

# 1. FOREWORD

[By the Executive Mayor]

On behalf of the Leadership collective and the multitudes of our people I introduce the 2008/2009 Integrated Development Plan for Umjindi Municipality. This is a document after listening to the voice of our people which guides us in our service delivery.

With the emphasis in the new cycle of IDP's on the ward system, it is giving the municipality a better understanding and focus on the priorities of each area, where the community based plans have played a major role. I want to thank all stakeholders – my fellow Councillors, the ward Committees, the Community Development Workers, the Developmental Planning Unit, Steering Committee and the community at large for assisting us to compile this important guide which determines our focus for the 5 years to come.

As Umjindi is predominantly a rural area, the core service areas were those identified as crucial for the development of our area but several new priority issues were identified, namely:

- ◇ Formal township development, where the focus must be on the acceleration of the transfer of state – and privately owned land to the people for both farming and residential purposes. Projects must be initiated at Verulam, Sheba Siding, Emjindini Trust, Kathyville/Burgerville, the transitional camps and other informal settlements.
- ◇ Water provision remains a priority with Emjindini Trust, Sheba Siding, Extention 14 and Extention 11 (phase II) and Ext 12 being identified as project implementation areas.
- ◇ Stormwater drainage was identified as a priority in Extention 10 (phase II), Dindela (Ka-Mhola), Spearville, Burgerville and also Extentions 3, 10 and 11.
- ◇ The rural areas of Sheba Siding, Verulam, Dixie Farm and areas to be proclaimed in Emjindini were prioritised for the provision of electricity and other basic services.
- ◇ Transport is a crucial issue and the construction of a new taxi rank in the CBD (Ward 6) was prioritized.
- ◇ Our financial management also improved after the appointment of the new Chief Financial Officer in the institution.
- ◇ As a result of latter, the Council also received an unqualified audit statement for 2006/2007 financial year.

- ◇ The Municipality also obtained position 3 in the Provincial cleanest town competition.
- ◇ On both Vuna Award and the cleanest town competition, the Municipality received some money with which we intend to improve our service delivery.

We are faced with many challenges, but this municipality prides itself on its service delivery, we have been awarded a Vuna Award for service delivery several times during the previous years and again during 2006/2007 we obtained position 3 within the province.

As poverty and unemployment are key issues which need to be addressed, initiatives have also been moving ahead on a macro-level. Here I want to mention the upgrading of the R40 to Nelspruit, which will impact very positively on our economy, the progress made on the Concession Creek Dam, the service provision agreement of the tourism marketing with the Barberton Tourism Organisation which should see more BEE tourism product owners emerging in our area, and the potential declaration of the Makhonjwa Mountain as a national and World Heritage Site also in this regard applaud the tentative listing and put further efforts for final declaration. Council will also pursue the possibility of an establishment of a film school or Centre in Umjindi

The IDP is not only a document which focuses on municipal service delivery; it also addressed the social development of our communities and is a guideline for other sector departments on where to focus their services. The completion of our investment prospectus is a major achievement for economic investment in Umjindi. We will now place sharper focus on economic development and investments

The holistic approach covering all government sectors but with the breakdown of each ward gives us more focus and, at the end of the day, makes it easier and more realistic in measuring our performance.

Umjindi Municipality is committed to good governance, developmental governance, and good service delivery within the limits of the available resources we will implement what we can to create a better life for all.

**RV LUKHELE**  
**EXECUTIVE MAYOR**