



Department of Local Government and Housing
Departement van Plaaslike Regering en Behuising
ISebe loRhulumente boMmandla nezeZindlu

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Pre-Imbizo Report

Prince Albert Municipality

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1. Introduction

The report covers the following:

- Municipal Profile
- Socio-economic Profile
- Demographic Profile
- Municipal key performance areas, namely:
 - Municipal Transformation and Institutional Development
 - Financial Viability
 - Basic Service delivery and Infrastructure
 - Good Governance
 - Local Economic Development
- Progress on Previous Imbizo held
- Provincial department interventions and projects

2. Municipal Profile

Prince Albert is situated in the Central Karoo, 400km north of Cape Town and 170km south west of Beaufort West. It is an established agricultural hub and tourist destination, popular for its scenic beauty, rich natural history, awe – inspiring ecosystems and rich biodiversity.

District roads radiate out of Prince Albert connecting it to its satellite towns of Prince Albert Road on the N1(45km to the north west), Klaarstroom on the R329(55km to the east) and Leeu – Gamka on the N1(55km to the north)

According to the Prince Albert Integrated Development Plan (IDP), four geographical areas constitute the municipality. These are Prince Albert, Klaarstroom , Leeu – Gamka and the Rural Area.

-  Prince Albert: including centralised “Dorp” with the main business area and predominantly white residential area.
-  North End, Prince Albert’s predominantly coloured residential area.
-  Klaarstroom
-  Leeu – Gamka: including Leeu – Gamka and Newton Park
-  Prince Albert Road

3. Demographic Information

According to the Census 2001, the population of Prince Albert showed a growth of 1005 people mainly from the African population group and Coloured population group with a decline in the growth in the Indian and White population groups. The total growth rate translates into an overall 10%.

Prince Albert Municipal Area is made up of the Central Business District and North End with a population of 66.2%, Klaarstroom with a population of 5.5%, Prince Albert Road 0.7% people and Leeu Gamka 25.6%. Assumptions is made that increase in the growth of Prince Albert is related to the agricultural activities in the area.

Comparing this data with the gender distribution shows that 5276 of the total population is male while 5236 are female.

Table: Demographic profile (Census 2001)

Population					
Municipality	African	Coloured	White	Indians	Total
Prince Albert	172	9137	1192	11	10,512

4. Socio-economic profile

Gender / Age Group											
Municipality	0 – 4 years		5 – 14 years		15 – 34 years		35 – 64 years		Over 65		Total
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Prince Albert	626	608	1229	1150	1627	1632	1467	1540	287	346	10,512

According to Census 2001, Prince Albert has a total labour force of 3842.

Economically Active Population				
Municipality	Employed	Unemployed	Not Economically Active	Total Labour Force
Prince Albert	2496	1346	2494	3842

The employment figures, according to Census 2001, is the following:

Employment & Unemployment (%)		
Municipality	Employed	Unemployed

			Total	
Prince Albert	38	57	62	43
TOTALS	53		47	

Potential Growth Sectors

The following sectors are potential growth areas:

Tourism

- Swartberg tourism development
- Gamkadam - Tourism development
- Tour guides
- Khoisan village
- Meditation chapels
- Craft hives
- Gouritz mond initiative

Manufacturing

- Skin hides and leather based craft production
- Wood based products

Agri-business

- Agri-routes
- Farm routes
- Herbal remedies
- Quinces
- Water mills

Transport

- Rehabilitation of the Swartberg Pass

5. Municipal Key Performance Areas

The following key challenges are experienced in the area:

- Internal municipal capacity is a concern
- Housing backlogs (Klaarstroom 150, Leeu Gamka 300 and Prince Albert 400).
- Managing the transfer of Transnet houses to the municipality.
- Basic services backlogs and appropriate infrastructure provision (Sanitation in Leeu Gamka and Prince Albert Road)
- Economic regeneration (Prince Albert experienced a 7% growth spurt) yet high levels of unemployment

5.1 Local Economic Development

IDP Priorities

Key priority areas are:

- Economic development
- Environmental development
- Social development
- Land and Housing
- Infrastructure development
- Institutional development
- Financial (Management)

The IDP-budget link needs improvement and the budget needs to target those LED / IDP aspects that will make the critical impact in the long term in the development of the new IDP.

LED Strategy

The main approach is to try and provide sustainable services and to selectively explore economic opportunities. The municipality has finalized its LED strategy and there is a need take cognizance of and plan for the following:

- Prince Albert must work with the district on implementing the long-term development strategy
- The 7% growth is noted, although poverty statistics have not reduced accordingly.
- Assistance with possible funding for the cold storage facility in Prince Albert through infrastructure funding needs to be explored.

Currently the major investments are:

- Pont over Gamka Poort Dam (R5 million-DEAT funding)
- Recycling Project(currently on halt due to a lack of funding)
- Restitution Project
- Food Security via food gardens in respective areas.
- Zenzele (EPWP) project(pavements – in process)
- Relocation of squatters(process completed)
- Sidewalks upgrading(in process)
- Renovation of Municipal offices in Prince Albert(completed)
- Water resource study(in process)
- Upgrading of Sport Grounds(in process)

5.2 Institutional Transformation and Organizational development

A Shared Services Centre is currently under discussion in the Central Karoo. It aims to deal with two underlying concerns:

- A lack of appropriate staff capacity for optimum municipal functionality
- Limits on revenue and high staff costs

The following have thus far been undertaken:

- A literature review on shared services nationally and internationally
- Investigation into two case studies:
 - Gauteng Shared Service Centre
 - Joburg Shared Revenue Centre

- A capacity and staffing assessment of the three municipalities and to some extent the District Municipality as well
- A one-day scoping workshop to agree on approach and prospective options
- Development of a draft organogram, staffing needs and costs for the SSC
- Development of the criteria for decision-making
- A detailed cost-benefit analysis
- Implement performance management reward systems to improve working conditions
- Establish local innovation centres for skills development and as well establish links with other institutions.
- Develop and implement a skills development plan in the node.

A draft feasibility study was deliberated by newly-elected political principals and stakeholders on 3 May 2006.

All four municipalities in the District area confirmed their commitment to the shared services concept but are in favour of adopting an incrementalist approach of sharing skills and services in a formal arrangement amongst one another as opposed to a unit under the jurisdiction of the District.

5.3 Municipal Financial Viability

The financial health of the municipality is in a relatively good condition. A Financial Assessment of the municipality is being concluded. This should identify opportunities for revenue enhancement and cost-reduction.

At the Medium Term Expenditure Committee Hearings held in May 2006, financial statements showed that the municipality practice sound revenue management in so far that the actual revenue of the municipality exceeded the budget by 3,44%. In addition, the municipality's situation on debt management were within the norm which requires that total liabilities should not be more than 57% of it's total assets. The municipality,s ratio is currently on 38.9%.

The Division of Revenue Act indicates an allocation of R3,381 million to Prince Albert Municipality.

5.4 Service Delivery and Infrastructure

All residents have access to basic services and there is a relatively high level of infrastructure. Extension of services to farming areas is a priority for the next period and major resources challenges is anticipated in this respect. Service delivery investigation to farming areas is in its final stages.

The Department of Local Government and Housing will be supporting the municipality with on-going infrastructure projects related to water and sanitation. Assistance in the review of a disaster management plan will also be provided. Assistance in the finalization of a 5- year housing plan is being looked at.

Water provision is receiving serious attention with the support of service providers. Water storage and distribution is also receiving attention.

Housing and Basic Services Backlogs

The estimated backlog on housing and essential services is as follows:

Municipality	Housing	Electricity	Sanitation	Water
Prince Albert	900	286	25	40

Approved Housing Projects:

The following are the approved housing projects:

Project No.	Project Description	Units	Type	Rand	% Progress on Services	Progress on Top Structures	
						Under Constr.	Complete
529	Prins Albert	372	PLINK/NHBRC	6 119 353	100	22	350
Remarks: Project completed successfully.							

The following are the planned housing projects:

Description	No. of Units	Expected Departmental Approval Date
1. Project 635: Leeu Gamka. Decision delayed due to EADP report outstanding – sustainability in question.	200	Uncertain
2. Project 636. Klarstroom. Decision delayed due to EADP report outstanding – sustainability in question.	170	Uncertain
3. Project 671: Noord End Uitbr. Both water and sanitation bulk services are required before approval can be given.	300	Uncertain

5.5 Good Governance

The Area committee in the municipal area is established and functional.

5.6 Social cohesion

The node thus far was not able to identify initiatives that would successfully address social problems.

Prince Albert is benefiting from the appointment of a TB / HIV and AIDS District Coordinator through the Global Fund to address VCT and MTCT Programmes; ARV Clinics and Community Base Care in the Node.

The **South African Police Service (SAPS)** in partnership with **Community Safety**, coordinated by the **Department of Local Government and Housing** commissioned and completed an integrated crime prevention strategy, of which implementation plans are currently being developed for roll-out in Prince Albert.

6. Progress on previous imbizo held

A Presidential imbizo was held in the Central Karoo on the 5 August 2005, represented by the Deputy President.

An action plan was compiled with measurable outcomes to address the key issues that were identified. The following can be reported on in terms of progress:

Measurable Outcome	Progress
A detailed LED Strategic and Implementation Plan (Document)	District LED Plans completed. LED plans for local municipalities finalised. Public participation process to be undertaken.
Detailed Capacity and Competency Assessment (Report)	Shared services model focusing on an incrementalist approach of sharing services and skills is being explored.
Establishment and Functioning of ward committees and area committees (Prince Albert)	All ward committees were established and were fully functional as an imbizo outcome. An area committee is established in Prince Albert.
Sustainable financial management plan	Report compiled on options for revenue enhancement for municipalities. Medium terms expend committee (MTEC3) process completed with Prov. Treasury. Dept Econ.Dev. & DLGH. Support areas to be identified by Prov Treasury
Basic services and Housing plans in place and implemented	The District and local municipalities are engaging on the following in relation to basic services and housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Implementation of sustainable human settlements is taking place by monitoring and evaluation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy and climate change. - Sustainable water use and management. - Sustainable waste management. - Bio-diversity management. - Sustainable transport.

7. Sector Department Interventions

The **Provincial Department of Education** initiated a Learners Drivers License project in the Central Karoo with candidates chosen from the ABET Centre, as well as training of teachers in technology that included a technology kit for each school. Beaufort West also benefited from this project.

Through the installation of electronic facilities, services such as advertising of vacant posts, checking of appointments and salaries, locating schools at any given area and investigating of enrolments at a particular school have been made easier. A new system currently being rolled out will ensure that a learner could be tracked together with his/her record, by means of a unique number allocated to a learner from the level of Grade R.

The **Department of Labour** renders a service, through the National Skills Fund, which deals with the development and improvement of the skills of the unemployed to better enable them to find employment and be eventually active.

Access to Government Services

Prince Albert's Multi Purpose Centre is in the planning stage. The Department of Social Services has a local office located in Prince Albert.

Departments identified for further engagement:

- **Economic Development and Tourism:** Specific projects have been proposed that needs engagements namely the Packing facility, Business Quarters for Entrepreneurs, Tunnel Project and Tourism Project. Linkages to a sewing project with Department of Social services needs investigation.
- **Local Government and Housing:** Assistance with possible funding for the cold storage facility in Klaarstroom through infrastructure funding.
- **Social Services and Poverty Alleviation:** Primary assistance to get a clear poverty alleviation plan in Prince Albert. Possible establishment of a Multi-purpose centre in the municipal area, with a clear understanding that the Department is considering this request within a district-wide context. Improving food security in the area. Possible support to a local sewing project with the understanding the Department has only R1,5m for poverty alleviation funding in the district.
- **Agriculture:** Engage on link to Prince Albert and proposed district-wide rural projects by Casidra and Department of Agriculture (Total R1,5m.) Land restitution within the municipal area is not moving. The 'Renu-Karoo' Seed Project needs support.
- **Education:** Need to engage on pre-school facility.
- **Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:** Water resource availability is a critical issue in collaboration with the National Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.
- **Transport and Public Works:** Assistance in clarifying the issue of a Swartberg Pass Tollgate
- **Cultural Affairs and Sport:** Library facilities in specific locations need attention.