

Delivering Infrastructure: Capacity and Capability for a Sustainable Mpumalanga

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Presentation Outline

1. About the City of Mbombela
2. Infrastructure Backlog Overview
3. Current State of Infrastructure
4. Why Professionalise the Technical Department?
5. Professionalisation Model
6. Call for Action



About The City of Mbombela

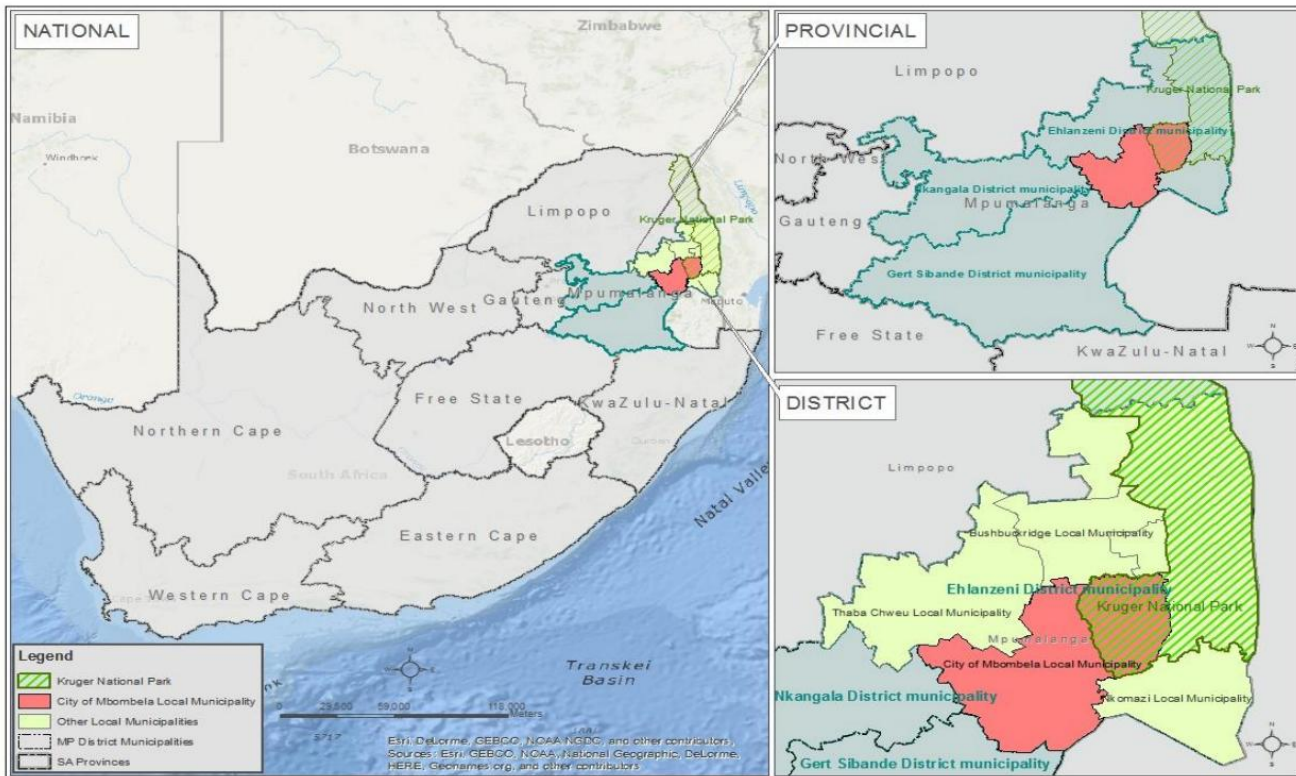
- ▶ City of Mbombela Municipality is a Category B Municipality within the Ehlanzeni District in the Mpumalanga Province.
- ▶ The City of Mbombela is the Capital City of the province.

Key Nodes:

- ▶ Mbombela is the capital city for Mpumalanga and regional economic hub for the southern parts of Mozambique, the northern parts of Swaziland and the Lowveld Region.
- ▶ White River fulfils a sub-regional role with respect to services and retail facilities.
- ▶ Barberton/ Emjindini is the major urban development node within the southern area consisting of business centres and residential areas, providing services to the mining settlements.
- ▶ Hazyview is an important agricultural and tourism centre serving the northern areas of Mbombela and southern areas of Bushbuckridge.

About The City of Mbombela (Cont.)

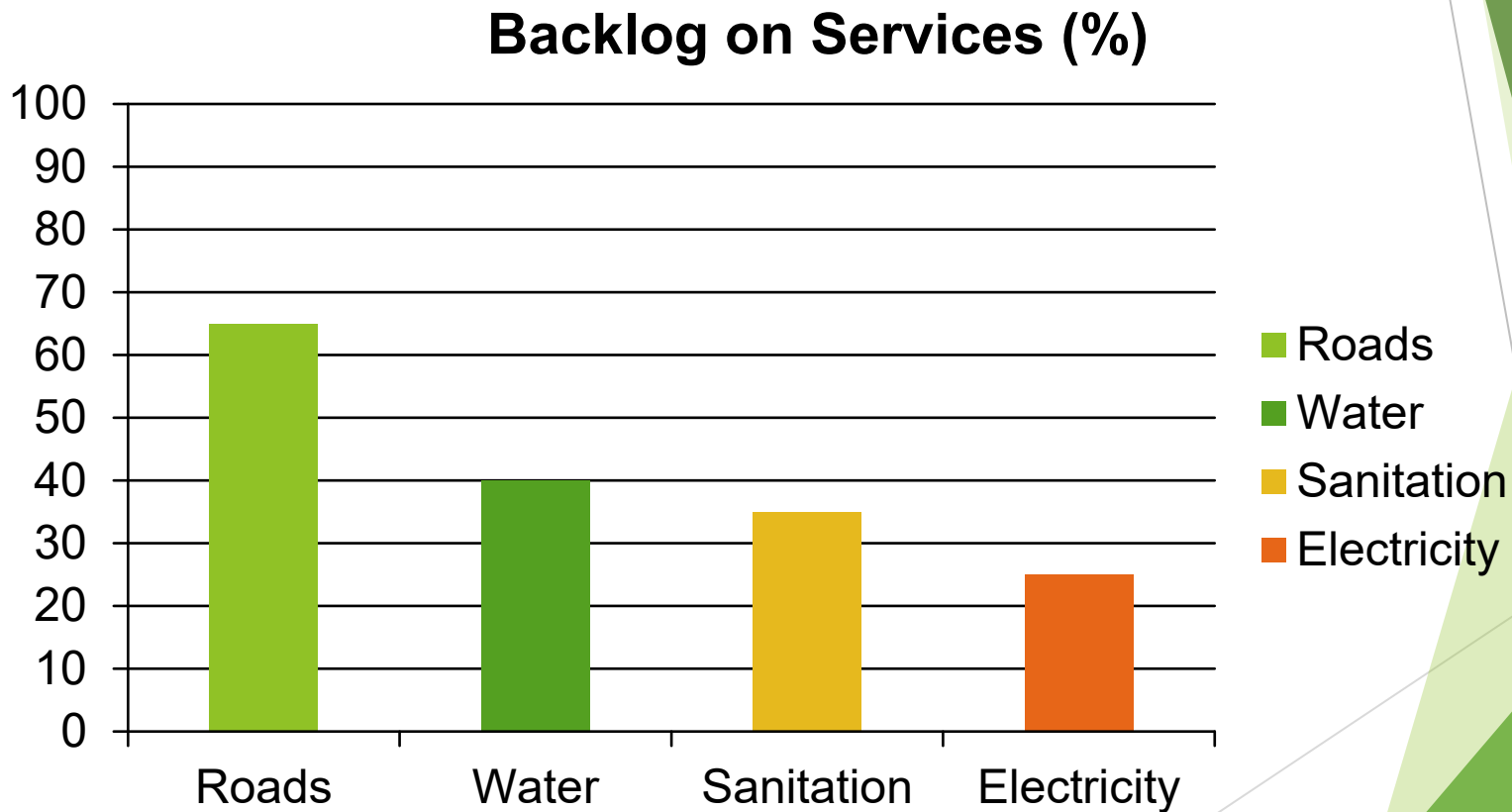
Locality Map



About The City of Mbombela (Cont.)

- ▶ Gateway to Kruger National Park, Maputo Corridor, mining & agricultural exports.
- ▶ Population: ~818 925 people and 215 004 HH (Census 2022) – fast growing (estimated growth of 1.3% per annum) & diverse.
- ▶ The municipality is made up of 45 wards, 90 Councillors and 4 regions as per the new municipal demarcation.
- ▶ Major Developments: Fresh Produce Market, University of Mpumalanga expansion, Mbombela Stadium, Shopping centres, private investments.
- ▶ It is also a home of the Government Research Institute for Citrus and Subtropical Fruits, and the Lowveld Botanical Gardens.
- ▶ The N4 is cutting across the city creating ways to major corridors and also having the Kruger Mpumalange International Airport.
- ▶ Spatial Development Plan aligned to growth corridors.
- ▶ Large numbers of people migrate to the City of Mbombela in search of employment which contributes to the high growth rate
- ▶ 73.32% of the municipality's population is aged between 0 and 35 years (with the majority of them being economically inactive).

Infrastructure Backlog Overview



Infrastructure Backlog Overview (Cont.)

- ▶ Roads: Large proportion gravel – costly to maintain
 - ▶ Gravel: 3500 km Surfaced: 860 km
- ▶ Water: Upgrades needed to meet growing demand
 - ▶ 177 425 HH Serviced (14%)
- ▶ Sanitation: Expansion to underserved areas required
 - ▶ 119 725 HH Serviced (42%)
- ▶ Electricity: Reliability improvements needed
 - ▶ 210 724 HH Serviced (5%)
- ▶ Waste: Ongoing modernisation of collection & disposal
 - ▶ 65 950 HH Serviced (69%)

Current State of Infrastructure

- ▶ The following plans are in place:
 - ▶ Integrated Development Plan
 - ▶ Integrated Waste Management Plan
 - ▶ Water Service Development Plan
 - ▶ Spatial Development Plan
 - ▶ Water Conservation and Water Demand Management Plan
 - ▶ Master Plans (Water, Roads, Sanitation, Energy)
 - ▶ Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan

Challenges

- ▶ Increasing electricity and water losses
- ▶ Water supply strategies being developed
- ▶ Challenges: high infrastructure backlog, insufficient capital funding
- ▶ Ageing assets & maintenance gaps
- ▶ Overreliance on external consultants

Current State of Infrastructure

- Challenges

- ▶ Approximately 70% of population resides in rural areas which are not formalised
- ▶ 10 Traditional Authorities areas with huge basic services backlogs and unplanned settlements
- ▶ Land invasion due uncontrolled urbanisation
- ▶ Insufficient bulk water resources
- ▶ Lack of municipal owned land for industrial, commercial, cemeteries & residential purposes

Why Professionalise the Technical Department?

- ▶ Address skills gap – recruit & retain ECSA-registered professionals.
- ▶ Reduce reliance on consultants.
- ▶ Ring-fence key services.
- ▶ Improve planning, execution, and asset management.
- ▶ Ensure compliance with engineering standards.
- ▶ Protect technical decisions from political interference.



Roads



Water



Electricity



Waste



Sanitation

Professionalisation Model

Capacity

- ▶ Build internal capacity: Engineers, technologists, technicians

Partnerships

- ▶ Partnerships: SAICE, CESA, ECSA for training & peer review

Standards

- ▶ Mentorship: Graduate & intern development programmes
- ▶ Quality assurance: ISO-aligned SOPs & asset management

Ethics

- ▶ Ethics: Safeguard profession from political influence

Call to Action

- ▶ Professionalising technical capacity is the foundation for sustainable growth.
- ▶ Collaboration between municipalities, industry & academia is essential.
- ▶ Invest in people and institutions – not just infrastructure.
- ▶ Safeguard technical decision-making for long-term service delivery success.

WE NEED MORE PROFESSIONALS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR !!!



Thank you!
Any Questions?