

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH VLR



Table of Contents.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	4
3. MUNICIPAL STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT	5
4. CHALLENGES, STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, AND OPPORTUNITIES	6
5. SELECTED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS	7
5.1 GOAL 1 NO POVERTY: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE	7
5.2 GOAL 2 NO HUNGER: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	7
5.3 GOAL 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL	8
5.4 GOAL 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH: PROMOTE AFFORDABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT, AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL	8
6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS	9
7. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	9
8. REFERENCES	11

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at a historic United Nations Summit, officially came into force. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) local voluntary report for Mossel Bay Municipality come in almost in the last five years of the attainment of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Mossel Bay Local Municipality Voluntary Local Review (VLR) report depicts the overall image of the municipality's progress in achieving sustainable development goals and, the steps taken since the participation of the municipality in the implementation of SDGs. The report also demonstrates challenges and strategies that are counter to the emanating socio-economic and development challenges in the municipal area.

The municipality commits to report on the following goals: Goal 1 No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 2 No hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, Goal 6 Clean water and sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and Goal 8 decent work and economic growth: promote affordable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Mossel Bay municipal area covers 2,010.8 square kilometres and is situated halfway between the Cape Town Metro area and Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape in the Garden Route District. The municipal area has a 122-kilometer coastline that is characterized by three distinct bays, namely Vleesbaai, Dana Bay, and Mossel Bay. The PetroSA plant and harbor are important infrastructures in the municipal area and are linked with existing transport routes. The harbor serves the local fishing, gas, and tourism sectors of the economy but has the potential to grow and play a bigger role in the ocean economy (Western Cape Mero 2022).

The town of Mossel Bay is the main urban node in the municipal area, while smaller towns include Boggoms Bay, Brandwag, Buisplaas, D'Almeida, Dana Bay, Glentana, Fraaiuitsig, Friemersheim, Great Brak River, Hartenbos, Herbertsdale, Hersham, KwaNonqaba, Little Brak River, Outeniqua Beach, Reebok, Ruiterbos, Southern Cross, Tergniet and Vleesbaai (Western Cape Mero, 2022). The Mossel Bay municipal area's GDP was valued at R8.0 billion in 2019 and is estimated to have contracted by 6.8 percent to R7.7 billion in 2022. It is estimated that 2,613 jobs were shed in the municipal area in 2020, bringing the total number of employed people in the region to 34,213 in 2020. It is forecast that in 2021, the municipal area's economy will recover partially with an increase of 5.1 percent and will grow by a further 2.3 percent in 2022. (MERO; 2022).

The biggest contributor to employment in the Mossel Bay municipal area in 2022 was the trade sector, with 25.6 percent. This was followed by the finance sector (20.8 percent) and the community services sector (14.6 percent). The finance sector was the largest capital-intensive sector in the municipal area and the trade sector was the largest labour-intensive sector. (MERO; 2022). The contraction in economic growth in the municipal area resulted in significant job losses of an estimated 2,613 jobs. The tertiary sector was impacted the most, as it is estimated that 1 668 workers lost their jobs, followed by the secondary sector (593 8 jobs) and the primary sector (352 jobs). The trade sector lost 677 jobs, followed by the community services sector, with 567 jobs lost. The high number of jobs lost in these sectors is the result of the poor tourism performance in 2020 owing to COVID-19-related impacts, and the decrease in household income as people took pay cuts resulted in personal services becoming less affordable and being regarded as unnecessary. It is estimated that the agriculture sector shed 344 jobs in 2022. The general government sector was the only sector that created additional employment, with an estimated 21 jobs created. (MERO; 2022)



Tertiary sector - 1668

Secondary sector - 593

Primary sector - 352

The sector that provided the largest share of informal employment was the trade sector, with 41.2 percent of the sector's employment opportunities. This was followed by the construction (37.3 percent), transport (37.1 percent), and community services (35.3 percent) sectors. (MERO; 2022). Informal businesses in the Mossel Bay municipal area are constrained by a lack of rental space, high rental costs for business space, lack of capital to expand, market access, slow markets, low credit profile, and business security. These constraints hinder informal businesses from expanding and creating jobs. Increasing the usage of the Mossel Bay Harbour beyond fishing and mining activities can increase job creation, particularly in the transport sector, (MERO; 2022).

The Mossel Bay local municipality introduced a range of responses to support households and businesses that were negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These include interest-free temporary amnesties on property rates, service accounts, and lessees of the municipality for businesses. Residential customers benefited from an easing of water restrictions and an unblocking of electricity meter accounts. While laudable, these measures are forecast to contribute to a reduction in the Mossel Bay municipal area's general government sector GDP of 3.7 percent in 2022. (Western Cape Mero, 2022).

4. STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

The constantly shifting environment in which municipalities function has special difficulties that affect a municipality's daily operations. The Mossel Bay Municipality's Council and Administration are fully aware of both the positive and negative effects that the outside world has on the Municipality's ability to provide and uphold service standards. The Mossel Bay Municipality has several strengths, such as a comparatively low crime rate, easy access to the national road and airport, a desalination plant and PetroSA synthetic fuel plant, investments made by PetroSA for corporate social responsibility, a garden route holiday destination with blue flag beaches, top-notch medical facilities, excellent schools, a financially viable municipality, sound administration, a stable political environment, and capable governance. On the other hand, the municipality's Weaknesses are numerous and include growing backyard dwellers and informal settlements; distance from major markets like Cape Town and Port Elizabeth; port too small for exports and large cruise ships; dwindling central business district with limited parking; Louis Fourie Road's limited traffic mobility capacity; inadequate stormwater drainage in some areas; aging electricity infrastructure, (5th Generation IDP Review 2023).

The Mossel Bay region's economic, environmental, political, and social characteristics allow the municipality to recognize a wide range of opportunities, such as local economic development, oil and gas exploration, upgrading point area, and lighthouse as a tourist icon; poultry value chain project; explore township tourism; aquaculture-fish farming; capitalize on the potential growth of the Tarka festival; port development; capitalize on the archaeological discoveries at Pinnacle Point; capitalize on the creation of jobs by EPWP; and adopt and implement a safety plan involving neighbourhood watchkeeping and community policing. The following are some of the threats that are more likely to make it difficult for the municipality to maintain standards and provide services: rising electricity prices from Eskom; load shedding; increased crime and limited capacity of the SAPS; HIV and Aids pandemic; drug and human trafficking; rising rates of unemployment and poverty; increased reliance on government grants; climate change; rising sea levels; droughts; diminishing marine resources; fishing quotas; illegal occupation of municipal land; illicit dumping of biological materials and refuse; and frequent floods in the southern cape. The Municipality through the implementation of its Integrated Development Plan will capitalise on its strengths, compensate for its weaknesses, seize opportunities, and will strive to contain or mitigate existing threats, (5th Generation IDP Review 2023).



5. SELECTED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5.1 Goal 1 – No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The Mossel Bay Municipality provides free basic services like as housing, water, and sanitation to residents living in absolute poverty through directorates such as Infrastructure Services and in collaboration with government ministries such as the Department of Energy. It provides low-cost services to homes with elderly and disabled residents. In a community of 97,000 inhabitants, there are around 31,000 dwellings. 98.5% have access to water, 95.8% to electricity, 97.6% to sanitation, and 86.1% to housing. The unemployment rate (narrow definition) is relatively low at 20.7% (5th Generation IDP Review 2023). To eradicate poverty, the Mossel Bay Municipality implements Local Economic Development through the Participatory Appraisal of Competitive Advantage (PACA) system. PACA combines implementation and action learning with a quick assessment of local economic prospects and challenges.

Mossel Bay Municipality also collaborated with businesses and non-governmental organizations to address poverty. Township tourism and beehives are two examples of LED projects in Mossel Bay that aim to decrease poverty. To eliminate poverty in Mossel Bay, a comprehensive strategy based on the Local Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and employing an Integrated Management approach has been designed. The strategy emphasizes boosting the Green Economy, fostering the development of SMMEs, improving Spatial Development, empowering the community, and offering chances for skill development. In addition, to achieve its goals, the plan intends to support rural development, encourage the use of technology and innovation, and undertake Special Interventions (Mossel Bay Municipality LED Strategy, 2022).

5.2 Goal 2 – No hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

The food and agriculture industry provides critical development solutions and is critical to eradicating hunger and poverty. To combat hunger, the Mossel Bay Municipality, in collaboration with ward committees, community development workers, and organizations such as the Kwanonqaba and Mossel Bay SANCO (SA National Civic Organisation), established approximately 40 community gardens in backyards, open land, and municipal facilities within the respective communities, where food is produced for local soup kitchens and people identified as being in need, (Mossel Bay Municipality LED Strategy, 2022).

The Mossel Bay Municipality, in collaboration with the Mossel Bay Development Forum and the Department of Agriculture, assists small-scale farmers by providing them with equipment and seeds, as well as education and training on opportunities and conserving to ensure that natural resources are used effectively. One of the potentials found is the use of worm farming to improve and boost the local economy. Some of the measures in place include an infrastructure assistance program and the creation of food- and medicinal herb

gardens throughout the larger Mossel Bay area, particularly in schools, as part of a campaign to decrease organic waste and ensure food security, (Mossel Bay Municipality LED Strategy, 2022).

5.3 Goal 6 – Clean water and sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

There are around 31,000 households in a community of 97,000 people. Water is available to 98.5% of the population, while sanitation is available to 97.6%. Mossel Bay's informal settlements and rural areas make up the proportion of homes without access to water and sanitation. Some of the following aspects contribute to the successful provision of water and sanitation to people of the Mossel Bay area: Klipheuwel Dam Management, Promotion of Water Security, Mossel Bay Regional treatment works, and Addressing Temporary Infrastructure for Sewerage. There are plans and projects in place to ensure that Mossel Bay Municipality continues to provide enough accessible water and sanitation for all. Water plans and projects include, but are not limited to, ongoing conversations with the Department of Water and Sanitation on Klipheuwel Dam Management, Finalisation of discussions with PetroSA on the water pipeline and desalination plant, as well as the deployment of smart water meters. Implementing the UISP program and a water-borne sewerage system to eliminate pit latrines for sanitation, (MBM IDP inputs feedback, 2023).

5.4 Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth: promote affordable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

In collaboration with government departments and the commercial sector, the Mossel Bay Municipality has programs in place to provide decent work through formal and informal employment. This is consistent with the municipality's growth goal in terms of economic, environmental, governance, and social regeneration. The Mossgas plant and seaport are critical infrastructure for job generation and economic growth in Mossel Bay. The port services the local fishing, gas, and tourism industries. The economy was valued at R9.1 billion (in current values) in 2020, while the economy was expected to be worth R10.0 billion in 2021. Growth in the municipal economy between 2020 and 2021 marks the beginning of recovery from the economic pressures brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, (Western Cape Mero, 2020).

Partnerships with local enterprises and the local tourism industry, for example, The Great Escape to Mossel Bay programme, are some of the initiatives in place to create formal employment. To create informal employment, the Mossel Bay Municipality mandates enterprises that receive tenders from the municipality to use unskilled laborers from the community in which the project is located. Another example is the execution and monitoring of the LED plan for SMMEs and beehives, where local entrepreneurs rent space from the designated Beehive centre at a reasonable rate to ensure that the entrepreneur can function and employ one or two people from the local community, (Mossel Bay Municipality LED Strategy, 2022).

6. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

Section 55 of the Systems Act requires the Mossel Bay Municipality to coordinate and carry out activities and functions with both external and internal stakeholders. The Mossel Bay Development Forum, the Executive Mayoral Committee, the Municipal Council, the IDP and Budget Steering Committee, and other internally coordinated Fora and Ward Committees are examples of internal stakeholders.



The Mossel Bay Communities, District Municipality, Provincial Government IDP Fora, Provincial and District PPCOM Fora, JPI Engagement and JDMA Coordinating Forum, Provincial PDO Forum, and LGMTEC, on the other hand, are the external stakeholders. The Mossel Bay Municipality receives assistance from stakeholders, including the provincial government, to make sure that its goals and plans coincide with those of the district, provincial, and national governments, (5th Generation IDP Review 2023). All structures will be engaged to ensure successful implementation of the selected SDGs in Mossel Bay Municipality.

7. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mossel Bay Municipality is classified as a Category B municipality. It combines an Executive Mayoral System with a Ward-Participatory System. The municipal boundary delimitation process, which was completed before the 2021 Local Municipal Elections, divided the municipal territory into 15 wards. The whole Council is made up of 29 Councillors, 15 of whom are directly elected and 14 who are apportioned proportionally.

The Council has an Executive Mayor and an Executive Mayoral Committee comprised of the Executive Deputy Mayor and six full-time Councillors who each hold a distinct portfolio linked to the standing committees established by Section 80 of the Municipal Structures Act, no 117 of 1998 to assist Council in carrying out its constitutional responsibilities and mandate, (5th Generation IDP Review 2023).

The Municipal Manager, as the head of administration, is responsible and accountable for the tasks and functions outlined in Section 55 of the Systems Act, as well as other roles/tasks outlined in legislation and delegated by the Executive Mayor and Council. The accounting officer oversees the implementing the IDP under the direction and supervision of the Municipal Council. Executive Managers appointed by Sections 56 and 57 of the MSA assist the Municipal Manager. The Mossel Bay municipality has six directorates, each led by an executive manager, that ensure the implementation of functions and tasks outlined in Section 55 of the Systems Act. These directorates are Infrastructure Services, Planning and Economic Development, Community Services, Corporate Services, Financial Services, and Community Safety.

8. REFERENCES

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