence and deaths from non-communicable diseases are likely to slow the progress towards the average life expectancy of 70 years.

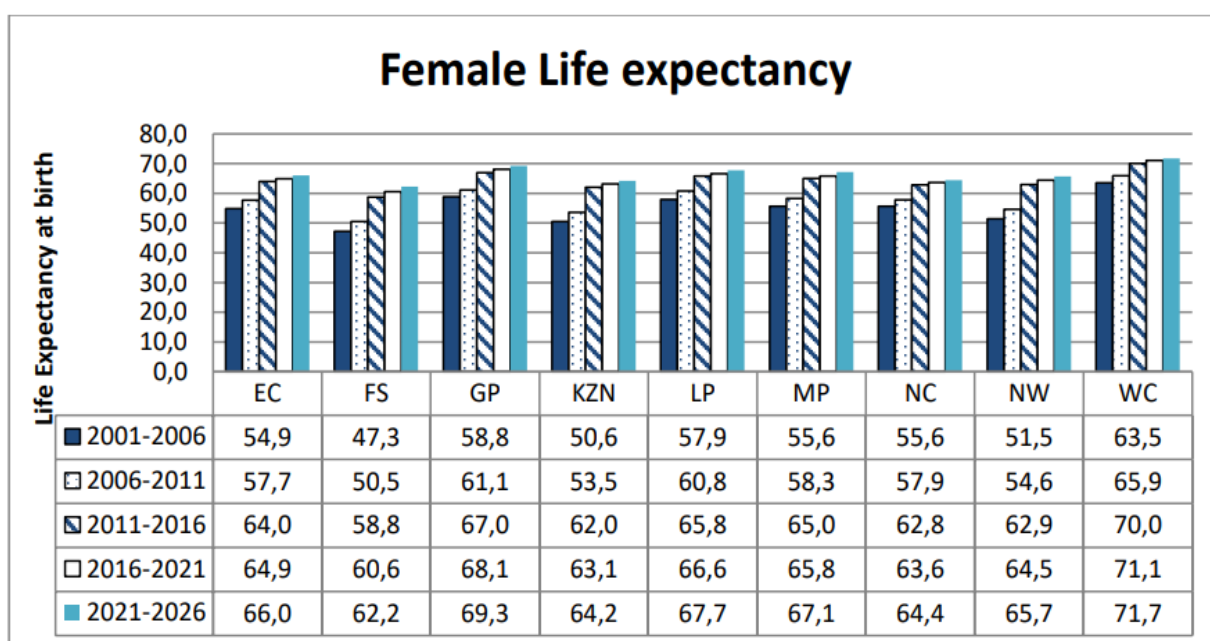


Figure 52: Female life expectancy 2001-2026, Mid-year population estimates 2022

b) Leading causes of death

The trend analysis of the 2018 and 2024 StatsSA report on mortality and causes of death in South Africa, show that although influenza and pneumonia, and tuberculosis remain important causes of death in the province, non-communicable diseases are also high in the hierarchy of leading causes of deaths in all age categories. It is still a concern that deaths from treatable opportunistic diseases (TB, Pneumonia and intestinal infectious diseases) still feature prominently in the top ten leading causes of death. This underscores the need to strengthen integrated healthcare to effectively address both communicable and non-communicable diseases.



In the 2020 mortality data, diabetes mellitus remained the leading cause of death in the province, accounting for 7.2% of all registered deaths. Table 18 below presents a detailed breakdown of the causes of death for all registered deaths that occurred in 2020, as reported by Stats SA on April 30, 2024. Non-communicable diseases: Diabetes, Hypertension, Cardiovascular diseases and Ischaemic heart diseases now claim the most lives across all age categories in Limpopo Province. This highlights a persistent challenge in managing lifestyle diseases and the need for intersectoral collaboration in addressing these conditions.

Causes of death (based on ICD-10)	Western Cape			Eastern Cape			Northern Cape			Free State			KwaZulu-Natal			North West			Gauteng			Mpumalanga			Limpopo		
	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%	Ra nk	No.	%
Covid-19 (U071-U072)	1	6 209	11,2	1	7 324	9,4	5	772	5,2	1	2 167	6,8	2	6 107	6,5	9	1 019	3,3	1	7 575	7,0	10	749	2,5	...	...	...
Diabetes mellitus (E10-E14)	2	4 241	7,6	2	5 683	7,3	4	790	5,3	3	1 980	6,2	1	6 968	7,4	2	1 685	5,5	2	5 525	5,1	1	1 970	6,6	1	3 220	7,2
Ischaemic heart diseases (I20-I25)	3	3 794	6,8	...	...	...	8	526	3,5	10	769	2,4	8	2 936	3,1	10	609	2,0	6	3 847	3,5	8	1 077	3,6	...	...	...
Cerebrovascular diseases (I60-I69)	4	3 224	5,8	5	4 137	5,3	3	857	5,7	4	1 777	5,6	3	5 709	6,0	3	1 506	4,9	3	5 141	4,7	2	1 772	5,9	2	2 909	6,5
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease (B20-B24)	5	2 909	5,2	6	3 446	4,4	2	869	5,8	5	1 712	5,4	6	3 760	4,0	7	1 189	3,9	9	2 566	2,4	6	1 208	4,0	6	1 701	3,8
Hypertensive diseases (I10-I15)	6	2 645	4,8	3	4 670	6,0	1	923	6,2	2	2 151	6,8	5	4 040	4,3	1	1 990	6,5	5	4 366	4,0	4	1 473	4,9	4	2 550	5,7
Malignant neoplasms of digestive organs (C15-C26)	7	2 086	3,7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis (A15-A19)	8	1 885	3,4	4	4 149	5,3	6	723	4,8	8	1 135	3,6	4	4 206	4,4	4	1 447	4,7	8	3 064	2,8	5	1 306	4,4	5	1 812	4,1
Malignant neoplasms of respiratory and intrathoracic organs (C30-C39)	9	1 849	3,3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chronic lower respiratory diseases (J40-J47)	10	1 756	3,2	8	2 358	3,0	9	453	3,0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza and pneumonia (J09-J18)	...	...	...	7	2 839	3,6	7	626	4,2	6	1 689	5,3	7	3 113	3,3	5	1 367	4,5	4	4 516	4,1	3	1 596	5,3	3	2 809	6,3
Other forms of heart disease (I30-I52)	...	...	...	9	2 048	2,6	...	...	...	7	1 258	4,0	9	2 887	3,1	8	1 052	3,4	7	3 715	3,4	9	1 016	3,4	8	1 247	2,8
Other viral diseases (B25-B34)	...	...	...	10	1 762	2,3	10	440	2,9	9	932	2,9	10	2 353	2,5	6	1 196	3,9	10	2 556	2,3	7	1 081	3,6	7	1 603	3,6
Renal failure (N17-N19)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	999	2,2
Intestinal infectious diseases (A00-A09)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	894	2,0
Other Natural	...	19 164	33,9	...	32 568	41,7	...	6 784	45,3	...	13 596	42,8	...	41 886	44,3	...	14 826	48,9	...	55 338	50,8	...	13 721	45,9	...	21 200	47,7
Non-natural	...	5 867	10,5	...	7 057	9,0	...	1 199	8,0	...	2 635	8,3	...	10 617	11,2	...	2 559	8,4	...	10 722	9,8	...	2 896	9,7	...	3 471	7,8
All causes	...	55 644	100,0	...	78 041	100,0	...	14 962	100,0	...	31 801	100,0	...	94 582	100,0	...	30 545	100,0	...	108 931	100,0	...	29 865	100,0	...	44 415	100,0

* Including deaths due to MDR-TB and XDR-TB.

Table 18: Ten leading causes of death per province, Stats SA 2024

c) Individuals who were members of medical schemes

According to the General Households Survey (2023) the national average for individuals who were members of medical schemes in 2022 was 15.8%. Limpopo Province consistently has the lowest medical aid coverage, at 7.8% in 2020, 8.2% in 2021 and 8.9% in 2022, signifying that more than 90% of the citizens rely on the public health sector for healthcare services. This overwhelms an already constrained health system.

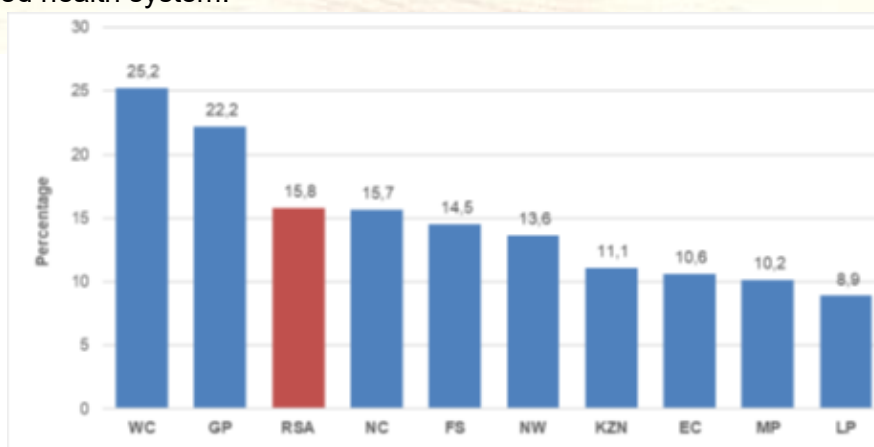


Figure 53: Medical Aid coverage per province, GHS 2022

8.2.5 Opportunities for 4IR Solutions in health

The following opportunities have been identified for 4IR technology in the health sector of the Limpopo Province:

a) **Pharmaceutical:**

- Stock management, from stock monitoring, supply chain and stock ordering at all levels of care
- Automation of dispensing in health and non-health facilities through the Centralised Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) or Dablap Meds initiatives

b) **Diagnostics:**

- Rapid screening, testing and diagnosis in the community for communicable and NCDs
- Radiology: Remote X-ray, Mammogram and scanning services with central reporting

c) **Educational programmes for NCDs and communicable:**

- Using Apps, e.g. mom-connect system, malaria connect, etc.
- Optimising social media and electronic platforms for health education, through information posters/flyers

d) **Service delivery:**

- Electronic Health Records: and scanning and archiving of old records and gradual digital migration
- Optimise use of Health Patient Registration System across all facilities

8.2.6 Major Health intervention areas

The following capital infrastructure projects are underway in the Department though funded by the NDOH.

- a) **The Limpopo Central and Academic Hospital (LCAH)** is a 488-bed central hospital currently under construction in Polokwane, near the Peter Mokaba stadium. Construction commenced in May 2023, and progress is at 24% construction as at 5 January 2025. The project will benefit 54 SMMEs and has created 659 employment opportunities since it started. The projected project completion date is May 2028.

The hospital will improve the post-graduate training platform for more medical specialists in the province and it will also serve as the major undergraduate teaching hospital for the University of Limpopo's Faculty of Health Sciences and School of Medicine. The Department has already started the production of medical specialists to work in the central hospital through registrarship with the University of Limpopo and through supernumerary posts in other provinces.

The strategic challenge is that this modern hospital will cost over R5 bn, and the biggest risk to the project during these tough economic times is sustained funding guarantee to ensure that the project is completed. Once complete, Limpopo Province will become one of the leading medical universities in the country, with reduced waiting times for cutting edge operations and no more travel to Gauteng for healthcare.



- b) Siloam hospital** is a 224-bed large district hospital funded by NDOH to the tune of R1.6bn. This hospital will replace the old and dilapidated Siloam hospital which was becoming a health hazard and maintenance burden for the Department. This replacement hospital started construction in June 2022 and is at 72% progress 5 January 2025. The projected project completion date is June 2026.

To date the project has benefitted 24 SMMEs and created 306 work opportunities. The project is also expected to improve healthcare services and improve access to quality care, thereby contributing the long and healthy life for the people in Limpopo.

- c) Elim hospital** is a very large 416-bed district hospital which will replace the old and dilapidated hospital. The design phase of the project is almost complete, with commencement of construction planned for April 2025 subject to funding approval. The construction will include staff accommodation and a gateway clinic, all to the tune of R2.67bn. Project completion is estimated to be August 2029.

To ensure the successful delivery of the new Elim Hospital, an integrated approach is being adopted to mitigate critical risks: a) sustained funding amid a challenging economic climate and b) the availability of adequate water supply. Engagements with the municipality are underway to secure reliable and dedicated water infrastructure for the hospital which is a critical service node.

- d) Tshilidzini hospital** is a 513-bed regional hospital to replace the old and dilapidated hospital which includes staff accommodation and a gateway clinic, all the value of R3.47 bn. The project design phase has been completed, and the project will be carried out in two phases. Phase One (1) (SANRAL road intersection) estimated Construction to commence in April 2025. Planned phase one completion date will be in July 2026. Phase 2 (Main Hospital) estimated construction to commence in January 2026 (pending funding approval by national treasury) with a projected project completion date estimate of May 2031. The project will require sustained funding to progress smoothly and improve access to quality healthcare services in the Thulamela area.

8.3 Social Development

8.3.1 Poverty levels

South Africa's national poverty lines for 2024 provided a critical framework for assessing poverty levels and trends in the country. The Food Poverty Line (FPL) is set at R760 per person per month, representing the minimum amount required to meet daily energy intake needs. The Lower-Bound Poverty Line (LBPL) is R1,058 per person per month, encompassing the FPL plus essential non-food items, reflecting the spending of households whose total expenditures match the FPL. The Upper-Bound Poverty Line (UBPL), at R1,558 per person per month, includes the FPL along with the average non-food expenditures of households allocating an amount equivalent to the FPL on food. These benchmarks are instrumental in evaluating and addressing poverty in South Africa.



The LDP 2020-2025 targeted that the share of people living under Lower-bound poverty line should fall to 20% by 2025. The share of lower poverty levels in the province showed a slight improvement between 2020 and 2023 from 57.1% to 56.0%. Limpopo remains one of the provinces with the highest poverty rates, alongside the Eastern Cape.

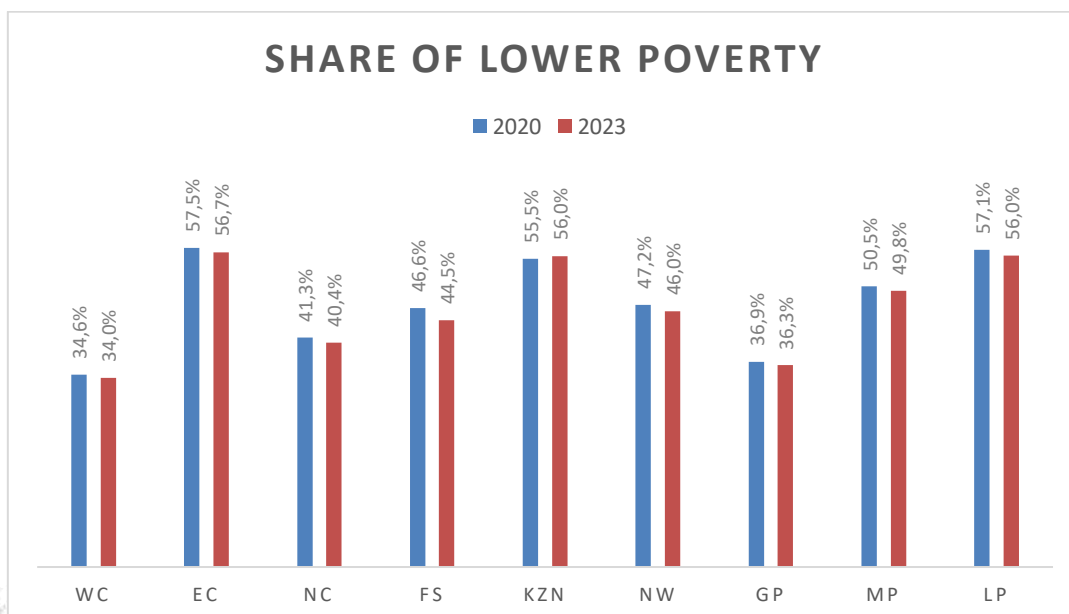


Figure 54: Share of people living under LBPL in Limpopo Province

8.3.2 Concentration of vulnerable people living in poverty

The highest concentration of vulnerable people living in poverty, in terms of numbers, is found in the following municipalities: Polokwane (361,638), Fetakgomo-Tubatse (240,591), Thulamela (265,324), Makhado (219,430), and Greater Tzaneen (211,413). Child-headed households are predominantly concentrated in rural areas, particularly in Collins Chabane and Greater Giyani.

In 2022 GHS, Limpopo (503,278), KwaZulu-Natal (867,440), and the Eastern Cape (598,704) recorded the highest numbers of illiterate adults in South Africa. The eleven local municipalities with the highest functional illiteracy rates in Limpopo are located in areas with limited access to services, particularly education facilities.

Poverty, poor service levels, and adult illiteracy are deeply interconnected issues that reinforce one another, perpetuating a cycle of socio-economic disadvantage. Figure 55 below provides an analysis of poverty and its related components. Targeted initiatives to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods are essential in the province. These should include improving access to basic services, implementing the indigent policy effectively, and ensuring the successful execution of poverty alleviation programs.



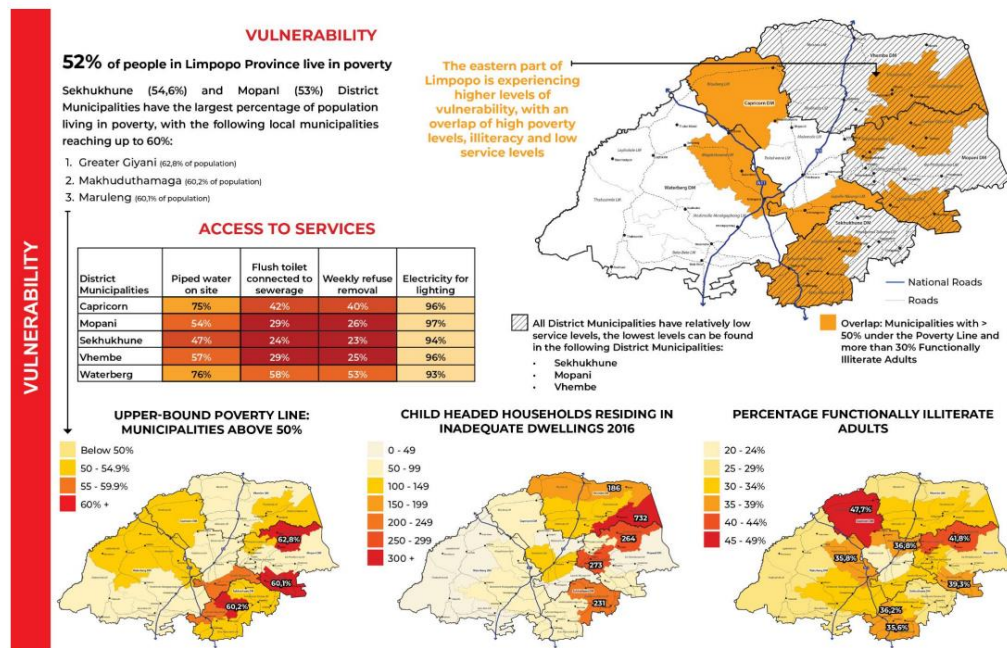


Figure 55: Analysis of poverty and its related components, LSDF 2025

The province will measure poverty rate as a percentage of the total population. This indicator measures the proportion of the population living below the lower bound (food) poverty line, defined internationally as households earning less than USD 2.24 per day, adjusted to the prevailing exchange rate. By tracking this outcome, the province can monitor progress in reducing extreme poverty and improving living standards. Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) will serve as the primary source for this data, providing reliable and standardized poverty metrics.

8.3.3 Poverty Alleviation initiatives

Poverty alleviation in Limpopo requires a coordinated approach involving multiple departments. Each plays a unique role in addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty, from social assistance and education to infrastructure development and economic empowerment. For maximum impact, these departments should work collaboratively, ensuring alignment with provincial and national development plans.

8.4 Inequality

Inequality in the province remains a critical socio-economic challenge, reflecting disparities in income, access to resources, and opportunities. As one of South Africa's less urbanized and economically disadvantaged provinces, it experiences a burden of widespread poverty alongside concentrated wealth in specific sectors, such as mining and agriculture. Rural communities constitute a significant portion of the population, often face limited access to quality education, healthcare, and infrastructure, which exacerbates inequality.

The income inequality in the province measured by Gini-Coefficient is at 0,57 in 2023 compared to 0,61 in 2020. Limpopo remains one of the economically vulnerable provinces, requiring sustained efforts to ensure that these gains are consolidated and expanded.



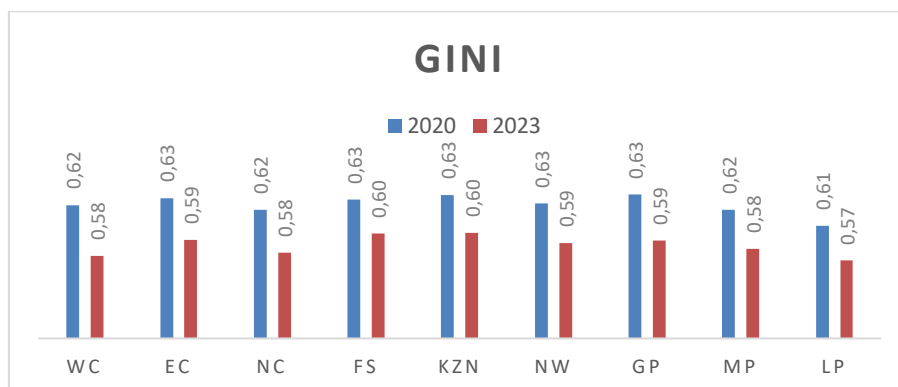


Figure 56: Gini-Coefficient, 2023 compared to 2020

While government social grants and public investment in services have contributed to some reductions in extreme poverty, the gap between the wealthy and the poor persists. Structural factors, such as a lack of industrial diversification and limited employment opportunities outside of the informal sector, perpetuate economic divides. Addressing inequality in Limpopo will require targeted strategies, including investment in education, skills development, and infrastructure in rural areas, as well as policies that promote equitable economic growth and job creation across the province.

8.5 Social security

In GHS 2023, the proportion of individuals and households benefiting from social grants slightly shifted compared to 2022. The percentage of individuals receiving social grants increased marginally from 49.1% in 2022 to 50.4% in 2023, reflecting a growing reliance on social assistance. Conversely, the percentage of households benefiting from social grants decreased from 61.6% in 2022 to 60.7% in 2023, indicating a slight reduction in household-level dependency. This trend highlights a nuanced dynamic where more individuals are accessing grants, but at the household level, the overall reliance has slightly decreased, potentially reflecting shifts in household composition or eligibility criteria. Figure 57 shows individuals and households benefiting from social grants by province, 2023.

Additionally, the Special Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress grant of R350 per month was introduced in 2020 in an attempt to offset the impact of COVID-19. Since then, the percentage of individuals in the age group 18– 59 years who received the grant in South Africa has increased from 5,3% in 2020 to 12,4% in 2023 and the highest uptake was observed in Limpopo and North West (both 17,8%).

The relationship between high levels of poverty and social assistance programs is evident through the uptake of the Special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) grant.

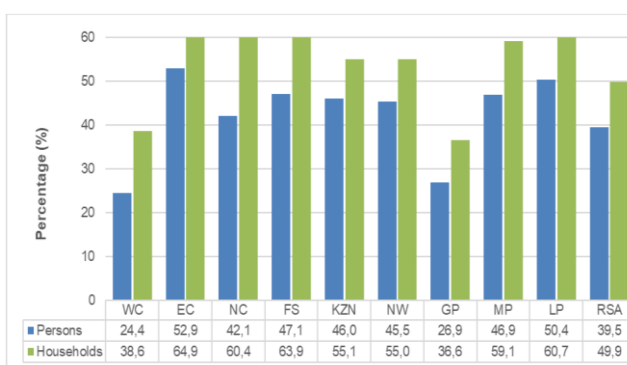


Figure 57: Individuals and households benefiting from social grants by province, 2023



9 SAFETY AND SECURITY

9.1 Crime Prevention and safer communities

The NDP envisions that by 2030, South Africans will feel safe at home, school, and work, enjoying community life without fear. Women will walk freely, and children will play safely outdoors. To achieve this vision, the LDP 2020–2025 focused on strengthening crime prevention and social cohesion, maintaining zero tolerance for serious crimes, sexual offenses, fraud, and corruption. It also aims to restore citizens' confidence in the criminal justice system by holding perpetrators accountable and protecting law-abiding citizens.

Central to the provincial strategic response was the implementation of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy. This strategy emphasizes a comprehensive, multifaceted approach, focusing on effective criminal justice, early intervention measures, victim support services, integrated service delivery, environmental safety design, and active public participation, as outlined below:

The Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Plan is a strategic framework aimed at enhancing safety and security within the Limpopo province of South Africa. This plan aligns with national directives, particularly the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS), which was approved by the Cabinet in 2022 to serve as an implementation tool of the 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security.

9.1.1 Reducing levels of serious crime and violence

During the 6th Administration, the JCPS Cluster aimed to reduce serious crime levels by 2%. The SAPS classifies these crimes under 17 community-reported categories, including contact crime, trio crime, property-related crime, and other serious offenses including theft, commercial crime, and shoplifting. However, the province struggled to achieve this target, with a 1.8% increase in 2023/2024, contributing 6.4% nationally.

Sexual offenses remain a significant challenge, increasing by 2.6% in 2023/2024. Thohoyandou, Mankweng, and Seshego police stations rank among the top 30 nationally for rape incidents. The province recorded a 1.6% rise in rape cases and is the fifth-highest contributor nationally. Focused, multi-pronged interventions are needed to address factors driving sexual offenses in hotspot areas.

Trio crimes, including carjacking and residential and non-residential robbery, have historically risen but saw a 9.2% decline in 2023/2024, contributing to a 5.4% national reduction. This positive trend provides a foundation for future progress.

Property-related crimes peaked in 2018 but decreased by 17.62% by March 2023, with a 9.5% reduction in residential robberies in 2023/2024. Sustaining this trajectory will be vital for the 7th Administration.

Emerging crimes such as cybercrime, illegal mining, cross-border offenses, cash-in-transit heists, illegal gambling, infrastructure theft, and stock theft require strengthened priority crime committees and a multi-stakeholder approach as part of the ICVPS plan.



9.1.2 Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)

During the COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, South Africa saw a surge in Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), with an estimated 2,000 cases reported in the first week. This prompted the President to declare GBVF a second pandemic, followed by the launch of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF 2020–2030, which addresses violence against women and children across diverse groups.

Over the past five years, the province partnered with NGOs and NPOs, funding over 80 Victim Empowerment Programmes for three-year renewable periods, to provide support services for GBVF victims. However, official crime statistics (2019–2023) highlighted Thohoyandou, Mankweng, and Seshego police stations as national hotspots for sexual offenses.

To address these issues, SAPS reinstated specialised Family Violence, Child Protection, and Sexual Offenses (FCS) units and established seven Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) in hospitals across five districts. Challenges at TCCs include staff shortages (e.g., social workers, forensic nurses, psychologists), inadequate infrastructure, and reliance on temporary facilities. Additionally, the province's sexual offense conviction rate averaged 57%, below the 70% target, due to delays in forensic results, victims' memory loss, and poor investigations.

To reduce case backlogs, five sexual offense courts have been designated in Polokwane, Giyani, Morebeng, Mankweng, and Thohoyandou, with plans to expand. Strengthening the criminal justice system and improving the investigation-to-prosecution process are critical priorities for the 7th Administration.

9.1.3 Increase community involvement to build safer communities

Limpopo follows a holistic approach to fostering safer communities through integrated social crime prevention programmes, school safety initiatives, support for community structures fighting crime, rural safety programmes, modernised crime prevention methods, substance abuse campaigns and efforts to reduce road fatalities. The integrated strategy involves collaboration among government departments, NGOs, faith-based organisations and Traditional Leaders. It focuses on violence prevention for vulnerable groups, volunteerism, combating drug and substance abuse, enhancing rural safety and encouraging public participation. Key achievements include 175 crime awareness campaigns and projects such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Young Civilians on Patrol (YCOP).

The SAPS has implemented comprehensive school safety programmes to protect learners and educators from crime. These incorporate random searches, seizure operations and educational lectures and are supported by social workers and provincial police service officials to prevent student involvement in crime.

Since 1994, 110 community policing forums and 27 community safety forums have been established, strengthening community-police relations and enhancing oversight on SAPS performance. These forums are supported by capacity-building workshops, sitting allowances and provision of essential resources to sustain their operations. The Department of Transport and Community Safety (DTCS) rural safety programme, which focuses on stock theft prevention through stakeholder workshops and collaborations, has reached about 17,500 participants. The



installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras across eight towns, in partnership with municipalities and the private sector, deters crime. This initiative, with the Eyes and Ears Project, underscores the province's commitment to modernising crime prevention. Awareness campaigns targeting substance abuse, especially among school learners, have been a priority. The establishment of a treatment centre in Seshego demonstrates the commitment to supporting affected individuals and addresses the link between substance abuse and crime.

9.1.4 Reduction of road fatalities

Reducing road fatalities remains a significant challenge for the province. Over the past five years, the target was to achieve a 5% annual reduction in road fatalities, culminating in a 25% reduction by the end of 2024/25. However, by the close of 2023/24, fatalities had only decreased by 1.01% (from 1,283 to 1,270). In the past four years, the province met the 5% annual reduction target only in 2019/20 (23%) and 2020/21 (9%), highlighting the need for intensified efforts. To bring fatal road accidents to a manageable level, the visibility of traffic officers, joint operations, and road safety awareness campaigns should be significantly enhanced in the 7th Administration. Additionally, the province should prioritize building capacity and providing support to local municipalities to improve road traffic management and law enforcement within their jurisdictions.

9.1.5 Access to road traffic services

The province has made services of testing centres, testing stations and registering authorities available through local municipalities to improve community access. The partnership between DTCS and local municipalities, supported by private and government-operated service centres, ensures comprehensive service delivery. However, the predominance of private testing centres poses challenges in regulation and compliance, indicating a need for balanced public-private service provision to enhance road safety and reduce accidents. The department should strengthen its support and oversight role on the provision of driver's license and vehicle roadworthy testing by municipalities and private sector. The expansion of motor vehicle renewal services to private sector (eg. Banks) as well as the online eNatis services offered by the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) has hugely improved access to services.

9.1.6 Border Management

Limpopo is an essential juncture for the movement of goods and travellers between South Africa and neighbouring countries of Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique with nine ports of entry. Groblersbrug and Beit Bridge are commercial ports facilitating significant trade activities. However, transborder crimes, including illegal crossings, goods smuggling, vehicle theft, and illicit cigarette trafficking, are rampant, particularly to the east of Beit Bridge. These challenges are exacerbated by insufficient border security infrastructure, compounded by ongoing litigation and allegations of corruption.

In October 2023, the President launched the Border Management Authority (BMA) at Beit Bridge. This embodies a new integrated approach to border management, aiming to ensure regulated and secure movement of people and goods across South Africa's borders. This initiative should significantly mitigate current challenges and enhance both national security and regional trade efficiency. Although the function of the BMA is a national competence, it forms of the JCPS cluster in the province where update the Executive Council on the operations at various ports of entry in the province.



The vastness and stretch of the borderline provide strains and opportunities to the approach the BMA should take to effectively and efficiently manage the border working with other law-enforcement agencies. The BMA intends to explore the use of technology at the ports of entry and areas within their jurisdiction. That include the use of drones and scanners to monitor illegal movement of people and goods. To combat corruption the BMA has of late introduced bodycams as part of uniform of the border personnel.

The challenge of transborder crimes has reached an unacceptable level with residence along the Limpopo River in Vhembe District threatening to close the N1 crying about lack of tangible action by the law enforcement to deal with crime committed by illegal Zimbabwean citizens who cross the border illegally. In the next five years the SANDF, BMA, SAPS and State Security Agency needs to come up with proper intervention to address cross border crime and prevent escalation. The Department of Transport and Community Safety should coordinate such efforts and ensure that the intervention form part of the Limpopo Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Plan.

9.1.7 Social Cohesion and Nation Building

Limpopo Province prides itself with the rich cultural and heritage diversity which has led to more than four spoken indigenous languages. The province's principal languages spoken include Sepedi which is spoken by a population of 52,9%, Xitsonga at 16,9% , Tshivenda at 16,7% and 9,6% is IsiNdebele. Given the diverse languages and culture in the Province, the need to share common identity and an appreciation of the province is of pivotal importance. The diverse ethnicity groupings, culture and heritage, has a huge potential of leading towards racial division, less tolerance in different values, traditions and culture. The clarion call for promotion and fostering of social cohesion to sustain a united yet diverse Limpopo is of significance.

In the previous five years, the province adopted three (03) key focus areas of the fight against Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), promotion of non-racialism and non-tribalism and the honouring of military veterans. The province registered strides in rolling out campaigns on the fight against GBVF as a hindrance of social cohesion by implementing more than sixty – five awareness campaign using a multisectoral approach. In promoting non – racialism and non – tribalism, the province celebrated the three national days (Freedom Day, Africa Day and Heritage Day) across all districts in the five-year term. The national days brought more than 10 000 people a year in the five-year term from all diverse cultures of the province, seeking to promote social cohesion and common identity. The province has provided sport and recreation service that has inspired, united and ensured nation building and greater social cohesion that has never been in doubt. Sport and Recreation programmes have driven the province forward through pivotal moments since the dawn of democracy.

However, the challenge that is still facing the province is the inability to attract all races, i.e. the White, Indian and Coloured communities, in the celebration of the significant days and other hosted government programmes. This led to the province scoring very low in “*social relations*” and “*acceptance of diversity*” in the measurement tool of social cohesion done by the Inclusive Society Institution (2024). The study measured the social cohesion in the country and in the nine provinces. The institute used the South African Social Cohesion Index the cohesiveness of the society and the study reflected the following progress of social cohesion in Limpopo since the approval of the strategy. Below are the reflections of how the province has progress in terms of social cohesion :



Province	2021	Difference 2022 – 2021	2022	Difference 2023 – 2022	2023	Difference 2023 – 2021
Limpopo	56.8	-1.1	55.7	+2.5	58.3	+1.5
Eastern Cape	51.9	+2.4	54.3	+1.3	55.6	+3.8
Western Cape	55.5	-0.6	54.9	-0.2	54.7	-0.8
Northern Cape	59.2	-8.3	51.0	+1.6	52.5	-6.7
North West	50.8	-0.4	50.3	+1.8	52.2	+1.4
Mpumalanga	54.0	-0.9	53.1	-1.0	52.1	-1.9
South Africa	53.5	-1.2	52.4	-0.7	51.7	-1.8
Gauteng	54.1	-1.2	52.9	-2.4	50.5	-3.6
Free State	53.6	-3.6	49.9	-0.6	49.4	-4.2
KwaZulu Natal	51.2	-3.0	48.2	-2.1	46.1	-5.1

Note: The table shows the scores of the nine South African provinces on the overall social cohesion index in 2021, 2022, and 2023. It also shows changes in the overall index over time. Positive changes are highlighted in green, and negative changes are highlighted in red.

Table 19: Social cohesion index in 2021, 2022 and 2023

The table above reflects the overall social cohesion index in the nine provinces and Limpopo (58.3) emerged as a province with a high level of social cohesion which is above the country's average of 51.7%. The index was measuring the level of 'Social networks', 'Trust in people', 'Acceptance of diversity', 'Trust in institutions', 'Perception of Fairness', 'Civic Participation' and 'respect of Social rules'.

Even though the province scored high in social cohesion, the study further revealed that the scores for 'Trust in People', 'Acceptance in Diversity' and 'Social Networks' were very low as compared to other province. This implies that the province should increase the levels of social interactions amongst diverse cultures, languages and race in order to foster acceptance in diversity and developing trust across the boundaries of race and culture. This further implies that in the current five years, the Social Cohesion strategy should focus on rolling out crime and gender-based violence and femicide prevention programmes, multilingualism programmes, and social dialogues across race, gender, ethnicity and class.



10 PROVINCIAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

10.1 Integrated Government

Integrated planning forms the backbone of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) framework, ensuring seamless alignment across all stakeholders. To achieve this, the coordination of planning instruments is essential: 5-Year Strategic Plans, Annual Plans, and Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) will be developed and synchronized to implement the LDP effectively. Additionally, Sector Plans will be reviewed or developed to complement and align with LDP objectives, fostering a unified approach to development priorities.

Strategic Budgeting is critical to translating the objectives of the LDP into tangible outcomes. The successful implementation of the LDP pillars and projects depends on the development of comprehensive business plans and the allocation of adequate budgets. Budget allocations at both Provincial and Municipal levels should be guided by LDP priorities. The Office of the Premier, Provincial Treasury, Departmental Heads of Departments (HoDs), and Municipal Managers will play a pivotal role in ensuring alignment between departmental and municipal plans and the overarching goals of the LDP.

To ensure effective governance and collaboration, the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) framework will be leveraged to enhance the functionality of IGR structures. This includes facilitating coordinated decision-making, policy alignment, and strengthening intergovernmental relations to achieve smooth and efficient implementation of the LDP. By fostering synergy across all spheres of government, integrated planning, strategic budgeting, and robust governance will collectively drive the realization of Limpopo's developmental objectives.

In a quest for improved local governance, the 2019 Presidency Budget Speech ushered in the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM) to strengthen integrated planning, coordinated resource allocation, spatial targeting and transformation. District Development Forums / District Engagement Sessions and other critical district IGR structures are utilised as a vehicle to ensure that Limpopo Development Plan inform prioritization of projects by the three spheres of government in line with the IGR, Integrated Planning, and M&E Framework. The districts serve as centres of planning and, therefore, coordinate all DDM activities in their district space.

10.2 Good governance

Good governance entails a process of measuring how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption and with due regard to the rule of law.

The audit outcomes for Limpopo province reflect a positive trajectory towards improved financial management and governance. However, sustained efforts are required to address ongoing challenges, particularly in municipalities, to ensure that financial practices translate into enhanced service delivery and economic development for the province's residents.



Legend key: D = Disclaimed, Q = Qualified, UQ = Unqualified, CL = Clean

Vote No.	DEPARTMENT	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TREND	COMMENTS
1	Premier	CL	CL	CL	UQ	CL		Audit outcomes improvement
2	Provincial Legislature	CL	UQ	UQ	CL	CL		Audit outcomes unchanged
3	Education	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q		Audit outcomes unchanged
4	Agriculture & Rural Development	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ		Audit outcomes unchanged
5	Provincial Treasury	CL	CL	CL	UQ	CL		Audit outcomes improvement
6	Economic Development Environment and Tourism	UQ	CL	CL	CL	UQ		Audit outcomes regression
7	Health	UQ	Q	Q	Q	UQ		Audit outcomes improvement
8	Transport and Community Safety	CL	CL	UQ	UQ	UQ		Audit outcomes unchanged
9	Public Works , Roads & Infrastructure	UQ	UQ	UQ	Q	Q		Audit outcomes unchanged
10	Sport, Arts & Culture	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	CL		Audit outcomes improvement
11	Co-Operative Governance, Housing Settlements & Traditional Affairs	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ		Audit outcomes unchanged
12	Social Development	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	Q		Audit outcomes regression

Table 20: 5-year trend analysis of audit outcomes of Provincial Departments 2020-2024

ENTITY	PUBLIC ENTITY	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TREND	COMMENT
1	Limpopo Economic Development Group (LEDA)	UQ	Q	Q	Q	Q		Audit outcomes unchanged
2	Limpopo Tourism Agency (LTA)	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	CL		Audit outcomes improved
3	Limpopo Gambling Board (LGB)	CL	CL	CL	CL	CL		Maintained Clean Audit
4	Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL)	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ	UQ		Audit outcome unchanged
5	Gateway Airport Authority Limited (GAAL)	Q	A	Q	Q	UQ		Audit outcome improved

Table 21: 5-year trend analysis of audit outcomes of Public Entities, 2020-2024

Provincial Departments and their respective Entities develop and implement Clean Audit Action Plans which are reviewed and monitored by Provincial Treasury and Office of the Premier to address audit findings. All departments have to report on the implementation of the provincial audit improvement strategy to relevant committees quarterly. Provincial Treasury prepare a quarterly Audit Improvement Strategy progress report and present to the EXCO.

10.2.1 Anti-Fraud and Corruption

The National Development Plan (NDP) of South Africa identifies fighting fraud and corruption as a critical priority for achieving its vision of a prosperous, equitable, and inclusive society by 2030.



The NDP recognizes that corruption undermines good governance, service delivery, and economic growth, perpetuating poverty, and inequality.

To address this, the NDP outlines a comprehensive approach to combat fraud and corruption, emphasizing prevention, detection, and accountability. Key elements include strengthening institutions mandated to fight corruption, such as the police, judiciary, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and anti-corruption agencies.

Promotion of transparency and accountability that advocates for open and transparent processes in public procurement, budgeting, and governance to reduce opportunities for corruption, strengthening oversight bodies, such as the Public Protector, Auditor-General, and Parliamentary Committees, to ensure that government departments and officials are held accountable. Develop systems and processes, and robust internal controls within government and state institutions to prevent fraud and misuse of public resources. This includes improving financial management systems and reducing discretionary powers that create opportunities for corruption. Advocating for professionalizing the of public service and merit-based public service to minimize political interference and patronage. This involves appointing competent individuals based on merit, ensuring that public servants act with integrity and are held accountable for unethical behaviour.

Encouraging Citizen and Civil Society Involvement by recognising the role of citizens and civil society organizations will expose corruption. It promotes the protection of whistle-blowers and encourages a culture where individuals report fraud and unethical practices without fear of reprisal. Building a culture of integrity within both the public and private sectors. This includes promoting ethical leadership and creating awareness of the negative impact of corruption on development.

In the effort to counter the impact of Fraud and Corruption on the state and society, the Limpopo Provincial Administration implements the National Anti-Corruption strategy (2020-2030). The strategy includes amongst others promote and encourage active citizenry, whistleblowing, integrity and transparency in all spheres of society. The province developed the Limpopo Public Service Anti-Corruption Strategy in consultation with business, labour and civil society, and is be guided by the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). The fight against crime and corruption is one of the critical priorities identified by government. This is simply because crime and corruption undermine society's ability to operate fairly and efficiently, let alone the government's ability to deliver on its mandate.

As a caring Government, we will ensure that the scourge of crime and corruption will be dealt a severe blow. The province established Limpopo Anti-Corruption Forum comprising of esteemed members of communities including business, labour and faith-based organisations. The Limpopo Anti-Corruption Forum improved active citizenry in fighting corruption through advocacy programmes across all sectors of society. This initiative will stem the tide in the fight against crime and corruption. The province has a functional Vetting Field Unit (VFU) in line with the National Vetting Strategy. The VFU is a transversal intervention intended to fast-track the vetting of public servants within all provincial departments, and it augments the capacity of the State Security Agency (SSA).



10.3 Digital Transformation

The digital transformation of government services in Limpopo province presents a clear path towards building the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), fostering a thriving economy, and creating jobs. However, Limpopo currently remains at maturity level 1 of the UNDP Maturity Model (emerging information services), indicating a significant gap in progress. To date, the province has only achieved 2% of the targets it set for itself, reflecting a slow pace of implementation.

Compounding this challenge, many of the projects that are not yet due have not even commenced, raising serious concerns about their likelihood of being completed on time and, ultimately, achieved at all. This highlights an urgent need for strategic intervention, improved project management, and accelerated efforts to move the province forward on its digital transformation journey.

Some departments have robust infrastructure with limited modern technologies, while almost all others struggle with outdated equipment and inadequate security measures. The IT assessment findings reveal a common trend across departments, where many are still operating on environments that are either end of life or end of support. This trend poses significant risks to the organizations, including security vulnerabilities, lack of vendor support, and potential compliance issues, further exacerbating existing challenges such as the lack of disaster recovery plans, misuse of server rooms for storage, poor cabling organization, and inadequate air-conditioning.

In addition, networking infrastructure remains outdated, with reliance on Cat5e cabling and insufficient fibre connectivity for interbuilding communication. Compounding the issue, overextended LAN networks and inadequate Wi-Fi coverage, resulting in numerous dead zones across campuses, hamper connectivity and productivity. These findings collectively highlight the critical need for departments to prioritize upgrading or replacing outdated systems to ensure continued operational efficiency, security, and compliance with industry standards. Furthermore, they emphasize the importance of proactive IT management and regular assessments to identify and address such risks in a timely and strategic manner.

10.4 Integrated data management and geospatial decision support system

The alignment of provincial strategic planning, budgeting and public-sector infrastructure investments to clear development priorities require integration of planned infrastructure investments, and priorities on an integrated — provincial platform. The intervention to integrate infrastructure data warehouses aligns to SIP 22 that deals with Digital Infrastructure and the sub-project National Spatial Infrastructure Hub. In Limpopo Province, numerous government departments have implemented geospatial information systems (GIS). However, they frequently encounter challenges such as data silos, absence of standardisation, and limited mechanisms for data utilisation and integration within government contexts.

An integrated data management and geospatial support system is therefore recommended to coordinate and align provincial data. Some of the benefits from an integrated data management support system include:



- **Efficient resource allocation:** Integrated data management allows government to consolidate information from various sources, enabling more informed decisions regarding resource allocation, infrastructure development, and service delivery.
- **Environmental Planning and Management:** Geospatial data is instrumental in environmental planning and management, including land-use planning, conservation efforts, and monitoring of natural resources. Integrated systems enable governments to monitor environmental changes and assess their impact over time.
- **Infrastructure Planning and Development:** Geospatial data assists governments in identifying suitable locations for infrastructure development projects, such as roads, utilities, and public facilities. Integrated systems support the planning, construction, and maintenance of infrastructure networks.
- **Economic Development:** Geospatial data can inform economic development strategies by identifying areas with growth potential, supporting investment decisions, and monitoring economic trends over time.

Overall, integrated data management and geospatial decision support systems enable governments to make more informed, efficient, and effective decisions across various sectors, ultimately enhancing service delivery and improving the well-being of citizens. The geospatial decision support system should also be used as the tool for the strategic marketing of the province and the attraction of investment due to the holistic view that the system would provide investor.

10.5 Gender Mainstreaming

South Africa has made remarkable strides in promoting women's representation in leadership and decision-making roles, positioning itself as a global leader in gender parity within government. To further institutionalize gender equality, South Africa has adopted the Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Auditing (GRPBMEA) Framework. This framework serves as a vital mechanism for integrating gender considerations into public policies, financial planning, and development initiatives. It seeks to address systemic gender inequalities by ensuring that resources are allocated and utilized effectively to promote gender equality and empower women, youth, and marginalized groups. As part of these efforts, the province has included the priorities of women, youth, and persons with disabilities in the Performance Agreements of Accounting Officers in various government departments. This approach not only emphasizes the importance of inclusive planning and accountability but also strengthens the alignment of government operations with the broader goal of achieving sustainable and meaningful gender equality.



11 THE STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government plays a vital role in enhancing the social and economic conditions of communities by delivering essential services. The primary function of municipalities is to govern local areas, provide basic services to residents, and promote economic growth and sustainable development. The province consists of 27 municipalities, comprising 22 local municipalities and five district municipalities.

11.1 State of Municipal Finances

The Limpopo municipalities achieved 16 funded tabled budgets out of 27 municipalities in 2020/21 financial year, which improved to 20 funded adopted budgets in the same year, however dropped to 18 funded adjusted budgets out of 27 adjusted budgets in the same financial year. In the financial year that ended in 2021/22 the funded tabled budgets were sixteen, which improved to 19 funded adopted budgets but declined to 16 funded adjustments budgets out of 27.

The funded tabled budgets for 2022/23 financial year were 18 and remained 18 for the adopted budgets and the adjustment budgets. In 2023/24 financial year the state of funded budget declined as compared to the 2022/23 financial year to 15 funded tabled budgets, 17 funded adopted and adjustment budgets. The funding status of tabled budgets for 2024/25 were 16 funded tabled budgets and 17 funded adopted budgets out of 27 municipalities' budgets. Table 22 provide the detail on municipal state of budget funding.

Name of municipality	2020/21			2021/22			2022/23			2023/24			2024/25	
	Tabled budget	Adopted budget	Adjusted budget	Tabled budget	Adopted budget	Adjusted budget	Tabled budget	Adopted budget	Adjusted budget	Tabled budget	Adopted budget	Adjusted budget	Tabled budget	Adopted budget
Greater Giyani	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Greater Letaba	Unfunded	Funded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Funded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Greater Tzaneen	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Ba-Phalaborwa	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Maruleng	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Mopani	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Musina	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Thulamela	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Makhado	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Collins Chabane	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Vhembe	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Blouberg	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Molemole	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Polokwane	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Lepelle-Nkumpi	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Capricorn	Unfunded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Thabazimbi	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Lephalale	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Bela Bela	Unfunded	Funded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Funded
Mogalakwena	Unfunded	Undetermined	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Modimolle-Mookgopong	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Waterberg	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded
Ephraim Mogale	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Elias Motsoaledi	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Makhuduthamaga	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Fetakgomo-Tubatse	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded
Sekhukhune	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Unfunded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded	Funded

Table 22: 5-year Municipal state of budget funding



11.2 Municipal Audit Outcomes

The general audit outcome trend over the past five years reflects moderate stability, with most municipalities either maintaining or stagnating in their audit performance. Notably, the Capricorn District and Waterberg District have demonstrated a positive upward trajectory, consistently achieving strong audit results, including multiple Clean audits. Their most recent Clean audits in 2023/24 signal the presence of robust internal controls and effective governance frameworks, contributing significantly to their improved audit status over the five-year period. Furthermore, as illustrated in Table 23, the majority of municipalities in the province have either maintained unqualified outcomes or shown improvement, which is a promising indicator of growing commitment to good governance, accountability, and sound financial management.

Audit Outcome Trend	Audit Opinion					
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	STATUS
CAPRICORN DISTRICT						
Blouberg	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Qualified	Stagnant
Capricorn	Clean	Unqualified	Clean	Unqualified	Clean	Improved
Lepelle-Nkumpi	Unqualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Molemole	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Polokwane	Qualified	Qualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
MOPANI DISTRICT						
Ba-Phalaborwa	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Stagnant
Greater Giyani	Unqualified	Qualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Greater Letaba	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Greater Tzaneen	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Maruleng	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Mopani	Qualified	Disclaimer	Disclaimer	Qualified	Qualified	Stagnant
SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT						
Elias Motsoaledi	Qualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Regressed
Ephraim Mogale	Unqualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Fetakgomo Tubatse	Qualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Makhudutha maga	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Sekhukhune	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Stagnant
VHEMBE DISTRICT						
Collins Chabane	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Regressed
Makhado	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Musina	Unqualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained



Thulamela	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Qualified	Regressed
Vhembe	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Stagnant
WATERBERG DISTRICT						
Bela-Bela	Qualified	Disclaimer	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Stagnant
Lephalale	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Unqualified	Maintained
Modimolle-Mookgophong	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Adverse	Qualified	Improved
Mogalakwena	Adverse	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Unqualified	Improved
Waterberg District	Unqualified	Clean	Clean	Unqualified	Clean	Improved
Thabazimbi	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Qualified	Disclaimer	Regressed

Table 23: 5-year Trend of Municipal Audit Outcomes

11.3 Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) performance

The Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) is a key funding mechanism to support municipalities in delivering basic infrastructure services to households. Its primary role is to assist municipalities in achieving the constitutional objective of providing sustainable, equitable, and reliable infrastructure that improves the quality of life and supports local economic development. MIG funds are used, among others, to provide essential infrastructure such as water, sanitation, roads, and community facilities in areas in disadvantaged communities.

Figure 58 below shows the performance of municipalities regarding spending on Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) over four years. The expectation of the province is to record an expenditure of 100% in a financial year.

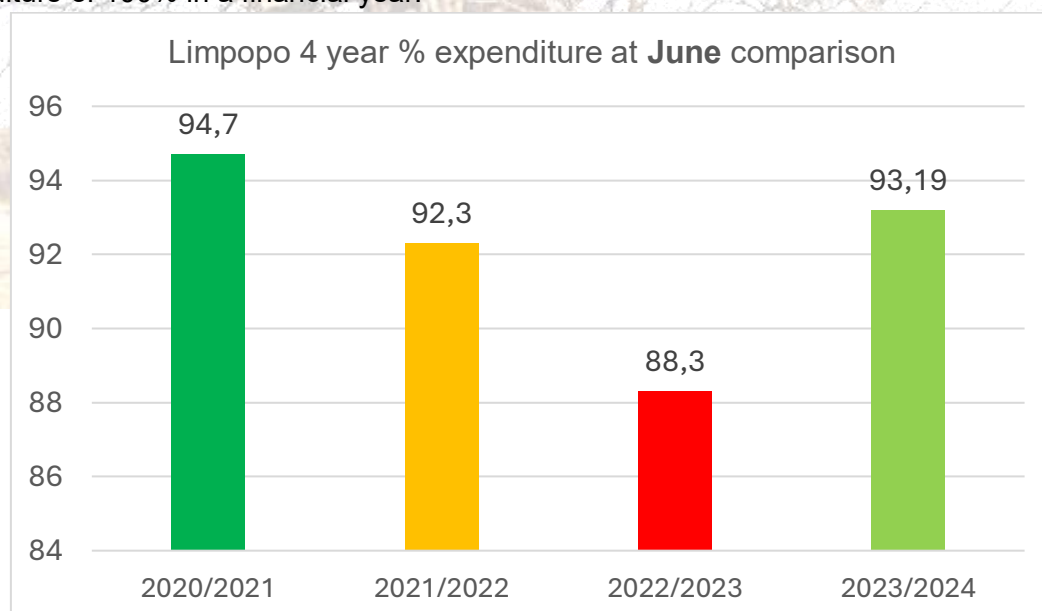


Figure 58: Municipal Infrastructure Grant (MIG) performance

The province will continue to support and oversee municipalities to ensure that conditional grants are used for their intended purposes and that expenditure aligns with the expected deliverables.

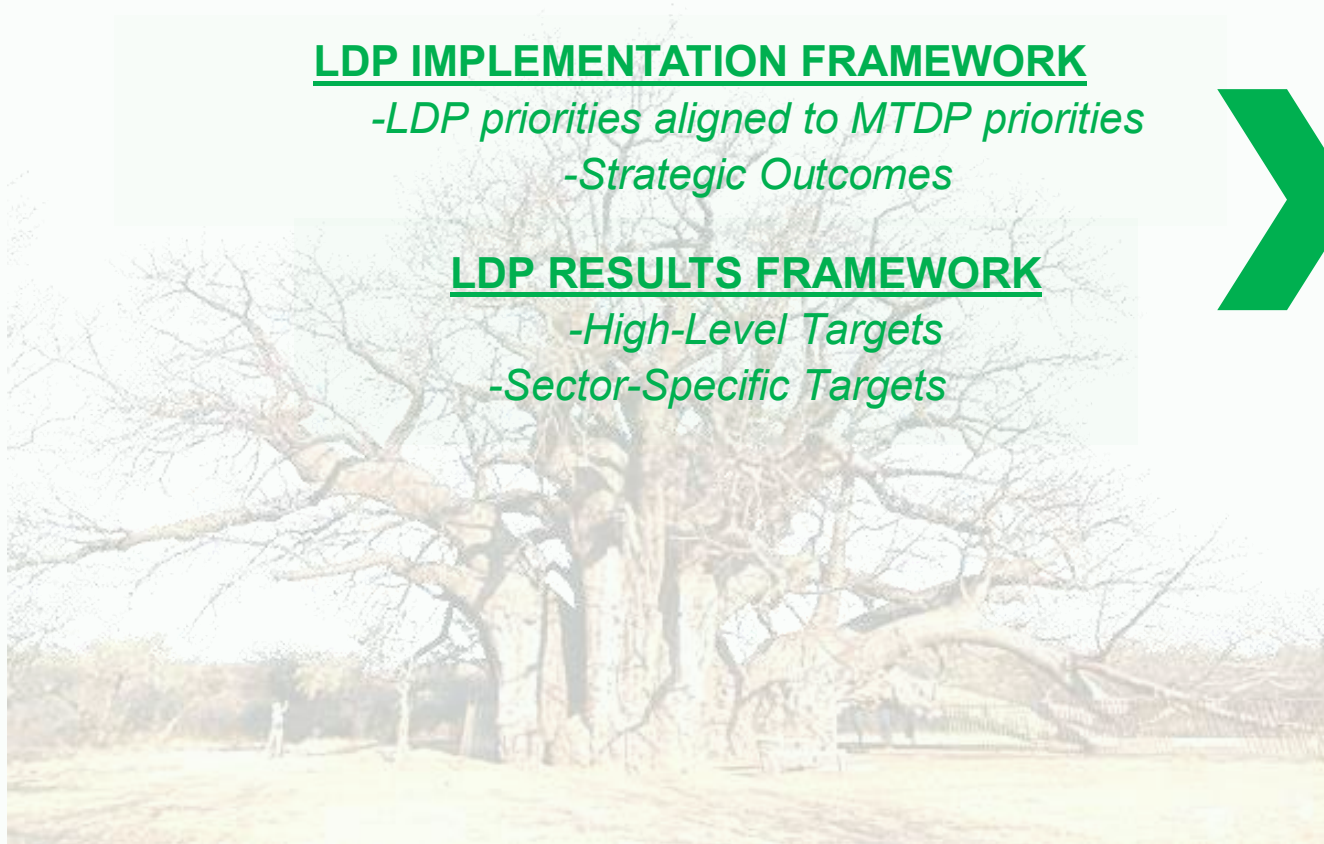


LDP IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

- LDP priorities aligned to MTDP priorities
- Strategic Outcomes

LDP RESULTS FRAMEWORK

- High-Level Targets
- Sector-Specific Targets



12 LDP IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

The LDP Implementation Framework outlines directives for executing the 7th Administration strategic priorities and desired outcomes. The aim is to coordinate, integrate and align development plans and strategies of national, provincial, and local spheres as well as strategic partners.

12.1 Alignment of national and provincial priorities

MTDP 2024-2029 – 2029 Priorities	LDP 2025 – 2030 Priorities
Priority 1: Drive inclusive growth and job creation	Transformation and modernization of the provincial economy
	Economic Transformation, Job Creation and International Cooperation
	Integrated and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure development
	Spatial transformation for integrated socio-economic development
Priority 2: Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living.	Accelerate social change and improve the quality of life of Limpopo's citizens
	Strengthen crime prevention and build safer communities
	Provision of quality education and a quality healthcare system
Priority 3: A capable, ethical and a developmental state	Transform public service for effective and efficient service delivery
	Invest in human capital for a developmental state
	Digitalization transformation to improve efficiency

12.2 LDP Strategic Outcomes

Developing clear strategic outcomes and ensuring impactful results is critical to ensuring that the province's development objectives are effectively realized. Outcomes act as the foundation for guiding planning, implementation, and monitoring, ensuring that all efforts and resource allocation align with the vision of the province.

MTDP Priority 1: Drive inclusive growth and job creation

LDP Priority: Transformation and modernization of the provincial economy

Mining Sector
Outcome: Increased Value Addition and Beneficiation of Key Mineral Resources
Increase in the volume (tons) of beneficiated minerals compared to raw exports
Outcome: Established local industries for higher value-added exports
Increase the number of operational beneficiation facilities established in the province
Outcome: Adoption of Environmentally Sustainable Mining Practices
Rehabilitate land to functional or natural ecosystems
Mining waste managed or recycled through innovative technologies
Outcome: Enhanced Social Development in Mining-Affected Areas
Alignment of Social Labour Plans with municipal development priorities



Implement Social Labour Plans for meaningful social and economic development
Agricultural Sector
Outcome: Expanded Agro-Processing Industry for High-Value produce
Increase the establishment of Agro-processing facilities for high-value produce
Increase in the value of processed agricultural products compared to raw produce
Outcome: Increased participation of smallholder and emerging farmers
Increase in agricultural produce for the market
Tourism Sector
Outcome: Increased Investment in tourism
Increase the value of contribution of the tourism sector to GDP growth
Increase the number of international and domestic tourist arrivals
Support community tourism initiatives
Establish public-private partnerships to promote tourism investment
Outcome: Strengthened destination development
Strengthen Skills Development and Training
Creative Industry Sector
Outcome: Increased access to markets through creative industry at local, national and international platform
Establish creative industry hubs
Support creative industry entrepreneurs to access markets
skill interventions in the creative industry
Conduct research in the creative industry

LDP Priority: Economic Transformation, Job Creation and International Cooperation

Outcome: Increased trade volumes and economic integration
Increase exports and integrate the economy into regional and global markets
Leverage regional cooperation to enhance trade, infrastructure, and economic development
Increase foreign and domestic investments
Support businesses in Limpopo to participate in cross-border trade
Outcome: Diversified economy
Accelerate implementation of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Programme
Develop and implement the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of Polokwane logistic Hub
Accelerate implementation of Industrial Parks
Outcome: Increased employment opportunities
Accelerate implementation of EPWP and other labour- intensive initiatives
Leverage infrastructure development to create jobs
Create work opportunities through the National Youth Service Programme
Leverage value-added agricultural initiatives for job creation
Collaborate with the private sector in creating jobs in mining, agriculture and tourism
Leverage on jobs created through creative industry programmes
Create renewable energy industries as a driver for job creation
Outcome: Inclusive growth for a just society
Increase the participation and empowerment of targeted groups in mainstream economy
Outcome: Increased Energy Security
Coordinate the implementation of energy infrastructure projects (Transmission Development Plan)
Coordinate the implementation of the Limpopo Renewable Energy Strategy
Incentivize private-sector investment in sustainable energy solutions
Develop localized energy solutions to reduce grid dependency

LDP Priority: Integrated and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure development

Outcome: Universal access to Water and Sanitation
Strengthen the capacity of Water Services Authorities to render efficient and effective water services



Finalise incomplete bulk water and sanitation infrastructure projects
Improve the safety and quality of water (green drop and blue drop)
Improve access to basic services
Improve access to water and sanitation in public schools
Improve access to water in health facilities
Strengthen Regional cooperation and collaboration on water transfer
Outcome: Improved access to economic nodes and social services
Construct and upgrade strategic roads
Facilitate the construction and upgrading of strategic rail infrastructure network
Implement maintenance programs for existing infrastructure
Build technical expertise in planning and implementing infrastructure projects
Outcome: Improved access to and utilization of ICT
Provide access to reliable internet for households
Outcome: Improved science, technology and innovation
Develop science, technology and innovation capabilities
Facilitate investment to expand broadband infrastructure
Increase training on digital skills
Strengthen research, development and innovation to improve science, technology and innovation capabilities in the province

LDP Priority: Spatial transformation for integrated socio-economic development

Outcome: Improved spatial planning and land use management
Finalise Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management legislation
Outcome: Transformed and integrated spaces
Implement the provincial nodal strategy (Provincial Growth Points)
Implement the LSDF Productive Regions Approach
Develop and implement the LDP Budget Framework to align budget prioritisation to the LSDF Provincial Growth Points and Productive Regions
Development applications processed within the legislative timeframes
Implement Limpopo Provincial Land Transport Framework
Outcome: Integrated Human Settlements
Implement the Multi-year Housing Development Plan
Implement Priority Human Settlement and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDA) programme
Secure and facilitate land release for human settlements development
Improve security of tenure for individuals and communities
Develop liveable neighbourhoods in both rural and urban environments and achieve spatial transformation
Outcome: Sustainable Environment
Review the Limpopo Environment Outlook
Implement the Limpopo Protected Areas Expansion Strategy
Improve management of protected areas in line with the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)
Review the Limpopo Climate Change Response Strategy with District scale climate risk profiles and climate change adaption plans
Implement effective and efficient environmental authorization system to Improve the EIAs, WMLs, AELs, & permits decision value chain and reduce red tape in finalising socio-economic development applications

MTDP Priority 2: Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living

LDP Priority: Accelerate social change and improve the quality of life of Limpopo's citizens

Outcome: Poverty alleviation programmes implemented in partnership with non-profit organizations



Implement targeted poverty alleviation programmes
Outcome: Reduced poverty and improved livelihoods in partnership with cooperatives and households
Strengthen support for People accessing food through DSD food security programme
Increase EPWP work opportunities created through DSD programmes
Strengthen support for households accessing food through DSD food security programme

LDP Priority: Provision of quality education and healthcare system

Outcome: Improved education outcomes
Improve access to Early Childhood Development (ECD)
Improve reading for meaning by Grade 4
Increase Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics outcomes
Develop digital infrastructure for rural schools
Increase Focus schools to support comparative advantages of the province
Increase matric outcomes
Conduct condition assessment of technical colleges in the province
Increase the number of people accessing library services
Outcome: Improved access to quality healthcare
Improve the quality of healthcare services
Improve the primary healthcare system
Improve Mortality rate
Improve on HIV treatment and suppression

LDP Priority: Strengthen crime prevention and build safer communities

Outcome: Reduced levels of crime and violence
Implement Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Plan to reduce crimes
National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide Action Plan implemented to reduce Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)
Provide effective psychosocial services to victims of crime and violence
Increase community involvement to build safer communities
Reduce road fatalities
Effective Border Management
Outcome: A Diverse, Socially Cohesive Society with a Common National Identity
Implement the Limpopo Social Cohesion and Nation Building Strategy
Increase participation in sport and recreation programmes
Increase participation of learners in School Sport and Art in Schools programmes
Increase participation in social cohesion programmes

MTDP Priority 3: A capable, ethical and a developmental state

LDP Priority: Transform public service for effective and efficient service delivery

Outcome: Integrated government
Implement IGR, Integrated Planning, monitoring and evaluation framework
Institutionalise the District Development Model
Strengthen the provincial Research, Development & Innovation Agenda in facilitating the implementation of the LDP
Outcome: Improved efficiency
Implement Limpopo Operation Clean Audit strategy
Strengthen the public procurement system for efficiency and effectiveness
Reduce red tape in departments and entities
Identify and reduce Unauthorized, Irregular and unwanted expenditure in provincial departments and public entities
Outcome: Improved impact of public expenditure through spatial targeting



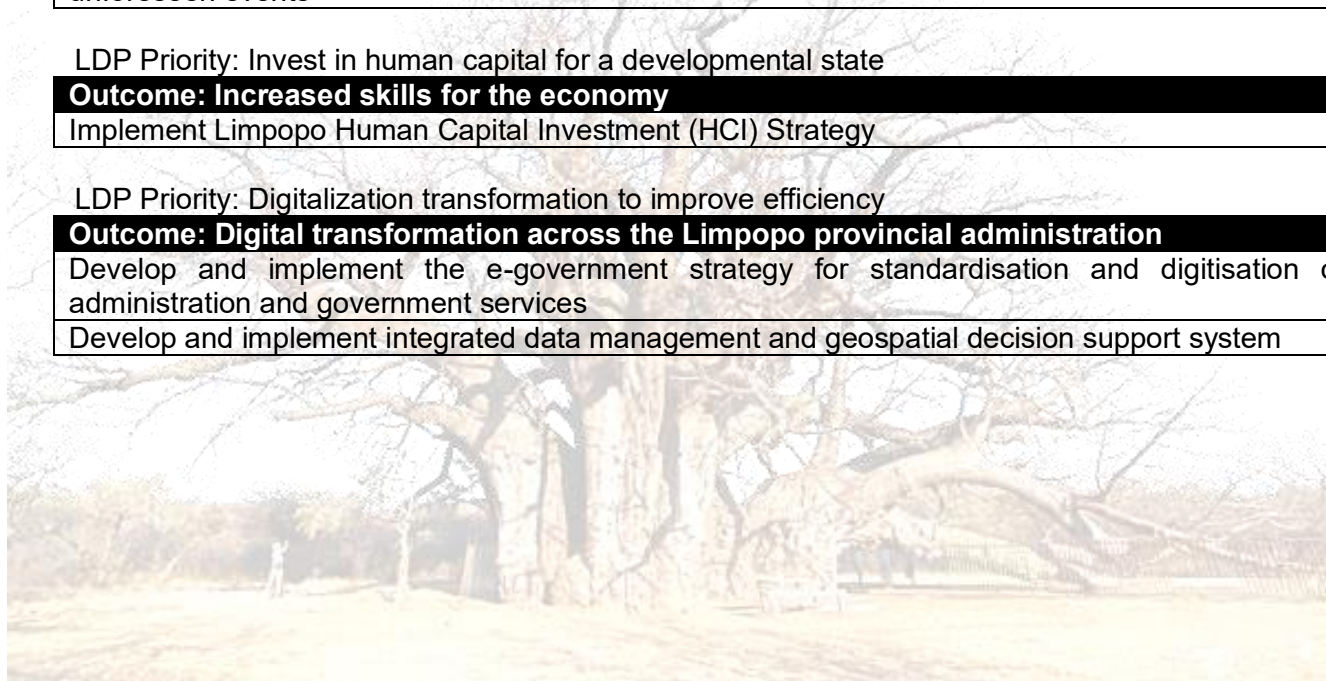
Ensure that departmental and municipality budgets are allocated to identified provincial priority projects and Provincial Growth Points
Outcome: Ethical and Accountable Provincial Public Administration
Implement the National Anti-corruption Strategy
APPs and IDPs that are responsive to GRPBMEA Framework
Outcome: A capable and professional public service
Implement the professionalisation implementation framework
Implement the Limpopo Provincial Sector Skills plan
Conduct institutional reviews, skills audit and capacity building to ensure that state institutions are execution driven in line with their mandates
Develop technical capacity to enhance programme and project management in the province
Outcome: Improved service delivery at local government
Implement reforms to the local government system to improve governance, institutional structures and fi-for-purpose funding models to achieve financial stability
Improve audit outcomes in municipalities
Simplify and speed up planning and regulatory processes that can make it easier for businesses to invest and operate in a municipality
Collaborate with traditional leadership on local development and land management
Strengthen disaster management capabilities in municipalities to be able to respond to any unforeseen events

LDP Priority: Invest in human capital for a developmental state

Outcome: Increased skills for the economy
Implement Limpopo Human Capital Investment (HCI) Strategy

LDP Priority: Digitalization transformation to improve efficiency

Outcome: Digital transformation across the Limpopo provincial administration
Develop and implement the e-government strategy for standardisation and digitisation of administration and government services
Develop and implement integrated data management and geospatial decision support system



13 LDP RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The LDP Results Framework is a strategic tool designed to define, measure, and track progress towards achieving the strategic priorities and outcomes of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025–2030. This framework is meticulously structured to measure High-Level and Sector-Specific Targets.

Progress toward these targets will be measured through various performance reports published by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), other national departments, the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), and the Office of the Premier (OTP).

Alignment of Annual Performance Plans (APPs), Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), and Sector Plans with the LDP Results Framework will occur in two ways:

- 1. Verbatim alignment, where there is full custodianship or direct control over the target; and*
- 2. Building Block alignment, which involves preparatory or contributory activities toward achieving a broader target. This latter approach primarily applies to high-level targets and those monitored by StatsSA.*

13.1 High-Level Targets

Measures		Baseline	Target 2025-2030
Economic Growth	GDP growth	0.16%	2.2%
Unemployment	Official rate	31.9%	20%
Limpopo economy contribution to national GDP	GGP share of national	7.7%	9%
Employment	Number of employed persons	1,5m	2m (520 000 new jobs)
Fixed capital formation (Investment commitment)	Total in Rands	R281bn	R600bn
Manufacturing % to GGP	Manufacturing share to total GGP	4%	5%
Inequality	Gini coefficient	0.57	0.50
Poverty reduction	% of the total population	56%	26%
Increased matric pass rate	% of learner who passed matric	85.1%	90%
Increased access to basic services:			
• Improved access to water	% of safe and equitable access to water and sanitation	64.2%	80%
• Improved access to sanitation		61.9%	69%
• Improved access to electricity	% of equitable access to electricity	97%	98%
Reduction of HIV/ Aids mortality	% reduction of HIV/AIDS	92:71:70	*95:95:95
Improved quality of health care	Increase Life expectancy	65years	70years

Table 24: LDP High-Level Targets 2025-2030



13.2 Sector-Specific Targets

**** Double asterisks refer to cumulative targets**

Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
MTDP PRIORITY 1: DRIVE INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND JOB CREATION					
LDP Priority: Transformation and modernization of the provincial economy					
Mining Sector					
Increased value addition and beneficiation of key mineral resources	Increase in the volume (tons) of beneficiated minerals compared to raw exports	Limpopo Beneficiation Strategy available	250 000 tons	**750 000	LEDET
Established local industries for higher value-added exports	Number of operational beneficiation facilities established		1	**2	LEDET CMR
Adoption of Environmentally Sustainable Mining Practices	% of mined land rehabilitated to functional or natural ecosystems	New indicator	2%	**5%	DMPR
	% of mining waste managed, recycled through innovative technologies	New indicator	10%	**20%	LEDET
Enhanced Social Development in Mining-Affected Areas	% of Social Labour Plans aligned to municipal development priorities	Approved Social Labour Plans of mining operating in the province Approved Municipal IDPs	30%	**40%	DMPR
	% of Social Labour Plans Implemented	Approved Social Labour Plans of mining operating in the province	60%	**100%	DMPR



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
Agricultural Sector					
Expanded Agro-Processing Industry for High-Value Crops	Number of Agro-processing facilities established for high-value crops	5	2	**5	LDARD
	% increase in the value of processed agricultural products compared to raw produce	Agricultural products available to support value addition	20%	**40%	LDARD
Increased participation of smallholder and emerging farmers	% increase in agricultural produce for the market	3.9%	10%	**20%	LDARD
Increased skills base of the agricultural sector, capacitating the producers and students through structured vocational education and training programmes	Number of skills development programmes implemented	5 012	-	**25 749	LDARD
Tourism sector					
Increased Investment in tourism	Value of contribution of the tourism sector to GDP growth	R6,3bn on International R20.1bn on domestic trips	R8bn (International) R30bn (Domestic)	**R10bn (International) **R40bn (domestic)	LEDET
	Number of international tourist arrivals	600 000	1 000 000	**3 000 000	LEDET



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	Number of domestic tourist arrivals	8 500 000	10 000 000	10 000 000	LEDET
	Number of community tourism initiative supported	20	10	**20	LEDET
	Number of public-private partnerships established to promote tourism investment	Approved feasibility study for biodiversity nodes	1	**3	LEDET
Strengthened destination development	Number of tourism skills development programs implemented	16	8	**16	LEDET
Creative Industry Sector					
Increased access to markets through creative industry at local, national and international platform	Number of skill interventions implemented	Creative Industry Strategy available	15	**30	DSAC
	Number of creative industry hubs established		1	**5	DSAC
	Number of creative industry projects supported	35	25	**50	DSAC
	Number of creative industry entrepreneurs supported to access markets	247	150	**180	DSAC
	Number of creative industry research projects implemented	1	1	1	DSAC



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
LDP Priority: Economic Transformation, Job Creation and International Cooperation					
Increased trade volumes and economic integration	Number of exporters supported	10	5	**20	LEDET
	Total value of investments attracted	R282bn	R300bn	**R600bn	LEDET
	Number of businesses in Limpopo participating in cross-border trade	New indicator	5	**10	LEDET
Diversified economy	% of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) 5-Year Programme of Action implemented	MMSEZ designated FTIP ready for designation	50%	**100%	LEDET
	Number of Industrial Parks operational	2	3	**5	LEDET
	Develop the Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of Polokwane logistic Hub	Pre-feasibility study report	1	-	Polokwane Municipality
	% of Strategic Action Plan for the implementation of the Polokwane logistic Hub implemented	Pre-feasibility study report with recommended actions	20%	**50%	Polokwane Municipality
Increased employment opportunities	Number of EPWP work opportunities created	291 023	206 603	**356 195	DPWRI
	Number of jobs created through infrastructure development	139 568	88 882	**153 758	DPWRI

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	Number of work opportunities created through the National Youth Service Programme	500	1500	**2500	DPWRI
	Number of jobs created through agriculture	1 095	2 500	2 600	LDARD
	Number of jobs created through collaboration with the private sector in mining	1 200	150	**500	LEDET CMR
	Number of jobs created in the province through collaboration with the private sector in tourism	National baseline is 1.08million jobs created in 2024	500 jobs (200 jobs per Annum created in the province)	500 jobs (200 jobs per Annum created in the province)	LEDET LTA
	Number of jobs created through creative industry programmes	660	450	**550	DSAC
	Number of jobs created through renewable industries	Limpopo Renewable Energy Strategy	150	**300	LEDET
Inclusive growth for a just society	Number of women, youth and persons with disabilities participating in the mainstream economy:				
	Women	GRPBMEA, Departmental Procurement Plans	40%	40%	Department s Municipalities
	Youth		30%	30%	Department s Municipalities



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	People living with disability		7%	7%	Departments Municipalities
	Number of policies and strategies responsive to growth and development of township and rural economies developed	New indicator	2	**3	LEDET
	Number of enterprises supported	New indicator	750	**1500	LEDET
Increased Energy Security	% of energy infrastructure projects implemented in line with the Transmission Development Plan	Transmission Development Plan 2025-2034	70%	**100%	ESKOM
	Number of Limpopo renewable energy initiatives implemented	Limpopo Renewable Energy Strategy	1	1	LEDET
	Number of policies developed to incentivize private-sector investment in sustainable energy solutions	New indicator	1	1	LEDET
LDP Priority: Integrated and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure development					
Universal access to Water and Sanitation	Number of functional Water Services Authorities	10	10	10	COGHSTA DWS
	% of already initiated bulk water and sanitation	Pipeline projects in progress	*100% (project scheduled to be completed by 2027)	*100% (project scheduled to	DWS

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	infrastructure projects completed			be completed by 2030)	
	Number of new bulk water and sanitation infrastructure projects completed	Final Draft Limpopo Water and Sanitation Master Plan 2025 available	-	*100% (project scheduled to be completed by 2030)	DWS
	Number of Regional collaboration initiatives on water transfer implemented	South Africa and Zimbabwe Governments signed an agreement to supply treated water from Beitbridge WTW to Musina town.	-	1 (MMSEZ support)	DWS
	% of existing bulk water and sanitation infrastructure projects completed in line with timelines	Pipeline of projects in progress	100%	100%	WSAs COGHSTA
	% of new bulk water and sanitation infrastructure projects completed in line with timelines	Final Draft Limpopo Water and Sanitation Master Plan 2025 available	100%	100%	WSAs COGHSTA
	% of reduced water interruptions by 50%	57.2%	15%	**28%	WSAs
	% of improved blue drop water assessment outcomes	26 out of 84 (<31%) WTW in critical state	>50%: average performance and ample room for improvement classification	>80%: Good performance & some room for improvement classification	WSAs
	% of improved green drop water	50 out of 64 WWTW systems in	>50%: average performance and ample	>80%: Good performance & some room	WSAs



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	assessment outcomes	critical state (<31%)	room for improvement classification	for improvement classification	
	% of public schools with access to potable water	100% (3620 schools in the province)	100%	100%	WSAs
	Number of public schools with safe sanitation:				
	Number of Priority 1 Schools with inappropriate sanitation, that is, using only pit latrines improved	544 out of 564	20	**564	DoE
	Number of Priority 2 Schools with decent but non-compliant sanitation and still have some pit latrines that should be demolished eradicated	605 out of 1579	974	**1579	DoE
	Number of Priority 3 Schools with 'compliant sanitation but in need of infrastructure maintenance	1127 out of 1524	397	**1524	DoE
	% of health facilities with access to reliable potable water	New indicator	100%	100%	WSAs
Improved households access to basic services	Water	64.2%	-	**80%	DWS COGHSTA Municipalities
	Sanitation	61.9%	65%	**69%	DWS COGHSTA

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
					Municipalities
	Electricity	97%	97%	**98%	ESKOM Municipalities
	Refuse removal in rural areas	7.8%: Removed at least once a week (GHS, 2023)	10%	**15%	Municipalities
Improved access to critical economic nodes and social services	Number of kilometres of gravel roads upgraded to tar	272.88 km	123 km	**203 km	DPWRI RAL
	Number of square metres (m²) of surfaced roads Rehabilitated	3 041 000 m²	3 510 000 m²	**5 880 000 m²	DPWRI RAL
	Number of m² of surface roads blacktop patched	603 057 m²	710 000 m²	**1 070 000 m²	DPWRI
	Number of km regavelled	132,19 km	350km	**550km	DPWRI
	Implementation of the Limpopo Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy 2025	Final Draft Limpopo Infrastructure Maintenance Strategy 2025	100%	100%	DPWRI
	% Limpopo-Gauteng High speed Rail feasibility study completed	Protocol documents available (Legal)	50% (Pre-feasibility)	**100% (Pre-Feasibility)	DTCS
	Number of capacity building initiatives to improve technical expertise in planning and implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects:				
	Contractor Development Programme	New indicator	36	36	DPWRI
	Candidacy Development Programme (in Build Environment)	New indicator	19	38	DPWRI



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	Expanded Public Works Programme	291 023	206 603	**350 215	DPWRI
	Technical Support programmes to improve technical expertise in planning and implementation of infrastructure projects (Cuban Technical Advisor and DBSA support)	New indicator	2	2	DPWRI
Improved access to and utilization of ICT	Number of households with access to reliable and affordable internet	New indicator	3000 (1500 per year)	**7500 (1500 per year)	LEDET LCX
Improved science, technology and innovation	% of planning for the construction of Limpopo Science and Technology Park completed	Business case	Onboard investor	**50% of phase one construction completed	LEDET LCX
	% of broadband infrastructure rolled out in the province	5%	20%	**50%	LEDET LCX
	Number of training programmes on digital skills conducted	New indicator	8 (1 per quarter)	**20 (1 per quarter)	LEDET LCX
	Develop and implement Limpopo 4IR strategy	New indicator	50%	**100%	LEDET OTP
	% of Limpopo research and	New indicator	100%	100%	OTP

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	innovation Agenda implemented				Department s Institutions of Higher Learning
LDP Priority: Spatial transformation for integrated socio-economic development					
Improved spatial planning and land use management	Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management legislation finalised	Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill	1	-	COGHSTA
	Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management regulations	Limpopo Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Bill	1	-	COGHSTA
Transformed and integrated spaces	% of catalytic projects initiated in Provincial Growth Points completed	30%	100% of initiated projects completed	100% initiated projects completed	Department s Municipalities
	Number of catalytic projects in LSDF Productive Regions completed	New indicator	100% of initiated projects completed	100% initiated projects completed	Department s Municipalities
	% of LDP Budget Framework (Spatial Targeting) implemented	New indicator	100%	100%	PT
	Review District and Municipal SDFs aligned to Limpopo SDF	27 SDF	27 SDFs Reviewed	-	Districts Local Municipalities
	% of development applications processed within the	New indicator	100%	100%	Districts and Local Municipal Planning Tribunals



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	legislative timeframes				
	% of Limpopo Provincial Land Transport Framework implemented	Limpopo Provincial Land Transport Framework	100%	100%	DTCS
	Number of capacity building programmes on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management for Traditional Leadership	SPLUMA and its Regulations in place	5	5	OTP COGHSTA Municipalities
Integrated Human Settlements	% of programmes in the Multi-year Housing Development Plan implemented	Multi-year Housing Development Plan	-	**100%	COGHSTA
	% of programmes in the Priority Human Settlement and Housing Development Areas (PHSHDA) implemented	11 PHSHDAs	-	**100%	COGHSTA
	% of land released in line with human settlements and development priorities within timeframes	New indicator	100%	100%	DPWRI DLRRD
	Number of title deeds registered to improve security of tenure for	7 797	6000 title deeds registered	**10 000 title deeds registered	COGHSTA

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	individuals and communities				
	Number of informal settlements upgraded to liveable neighbourhoods in both rural and urban environments and achieve spatial transformation	5	5	**10	COGHSTA
Sustainable Environment	Number of new Protected Areas declared	33822,4187 hectares under conservation estate	13000	**25000 hectares under conservation estate	LEDET
	Number of protected areas with METT score of 67% or above	3,721% (9708 of 260890) are with METT score above 67%	60% of 260890 ha with METT score of 67% or above	**100% of 260890 ha with METT score of 67% or above	LEDET
	Limpopo Environment Outlook reviewed	Limpopo Environment Outlook (2016)	1	-	LEDET
	Limpopo Climate Change Response Strategy with District scale climate risk profiles and climate change adaption plans reviewed	National Climate change Act	1	-	LEDET
	% of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), applications finalized within legislated timeframes	680 EIAs	100%	100%	LEDET



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	% of Waste Management Licences (WMLs) finalized within legislated timeframes	6 WMLs	100%	100%	LEDET
	% of Atmospheric Emission Licenses (AELs), issued within legislated timeframes	15 AELs	100%	100%	LEDET
	% of biodiversity management permits applications finalized within legislated timeframes	42604 biodiversity management permits	100%	100%	LEDET
MTDP PRIORITY 2: REDUCE POVERTY AND TACKLE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING					
LDP Priority: Accelerate social change and improve the quality of life of Limpopo's citizens					
Poverty alleviation programmes implemented in partnership with non-profit organizations	Number of Youth participating in entrepreneurship development programmes	34 227	12 000	**30 000	DSD
	Number of women participating in empowerment programmes	81 320	34 000	**85 000	DSD
	Number of cooperatives linked to economic opportunities	50 cooperatives supported with funding	60	**120	DSD
Reduced poverty and improved livelihoods in	Number of People accessing food through DSD food security	272 435	33 500	**83 750	DSD



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
partnership with cooperatives and households	programme (Centre based)				
	Number of households accessing food through DSD food security programme	29 766 households	14 400 households	**36 000 households	DSD
LDP Priority: Provision of quality education and healthcare system					
Improved education outcomes	Number of children (0-4 years) accessing registered Early Childhood Development (ECD)	129 784	193 083	**203 241	DoE
	% of Grade 4s reading for meaning	60%	70%	**80%	DoE
	% of Grade 12 (Matric) learners achieving 60% or more in Physical Science	13.8%	20%	**30%	DoE
	% of Grade 12 (Matric) learners achieving 60% or more in Mathematics	16.3%	25%	**35%	DoE
	% of rural schools equipped with digital infrastructure to support teaching and learning	12%	30%	**50%	DoE
	Number of schools designated as focus schools to support comparative	27	55	**82	DoE



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	advantages of the province				
	% of learners who passed Matric (National Senior Certificate)	85.1%	87%	**90%	DoE
	Condition assessment report of technical colleges in the province compiled	New indicator	1	-	DHET
	Number of people accessing library services	563 238	650 000	**700 000	DSAC
Improved access to quality healthcare	% of Primary Health facilities obtained Ideal Clinic status Total (474)	41%	70%	**80%	DoH
	% of Hospitals obtained Ideal Hospital status (40)	*21%	50%	**70%	DoH
	Number of active* patients receiving medicine through the Central chronic medication dispensing and distribution (CCMDD) programme.	*284 627	355 500	**450 000	DoH
	Number of public health facilities (clinics, hospitals, nursing colleges, EMS base station) maintained,	310	800	**1550	DoH

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	repaired or refurbished				
	Maternal Mortality ratio (Maternal deaths per 100 000 live births)	104.7 per 100 000 live births	95.5 per 100 000 live births	70 per 100 000 live births	DoH
	Under 5 deaths per 1000 live births rate	19.4 deaths per 1000 live births	15 deaths per 1000 live births	10 deaths per 1000 live births	DoH
	Proportion of people living with HIV who know their status	92.1%	95%	95%	DoH
	Percentage People Living with HIV on ART	70.8%	95%	95%	DoH
	Percentage on ART with viral suppression	70%	95%	95%	DoH
LDP Priority: Strengthen crime prevention and build safer communities					
Reduced levels of crime and violence	% of Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Plan implemented	Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Plan available	100%	100%	DTCS
	% of the National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide Action Plan implemented in the province.	National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide Action Plan available	100%	100%	Department s Municipalities
	Number of victims of crime and violence accessing psychosocial services	61019	36020	**65000	DSD
	% of functional community structures to	100% (104/104)	100%	100%	DTCS



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	build safer communities				
	% road fatalities reduced	1270 road fatalities reduced which is an increase of -9.1% (2023/24)	**10% (5% each year)	**25%	DTCS
	Number of landward subunits deployed on border safeguarding per year	4 x Sub-Units	4 x Sub-Units	4 x Sub-Units	SANDF
	Number of air border patrols conducted per year	24 x Sorties Air Patrols	24 x Sorties Air Patrols	24 x Sorties Air Patrols	SANDF
	Number of flying drones operations per year	48 x Ops On Request	48 x Ops On Request	48 x Ops On Request	SANDF
	Number of effective cross-border/ joint operations, structures and agreements	8 Joint law enforcement operations	120 Joint law enforcement operations	150 Joint law enforcement operations	Border Management Agency
	Number of technological solutions introduced to reduce cross-border crime	New indicator	25% of officials of the shift wearing Body Worn Cameras (BWC)	**50% officials of the shift wearing BWC	Border Management Agency
A Diverse, Socially Cohesive Society with a Common National Identity	% of the population actively participating in sport and recreation	3.9%	10%	**20%	DSAC
	Number of schools participating in school sport activities	1975	2,500	**2800	DSAC DoE
	% of people participating in social	10% (631 500)	12%	**22%	DSAC

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	cohesion programmes				
MTDP PRIORITY 3: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND A DEVELOPMENTAL STATE					
LDP Priority: Transform public service for effective and efficient service delivery					
Integrated government	% of IGR, Integrated Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Action Plan implemented to institutionalise the District Development Model	Approved IGR, Integrated Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	100%	100%	OTP COGHSTA
	Number of Districts achieving 80% of One Plan of funded project	District One Plans available	3 Districts	**5 Districts	COGHSTA Municipalities
	% of the provincial Research and innovation Agenda implemented to facilitate the implementation of the LDP	Limpopo Research Agenda for the 6 th Administration available	100%	100%	OTP
Improved efficiency	Number of unqualified audit without material findings (Clean Audit) in departments and public entities	6 (2023/2024)	13	**16	Departments Public Entities
	% of procurement plans adherence by provincial departments and entities	74% (2023/2024)	100%	100%	Departments Public Entities
	% of Operations	48% (Departments)	100%	100%	Departments



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	Management Framework implemented (Red tapes) in departments and entities				Public Entities
	% reduction of the opening balance of Unauthorized Expenditure in departments and public entities	24%	100%	100%	Departments Public Entities
	% reduction of the opening balance of Irregular Expenditure in departments and public entities	86% - Depts % 51.7% - Entities 67.4% - Province	100%	100%	Departments Public Entities
	% reduction of the opening balance of Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure in departments and public entities	5.6% - Depts 5.1% - Entities 5.5% - Provincial	100%	100%	Departments Public Entities
	% reduction in compensation of employees in relation to total government spending	1%	1%	**3%	Departments Public Entities
Improved impact of public expenditure through spatial targeting	LDP budget framework implemented	LDP 2025-2030 approved LSDF 2025 Approved	100%	100%	PT
Ethical and Accountabl e Provincial Public	% of the National Anti-corruption	Approved National Anti-Corruption Strategy	100%	100%	OTP Department s

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
Administration	Strategy implemented				COGHSTA Municipalities
	% of APPs that are responsive to GRPBMEA Framework participating in the socio-economic activities	DWYPD 2023/24 APP Assessment report on GRPBMEA Framework	50%	**75%	OTP
	% IDPs that are responsive to GRPBMEA Framework participating in the socio-economic activities		30%	**50%	COGHSTA
A capable and professional public service	% of the professionalisation Plan implemented	Draft implementation plan in place	80%	**100%	Departments Municipalities
	% of the Provincial Sector Skills plan implemented	Draft Limpopo Public Sector Skills Plan developed	100%	100%	OTP
Improved service delivery at local government	Number of functional Municipal Councils with improved governance stability and service delivery	27	27	27	COGHSTA
	% of revenue collection by municipalities	75%	85%	**95%	Provincial Treasury Coghsta Municipalities
	Number of municipalities with funded budgets	17	20	**27	Provincial Treasury
	Number of financial statements	14	27	27	Municipalities



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	prepared utilising internal capacity				
	% reduction of Unauthorised Expenditure in municipalities	New indicator	80%	**100% unauthorised expenditure reduced	Municipalities Provincial Treasury
	% reduction of Irregular Expenditure in municipalities	New indicator	75%	**100% of irregular expenditure reduced	Municipalities Provincial Treasury
	% reduction of fruitless and wasteful Expenditure in municipalities	New indicator	100%	100% of wasteful expenditure reduced	Municipalities Provincial Treasury
	Number of unqualified audit without material findings (Clean Audit) in Municipalities	2	3	4	Municipalities
	Number of municipalities with improved audit outcomes	14 obtained unqualified opinions in 2023/24	16	18 with unqualified audit opinions	Provincial Treasury
	% of appointments of senior managers finalised in compliance with legislation	79%	100%	100%	Municipalities COGHSTA
	Number of planning and regulatory applications approved in compliance with for ease of doing business	SPLUMA regulations and Municipal By-Laws available	100%	100%	Municipalities
	Number of functional disaster	5	5	5	COGHSTA District Municipalities

2025-2030 LDP Targets



Provincial Outcomes	Outcomes indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term Targets (2027)	End Term Targets (2030)	Responsibility
	management centres				
Increased skills for the economy	% of Limpopo Human Capital Investment (HCI) Strategy implemented	Approved implementation plan	100%	100%	Departments Municipalities
Digital transformation across the Limpopo provincial administration	% of the e-government strategic plan for standardisation and digitisation of administration and government services implemented	E-government strategy available	50%	**100%	OTP
	% of integrated data management and geospatial decision support system implemented	Final Draft Concept document on integrated data management in place	50%	**100%	OTP

Table 25: Sector- Specific Targets, 2025-2030

**** Double asterisks refer to cumulative targets**





LDP RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN



14 LDP STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

The successful achievement of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) objectives is intrinsically tied to the ability to anticipate, mitigate, and respond effectively to risks that may emerge during its implementation. A well-structured Risk Management Plan is, therefore, an essential component of the LDP, serving as a foundation for resilience, sustainability, and the realization of its ambitious development goals.

This plan not only safeguards the implementation process but also ensures accountability by clearly defining mitigation strategies and assigning responsibility to specific stakeholders. The strategies outlined below detail the proactive measures to be undertaken to address potential risks. Furthermore, they identify the risk owners, the entities or individuals ultimately accountable for ensuring the successful execution of the mitigation measures. This structured approach ensures a coordinated and collaborative effort in overcoming challenges and achieving the province's development aspirations.

14.1 LDP Strategic Risk Management Plan 2025-2030

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.1												
PERSISTING POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND INEQUALITY WITHIN THE PROVINCE												
1	Priority 1: Transformation and modernisation of the provincial economy Priority 2: Economic transformation, job creation and international cooperation	Persisting Poverty, Unemployment, and Inequality within the province	Misalignment of departmental plans with the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP)	Fragmented service delivery Low economic growth High levels of unemployment and poverty	5	5	25 High	Existence of the strategic documents: Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans, and Integrated Development Plans.	0%	20 High	Implement integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation framework	IGR, and OTP
			Inadequate coordination amongst the three spheres of government	Fragmented service delivery. Low economic growth High levels of unemployment and poverty				IGR Framework Act, 2005 and DDM Regulations that inform coordination of the DDM			Develop DDM Action Plans Monitor Implementation of DDM Action Plans Coordinate DDM oversight visits	OTP
			Failure to beneficiate raw materials in the province.	Low economic growth High levels of unemployment and poverty	5	5	25 High	Access to minerals through the Corridor mining	80%	20 High	Drive beneficiation of the Mineral resources	LEDA
			Limited number of accredited Training centers					Accreditation of the four LEDA training centers and recruitment facilitators			Develop and implement demand pooled economic development skills programmes and Accreditation thereof	
			Inadequate promotion of the province as an investment destination					Investor Targeting Strategy in place				
			Slow progress to implement Special Economic Zones (SEZ's).								Improve promotion of the province as an investment destination	LTA LEDA

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
			Lack of support to SMME's and Cooperatives Inadequate support provided to companies or businesses Mismatch between the available skills and the skills needed to support the Provincial economy Lack of transparency and communication on the mining social responsibility Inadequate information in oversight reports & Poor performance monitoring by shareholders.	Low economic growth High levels of unemployment and poverty	5	5	25 High	LED, SMME and Co-operative Financial and non-financial support programmes in place, through LEDA, LEDET, SEDA, etc. MOU in place with Productivity South Africa. Skills Development Plan in place Limpopo Mining Forum established Oversight Committee has been established to oversee the financial and performance management system of Public Entities	80%	20 High	Implement support (both financial and non-financial Programmes to SMME's and Cooperatives Implement the Rural and Township Economy Strategy Facilitate the implementation of competitiveness and productivity interventions to support the economy Implement Skills Development programmes to support economic growth initiatives Facilitate dialogue and implement resolutions between mines, local government sphere and mining communities Conduct monitoring and evaluations sessions	LEDET

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
			Low agricultural production and <u>outputs</u> Low investment in agricultural economic infrastructure	Food insecurity	5	5	25 High	Implementation of the Limpopo Integrated Rural Development Strategy and National Policy on Food & Nutrition Security Implementation of farmer support funding through CASP Audits for GAPS (Good Agricultural Practices) compliance provided through perishable products exports control Board	65%	16 High	Support Households with food security interventions Support Producers with production infrastructure and inputs Create jobs through agricultural programmes Provide support to improve compliance with market requirements Link farmers to the formal markets Support high impact RAAVC projects for job creation, economic growth	LDARD
			Failure to identify and appoint EPWP compliant programmes by implementing bodies Poor monitoring of the EPWP impact	High levels of unemployment and Poverty	5	5	25 High		80%	20 High	Implement EPWP strategy and identification of compliant projects for attainment of annual EPWP targets Implement EPWP tracking tool	DPWR& I

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
			Provincial Budget not clearly aligned to LDP Projects	Low economic growth within the province Uncoordinated spending on LDP projects	5	5	25 High	Allocation of earmarked funding for provincial priority projects Conditional grants National Treasury Budget Facility for Infrastructure CDS reports	80%	20 High	Develop funding strategy for LDP Priority projects Allocate funds to LDP priority projects that support economic growth Develop funding strategy for provincial mega projects Enforce Provincial procurement strategy	LPT
			Inadequate marketing of the province as investment and tourism destination	-Low economic growth. -High rate of unemployment -Decrease in the number of tourist arrivals and domestic trips	5	4	20	Limpopo Tourism Agency in place to market the province as a preferred tourism destination	65	16	Drive Collaborations Marketing with stakeholders Develop and implement five-year marketing strategy	LTA
			Inadequate marketing of the province as investment and tourism destination	-Decrease in international tourists. -Slow economic growth				None			Develop and implement strategies to improve economic performance of the Limpopo Implement the turnaround strategy to improve the use of Airlifts for both passengers and cargo.	GAAL



Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.2												
SHORTAGE OF WATER, SANITATION, AND ELECTRICITY												
2	Priority 3: Integrated and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure development	Shortage of water, sanitation, and electricity	Water Interruptions due to aging infrastructure	Community protest and social unrest Failure to create an enabling economic environment and recovery. Disruptions to service delivery Reduced productivity	5	5	25 (High)	Planning Forums are in place. Planning frameworks available Provincial Water Intervention Plan in place Premier War Room on established for Polokwane, Makhado and Mopani	80%	20 (High)	Monitor the implementation of Water Intervention Plan and Premier War Room Initiative	OTP
			Lack of maintenance of the existing water infrastructure	Failure to provide basic service and attract investment in the province	5	5	25 High	Municipal Asset Management Policies Municipal Operation & Maintenance Plans	80%	20 High	Monitor implementation of household reticulation projects in Municipalities	COGH STA
			Dilapidated water reticulation infrastructure					Partnership with DBSA Provincial Steering Committee			Monitor allocation of adequate budget for maintenance and implementation of projects thereof by Municipalities	

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
			Drought or scarcity for agricultural activities	Food insecurity Low Economic growth	5	5	25 High	Early warning and support systems in place Drilled and equipped boreholes Develop efficient water use system	80%	20 High	Development of efficient water use system Implementation of Disaster management programmes Establish Agricultural Infrastructure for water solutions and supply	LDARD
			Unpredictable weather changes	High rate of Unemployment								
			Ineffective water harvesting technique in the Agricultural sector									
			Unsustainable electricity supply	Disruptions to service delivery Low economic growth		5	25 High	Utilization of Generators and Solar power	80%	20 High	Coordinate the implementation of Limpopo Renewable Energy Strategy	LEDET

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.3												
DETERIORATING STATE OF PROVINCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE (BUILDINGS AND ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE AND ICT SYSTEMS FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION)												
3	Priority 3: Integrated and sustainable socio-economic infrastructure development	Deteriorating state of provincial infrastructure (buildings and roads infrastructure and ICT systems for digital transformation)	-Poor planning for maintenance, office buildings, schools, clinics, and all other government infrastructure. -Lack of conditional assessment of buildings and roads infrastructure -Poor maintenance of provincial building infrastructure -Inadequate prioritization of infrastructure maintenance budgets by departments and entities. -Non-compliance to energy efficiency programme (e.g. national green policy) -Non approval of the Provincial Maintenance strategy for the province.	Structural failure and Safety Hazards Reduced property value Environmental Impact Operational costs and inefficiency	5	5	25 High	Ad-hoc maintenance performed Existing infrastructural budgets allocations	80%	20 High	Develop and Implement comprehensive Immovable (Building) Maintenance strategy Conduct conditional assessment for all immovable assets and development of the project implementation plan. Refurbish government buildings Re-purposing of government buildings and procurement of leased buildings Monitor compliance on the implementation of the national green policy Implement Provincial Maintenance Strategy.	DPWR&I



Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
			Ageing machinery and equipment for road construction and road maintenance Inadequate monitoring and management system	Higher cost of maintaining roads				Roads Asset Management system in place Routine road maintenance contractors appointed			Develop comprehensive Roads Maintenance strategy and implementation plan Enforce contract management Develop and implement bankable yellow fleet replacement strategy	DPWRI
			Insufficient budget for Upgrading of Roads networks	-Increase in number of motor vehicle accidents -Increase claims against the state. (litigation) -Limited investment opportunities	5	5	25 High	None	80%	20 High	Upgrade road infrastructure network Develop funding strategy for the Road Infrastructure	RAL DPWRI LPT
			Obsolete ICT infrastructure, and ill designed network architecture	Irrelevant and Outdated ICT infrastructure Slow connectivity	5	5	25 High	-ICT Infrastructure Assessment Audit -Approved Infrastructure enhancement/ refresh in place	65%	16 High	Implement ICT Infrastructure plan Enhancement / refresh Plan	OTP

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.4												
GROWING SKILLS GAP (BETWEEN EDUCATION SYSTEM AND THE REQUIRED SKILLS IN THE PROVINCE)												
4	Priority 7: Provision of quality education	Growing skills gap (between DBE Curriculum and the required skills in the province)	Poor subject content knowledge	Poor performance of learners	5	5	25 High	School Improvement Plan (SIP), Frequent monitoring to assess the quality of management of curriculum in schools	65%	16 High	Strengthen the primary education through monitoring and tracking of learner performance	DOE
			Lack of accountability		5	5	25 High	Implementation of School Improvement Plan (SIPs) and accountability session at all levels	80%	20 High	Provide continuous targeted training for the teachers	DOE
			Poor education management system		5	5	25 High		80%	20 High	Partnership with the private sector and stakeholders on maths, science etc	DOE
			Growing unemployed youth Population	High levels of crime	5	5	25 High	Limpopo Youth Development Strategy Presidential Youth employment programme Unemployed Graduate Database.	80%	20 High	Implement the youth Development strategy Implement the Limpopo Youth Fund Monitor Job Placement programmes Review and implement Limpopo Youth Development Strategy	OTP

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
			Inadequate career guidance for the required and scarce skills needed for the province.	-Inappropriate skills force for the Limpopo Industry requirements -High youth unemployment				School career day			Develop a relevant career guidance framework to encourage youth to obtain appropriate qualifications aligned with requirements of Limpopo industry	DOE
			Lack of career guidance and financial support to continue with their studies	Mismatch of skills amongst the youth	5	5	25 High	Approved Human Capital Investment Strategy	80%	20 High	Implement the Limpopo Human Capital Investment Strategy	OTP
			Poor participation of youth in agriculture	Decline in agricultural production. Food insecurity	5	5	25 High	-Implementation of farmer support funding through CASP -Implementation of framework for placement of unemployed agricultural graduates on farms/enterprises through CASP	80%	20 High	Implement unemployed graduate Agricultural programmes Develop skills through College programmes Implement incentive policy for young farmers	LDARD
			Mismatch between the available skills and the skills needed to support the Provincial economy	Low economic growth High levels of unemployment and poverty				Accreditation of the four LEDA training centers and recruitment of facilitators			-Develop and implement demand pooled economic development skills programmes -Accreditation of demand pooled economic development skills programmes	LEDA



Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.5												
INCREASED BURDEN OF DISEASES (COMMUNICABLE AND NON-COMMUNICABLE)												
5	Priority 7: Provision of health quality healthcare system	Increase in health burden. (Communicable and non-communicable)	Inadequate awareness on disease management Unhealthy Lifestyle	Collapse of the Health System High rate of Mortality Claims against the stage (Litigation)	5	5	25 High	Health, education, promotion, and prevention In service training on the data element Usage of screening tools Good clinical practise Multidisciplinary team Community Health Centres outreach	80 %	20 High	Conduct Community awareness campaigns Implement surveillance system for notifiable medical condition Implement the universal test and treat intervention Conduct mental health awareness campaigns Conduct in-service training pertaining biopsychosocial perspective Implement the Ideal clinic Strategy	DOH

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.6												
UNAVAILABILITY OF STRATEGIC LAND FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT												
6	Priority 4: Spatial transformation for integrated socio-economic development	Unavailability of the land for strategic land for Human Settlements and economic development	Resistance to release the strategic land by the Private and Public Institutions (Including Traditional leaders) Exorbitant price and conditions demanded by landowners	Inability to develop in the strategic areas Excessive price paid by Government for strategic located land	5	5	25 High	Inter-departmental land task team established Three valuations for land to determine the market value (using comparison method)	80%	20 High	Develop and implement a plan for land release and acquisition Develop a pipeline of projects for land acquisition Determine the final valuation of land that need to be acquired	COGH STA DPWR I

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.7												
UNAUTHORISED ACCESS TO SYSTEMS, DATA AND INFORMATION												
7	Priority 8: Transform public service for effective and efficient service delivery Priority 10: Digitalisation transformation to improve efficiency	Unauthorised access to systems, data, and information	Poor/limited ICT Security technology and control No Provincial Cybersecurity Framework No Provincial Digital Transformation strategy	Compromised service delivery Reputational damage Cyber attack Uncoordinated digitalisation in the province.	5	5	25 High	-DR Solutions in place (DRaaS) -National CGICTPF Ver. 2 -Departmental Recovery Plans -DR User Manual -Departmental ICT Security Policies -Monitoring the Departments through the cyber security monitoring tool -Limpopo Cyber Attach Response Plan	80%	20 High	-Develop Provincial Cyber Strategy -Establish a Cybersecurity Operations Centre (CSOC) to monitor and respond to digital threats in public sector ICT systems	OTP

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.8												
VULNERABILITY TO DISASTER												
8	Priority 5: Accelerate social change and improve the quality of life of Limpopo's citizens	Vulnerability to disaster	Lack of coherence in the coordinated response of emergency services Inadequate human and technical capacity Lack of Disaster Management capacity at local municipality level	Escalation of the damages resulting from disastrous event. Possible financial loss Disruption of economic activities	5	5	25 High	Disaster Classification and Declaration Recovery and Rehabilitation Infrastructure Grant Funding NDMC Monitoring and Support programme for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in place Functionality of Disaster Management Advisory Committees Four Districts have appointed Heads of Disaster Centres	80%	20 High	Develop and Implement Disaster Management Plan Establish disaster committees Coordinate a disaster response plan	COGH STA

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.8												
VULNERABILITY TO DISASTER												
8	Priority 5: Accelerate social change and improve the quality of life of Limpopo's citizens	Vulnerability to disaster	Lack of coherence in the coordinated response of emergency services Inadequate human and technical capacity Lack of Disaster Management capacity at local municipality level	Escalation of the damages resulting from disastrous event. Possible financial loss Disruption of economic activities	5	5	25 High	Disaster Classification and Declaration Recovery and Rehabilitation Infrastructure Grant Funding NDMC Monitoring and Support programme for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in place Functionality of Disaster Management Advisory Committees Four Districts have appointed Heads of Disaster Centres	80%	20 High	Develop and Implement Disaster Management Plan Establish disaster committees Coordinate a disaster response plan	COGH STA
			Lack of available funds for disasters	Decrease in funding available for LDP priorities				Ad-hoc Sourcing of Budget to fund disasters in the province			Create a disaster Contingency fund for Limpopo Province	LPT



Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.9												
INCREASE IN SOCIAL DISORDER												
9	Priority 5: Accelerate social change and improve the quality of life of Limpopo's citizens	Increase in social disorder	Lack of integration of programmes e.g., social crime	Increased crime and violence	5	5	25 High	Re-launched community structures	80%	20 High	Implement the social crime and violence prevention strategy	DSD
				Economic instability	5	5	25 High	Social Cohesion Strategy	80%	20 High	Assess functionality of the community structures	DTCS
	Priority 6: Strengthen crime prevention and build safer communities		-Poor participation in indigenous and cultural events	Loss of indigenous, knowledge, history, culture, and information about heritage	5	5	25 High		80%	20 High	Develop a funding strategy for the in indigenous and cultural events	DSAC
			-Minimal fiscus to support all indigenous, knowledge, history, culture, and information about heritage								Strengthen the implementation of the Social Cohesion Strategy	
			-Poor integration of social cohesion and nation building programmes with sector department and district								Strengthen the functionality of the non-statutory and statutory bodies for the implementation of the Social Cohesion Strategy	

Risk No	LDP Priority	Risk	Cause	Consequences	Impact	Likelihood	Inherent risk exposure	Current Control	Control effectiveness	Residual risk exposure	Mitigation	Risk Owner
RISK NO.10												
NON-ADHERENCE TO CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND STANDARDS												
10	Priority 8: Transform public service for effective and efficient service delivery Priority 9: Invest in human capital for a developmental state.	Non-adherence to constitutional values and standards	Inadequate technical expertise skills, leadership capabilities within the provincial administration Non-compliance to Constitutional values and principles	Reduced efficiency and effectiveness	5	4	20 High	Professional development programs and leadership training Extended the professional development programs and leadership training to middle management	80%	20 High	Monitor implementation of the 5 pillars of the National Framework Towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector.	OTP
				Loss of public trust and confidence Poor workforce competence and performance							Develop and implement Professionalisation Guidelines for financial Management skills within the province.	LPT



15 INTEGRATED PLANNING, COORDINATION AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

In a quest for improved cooperative governance, the 2019 President's Budget Speech ushered in the District Development Model (DDM) to address silo planning and fragmented implementation by strengthening integrated planning, coordinated resource allocation, spatial targeting and transformation. Continuous monitoring and evaluation is an integral part of DDM, and it is designed to ensure that service delivery is enhanced to make an impact in improving the lives of the people.

The DDM approach further seeks to ensure an integrated, district-based, approach, aimed at fast-tracking service delivery and to enhance adequate coordinated support and resources of municipalities to carry out their mandate. The DDM aims to improve the coherence and impact of government service delivery with a focus on 44 districts and 08 metros around the country, as development spaces that can be used as centers of service delivery and economic development, including job creation.

In response to the DDM pronouncement, the province developed the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Integrated Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Framework, which serves as the cornerstone for facilitating development, integrated planning, and effective service delivery. This framework is central to the implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025-2030. It provides a structured, inclusive, and results-driven approach to align stakeholders, ensure accountability, and achieve the province's socio-economic development goals while strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure impact effectively.

Central to integrated planning, coordination and implementation are four guiding pillars:

- **Provincial and Municipal IGR structures:** Leverage Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) structures to facilitate the strategic execution of the LDP across the three spheres of government, promoting collaboration, alignment, and cohesive action among stakeholders.
- **Integrated Planning and Coordination:** Integrated planning is the backbone of the LDP framework, ensuring alignment across all stakeholders. Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans, Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), Sector Plans should be aligned to the LDP and spatial targeting approach as outlined in the Provincial Spatial Development Framework. Strategic Budgeting: The objectives of the Limpopo Development Plan can only become a reality if the pillars and projects outlined in the LDP have well-developed provincial and municipal business plans and allocated budgets.
- **Stakeholder Mobilisation and Partnerships:** Engaging the private sector, civil society, academia, Institutions of Traditional Leadership, youth formations, and organised labour to foster collective ownership and achieve shared aspirations. The private sector plays a critical role in complementing government efforts by contributing expertise, funding, and capacity.
- **Strong Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism:** Building accountability through rigorous tracking, analysis, and reporting of progress. It includes structured reporting annually, mid-term, and end-of-term to provide insights into implementation of LDP. M&E processes will provide actionable data to inform and shape future planning cycles.



Figure 59 summarises the IGR, Integrated Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Framework in facilitating integrated planning, coordination, and implementation of the Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025-2030.

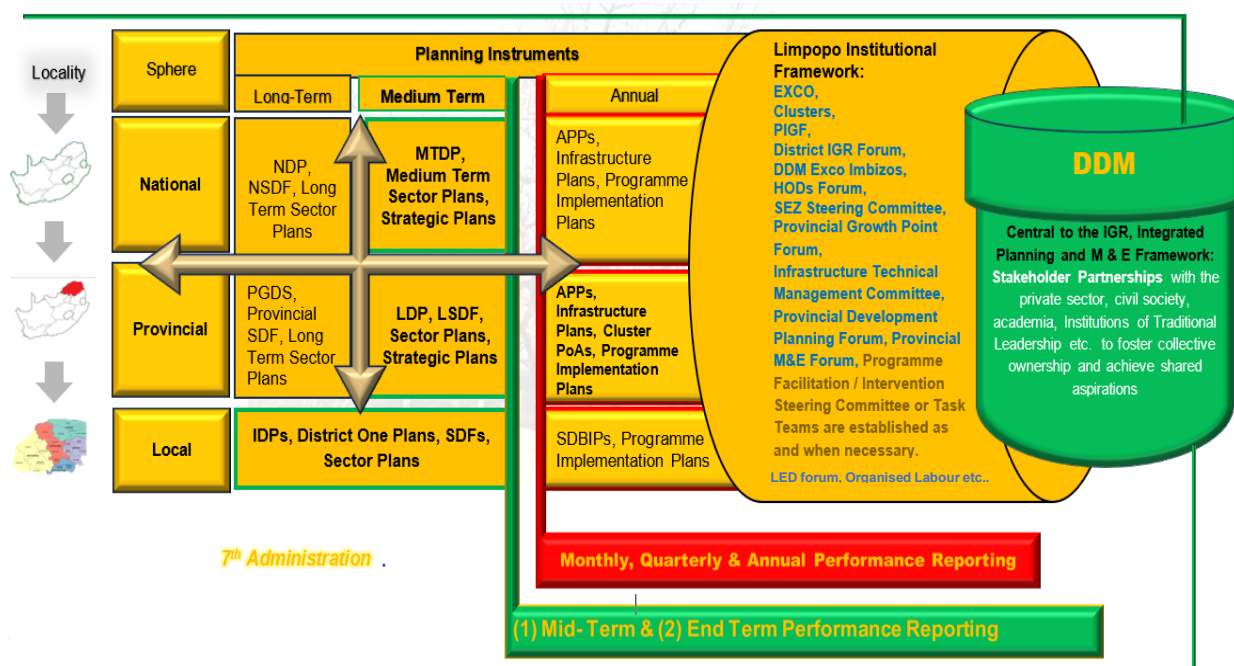


Figure 59: IGR, Integrate Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation

16 CONCLUSION

The Limpopo Development Plan (LDP) 2025-2030 serves as a transformative roadmap to catalyse the socio-economic growth and development of the province, leveraging its strategic location as a gateway to SADC to drive regional integration, trade, and investment. It is a cornerstone document that embodies the collective realities, ambitions, and aspirations of the people of Limpopo, offering a framework to address enduring socio-economic challenges while unlocking the full productive potential of the province. This ambitious plan aims to create sustainable livelihoods, foster inclusive growth, and build a resilient future for the province.

Central to the success of the LDP is the strategic and integrated approach it champions. Aligning provincial resources, policies, and programs with the overarching goals of the LDP would enable the province to harness its vast natural, economic, and human capital in a manner that uplifts communities, enhances service delivery, and promotes equity. The plan envisions a future where resources are utilized efficiently, economic opportunities are expanded, and all citizens share in the benefits of development.

To ensure its effective realization, the Intergovernmental Relations (IGR), Integrated Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Framework developed by the province in response to the District Development Model pronouncement provides a foundation for the implementation of the LDP. This framework ensures that provincial departments, municipalities, private sector and civil society operate in alignment with the LDP's strategic priorities. The structured implementation approach includes regular bi-annual monitoring and the preparation of periodic performance reviews. These reviews will provide actionable insights into progress and challenges, enabling adaptive measures through intervention plans. A comprehensive mid-term performance report

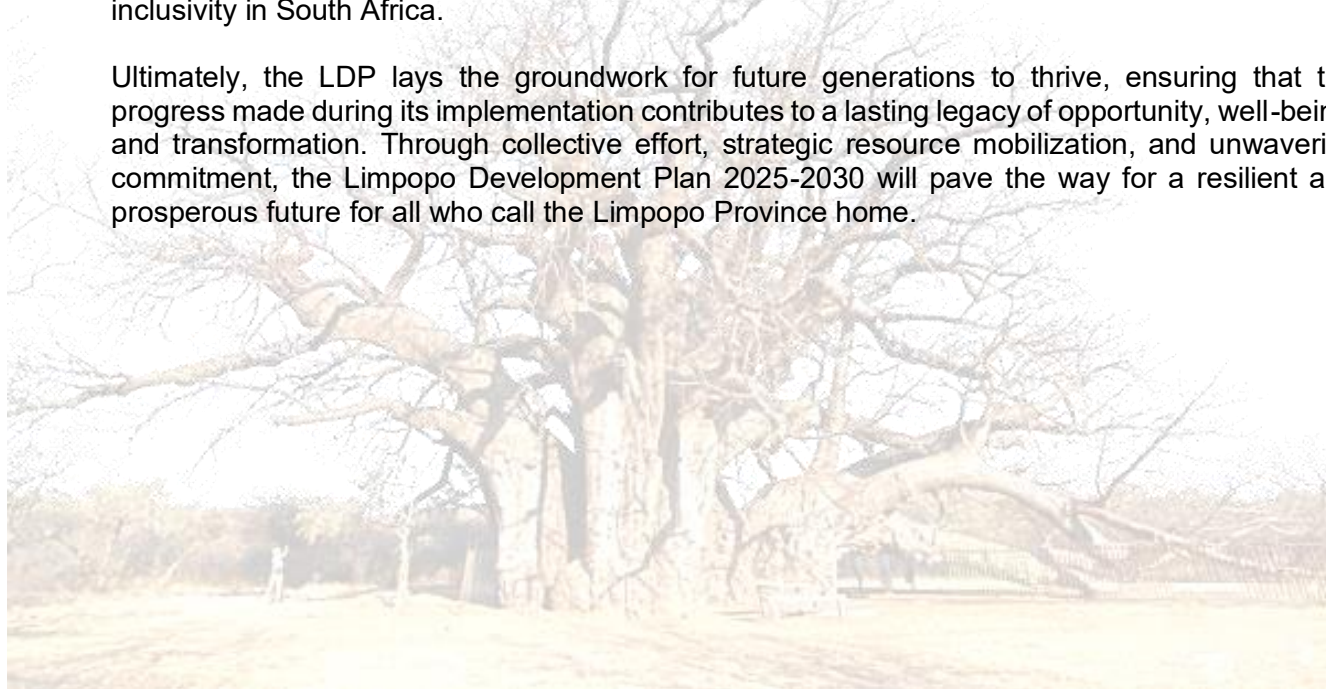
will serve as a critical milestone, offering a reflective evaluation of successes and areas requiring recalibration.

As the plan approaches its conclusion, a detailed End of Term Report will be developed to document the achievements, lessons learned, and areas for further improvement. This report will serve not only as a record of accomplishment but also as a blueprint for the next term of administration, ensuring continuity and building on the foundation laid by the LDP 2025-2030.

A robust Communication Plan underpins the implementation of the LDP. This plan facilitates ongoing engagement with stakeholders, ensuring transparency, accountability, and collaboration. Regular updates, dialogues, and feedback mechanisms will foster a sense of collective ownership among all role-players, from government entities to private sector partners and local communities. Such inclusive engagement will enhance the efficacy of the development agenda and secure the support necessary to achieve its ambitious goals.

The Limpopo Development Plan 2025-2030 is more than a policy document, it is a commitment to a shared vision of prosperity, resilience, and equitable development. It reflects a provincial government that is both responsive to the needs of its people and proactive in driving systemic change. By leveraging integrated planning, rigorous monitoring, and transparent reporting, the LDP will position Limpopo Province as a beacon of sustainable development and economic inclusivity in South Africa.

Ultimately, the LDP lays the groundwork for future generations to thrive, ensuring that the progress made during its implementation contributes to a lasting legacy of opportunity, well-being, and transformation. Through collective effort, strategic resource mobilization, and unwavering commitment, the Limpopo Development Plan 2025-2030 will pave the way for a resilient and prosperous future for all who call the Limpopo Province home.



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DATA DISCLAIMER

The information, figures and projections in the Limpopo Development Plan 2025–2030 are based on the government and non-government data that was available at the time of publication and may be updated as new information emerges.

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