



The Municipal Manager
Mbombela City Local Municipality

Attention: Mr Noko Seanego

Dear Sir

RE: FORMAL STAKEHOLDER INPUT INTO THE 5-YEAR IDP OF MBOMBELA CITY

Firstly, please allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for making a tremendous effort to consult with stakeholders and the public on this important matter and please convey our appreciation to the IDP manager for doing an excellent job.

The input we made at the stakeholders meeting as well as the input contained herein is very brief and they are basically all great ideas to improve the local economy and employment, as well as general service delivery. Please accept our open invitation to discuss any of these items with your HOD's and staff, together with experts from the business community. Further to this, I would like to invite you to call a meeting of ideas to solve any specific problem you may have, for instance, the municipality would like to start a better recycling programme. We can call members together who are experts to advise on the best idea on how to solve the problem of recycling, before you put it in the IDP and out to tender. We often see tenders that are asking for quotes on outdated methods and technology. This arrangement will prevent that and keep you informed about the latest developments in every field. We will gladly facilitate as many of these as you may require.

1. Bulk Water Supply is high on our agenda and we have been actively lobbying for new bulk reservoirs for quite some time, including a large dam in the De Kaap River system. Although it is not the municipality's responsibility to provide dams, we request that you provide for it in your integrated development plans with National Government, because without water, the City cannot hope to attract more investors or more tourists – no business can happen without water.



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Registration number: 1998/025398/08

DIRECTORS: IE Pilane (President), JV Davies (Tourism Chair), TJ Maré (Business Chair), LC Sheard (Executive Director, Tourism), PN Fakude, E Soine, FC van Wyk, PML Maimela,
SE Jacobs, SW Engelbrecht, H Thrush, NJ Oosthuizen, N Elliot, AM Briggs, JP Barnard
COO: M Grimbeek



2. Continuing on the subject of water, we request that every effort is made in the IDP to conserve and recycle water, as well as to implement systems to prevent water losses. During a meeting with your department today, we discussed the possibility of prepaid meters for instance, as well as line monitoring systems. We honestly have to see better reductions in the percentage of water wasted, particularly outside the Nelspruit area.
3. We would like to ask that better attention is given to crafters and it is our proposal that professional craft markets are established for Nelspruit and Hazyview, which does not necessarily have to be an actual place where crafters work and sell, but perhaps more of a show room where visitors can buy crafts in a safe and clean place with credit card facilities, where they can commission crafts on order and even export to the international market – this may solve many of the issues with hawkers, particularly in Hazyview and on the Kaapsehoop road.
4. A city tour of Nelspruit could attract visitors if access can be given to view the art in all the government buildings, the station building is renovated and properly presented and if the city centre could have a nice artistic vibe with graffiti art, etc.
5. The steam train between Nelspruit and Waterval Boven should start running again, it was and will be a great attraction and will also create interest in the historical centre of Nelspruit.
6. The Nukain Mabuza Garden of Stone at Low's Creek should be restored, properly packaged and relaunched to the tourist market, it is a shame that the site was left to become derelict. While the KLCBT understands that there are issues with the ownership of the land, they are willing to assist to remove stumbling blocks.
7. An allocation should be made to finance tourism activities in terms of the newly signed Regional Tourism Organisation Framework agreement which facilitates regular and meaningful engagement between government of all levels and private sector tourism organisations, as well as the operating of information centres, tourism marketing and providing basic tools for information and marketing, like maps and brochures.
8. KLCBT noted with appreciation that the Municipality will tackle the dangerous traffic conditions on the R40 between Nelspruit and White River, including the dangerous crossings at the University intersection and Karino.
9. The extension of the hours of public transport will encourage many more businesses to extend their operating hours which will create more employment and will also create a nightlife for Nelspruit which is one of the complaints often received from tourists.
10. The city should aim to provide free Wi-Fi in the business centre as well as the university sites, the KLCBT noted the planned city centre rejuvenation plans and this should form part of it.



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11. The City should facilitate or fund public transport between all centres within Mbombela City and the Kruger National Park. Mbombela City should capitalize on the close proximity of the Kruger National Park by letting people stay in Mbombela and commute to the Kruger National Park and the other tourism attractions.
12. The hiking trails and public parks in and around Mbombela City are absolute gems, but currently neglected and unsafe, this should be fixed and the public toilets should be repaired as well.
13. KLCBT calls for more zones under camera surveillance to increase the safety of all the major centres within Mbombela City.
14. Adding to this, we would like to see the extension and replication of the very successful Tourism Ambassador project in Hazyview which improved the safety of visitors in that area.
15. The KLCBT would like to call a brainstorming session with stakeholders to create a lucrative township economy, because we feel that there is a lot of unexploited tourism potential and there is no reason why KaNyamazane could not be the next little Soweto.
16. The City should further develop the world class Geotrail site by getting it registered as a World Heritage Site, building toilets at the lookout point and providing cell phone reception on at least some parts of the trail.
17. The KLCBT feels strongly about the implementation of renewable energy and appreciated the addition of solar energy in the draft plans.
18. We further propose the creation of Special Economic Zones which will incentivize investors with tax relief to operate in certain areas. This has been successfully rolled out elsewhere in the country and the City should apply at dti to have such zones established, for instance, the city centre, near the airport and in the townships.
19. On the budget side, the KLCBT proposes that instead of providing for a lower collection rate of revenue, the City should rather consider freezing of rates and collect more of the funds.

We would like to conclude by noting the fact that Mbombela has a population increase of 1,3% per annum while the economy grew less than 1% over the past 3 years. The City and government cannot continue to provide more and more jobs, it has to come from business and tourism, which can only flourish if we get the basics right, if we have secure access to water, decent roads, if our public attractions are of world class quality, if we have a safe environment for business and visitors, if government and business procure local as much as possible – every Rand leaving our area is very hard to get back again, and finally, if we all act with the highest integrity and not waste the precious resources we have.



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We have to get things right and become a world class City, we are not competing against other cities and provinces for investors and tourists – we are competing against the rest of the world.

We wish to thank you for the great improvements we have seen in the City since the implementation of the Turnaround Strategy, particularly under the stresses caused by the high influx of people into the area.

Thank you again for taking our input and we look forward to discussing it in detail with the relevant personnel.

Yours sincerely

Linda Grimbeek
COO
24 November 2016



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