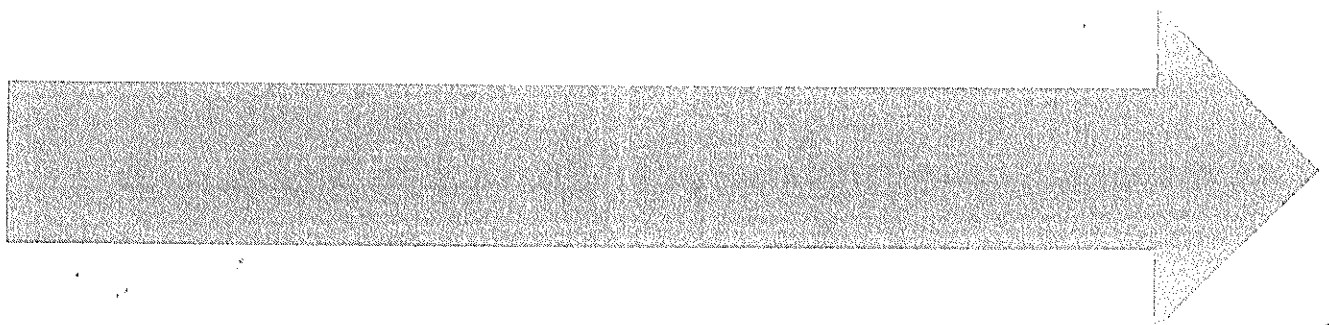


UTHUKELA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AGENCY



131 MURCHISON
STREET
LADYSMITH
3370
0634401107
www.ueda.co.za
Corp.c@ueda.co.za

UTHUKELA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
SECOND QUARTELY
REPORT (02 OCTOBER
2024 – 31
DECEMBER 2024)



VISION

An economically vibrant and prosperous district that remains and attracts businesses encored in unique opportunities and innovation for sustainable economic development

MISSION

- Create an enabling business – friendly environment thus ensuring the retention and attraction of local and international investments and promoting new business ventures working with all social and business partners for achieving a prosperous sustainable economic development for UThukela District.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to summarize the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to Good Governance that were accomplished during the first quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year. It aims to provide insights into the effectiveness of governance practices and highlight achievements within that timeframe.

BACKGROUND

- The Corporate Service section is mandated to ensure compliance with legislation applicable to municipal entities principals outlined in the King III.
- Report and ensure organisational development and transformation.
- Implement performance management
- To improve the capacity of staff for service delivery

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1. CORPORATE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

1.1. COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

Compliance Checklist was amended using previous compliance checklist. The Checklist was submitted to the board of directors for adoption. The Board on the meeting that sat on 8 July 2024 adopted the checklist.

1.2. PERFORMANCE REPORTS SUBMITTED TO UTDM

UTHukela Economic Development Agency is required to submit their quarterly performance to the parent municipality after every quarter. The Agency's performance is measured through their SDBIP that is set in the beginning of the financial year as the work that will be done by the Agency throughout the year. The performance report comprises of KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) that are set to be achieved by the Agency. The Agency will submit their performance quarterly reports to eThukela District Municipality on the date to be confirmed.

1.3. QUARTELY BOARD MEETINGS

In 2nd quarter, the board of directors held their quarterly meeting on 07 October 2024.

The following items were discussed in the meeting:

07 October 2024 Meeting

ITEMS DISCUSSED FOR VOTING:

- LGSETA Term 3/4 Report
- Tools of Trade
- Office Space

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED UNDER MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Portfolio Committee Report
 - Finance and Investment

- LED Programmes
- Corporate Services
- Quarter 1 Report
 - Finance Report
 - Performance Report
- Workshop Report
- Staff Disciplinary Committee

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS	MEETINGS	PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES		
	07 October 2024	Finance	LED	Corporate
DR KH M Jale	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrs. A Asmal	✓	✓	Absent	✓
Mr AM Msoni	✓	✓	✓	Absent
Mr B Kubiaka	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms N Zikolala	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. M Sibule	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr. W K...	✓	✓	✓	✓

1.4. QUARTERLY INTERNAL AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The UThukela Economic Development Agency was unable to achieve KPI 5 due to an internal audit issue. However, the Parent Municipality has committed to providing assistance in the next quarter to address this challenge and ensure progress towards meeting the target.

1.5. TRAINING REPORTS

1.5.1. RISK ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this risk assessment report is to identify and analyse potential risks associated with the strategic objectives and action plans aimed at improving institutional capacity and the policy environment for effective Local Economic Development (LED), specifically in the context of skill development, human resource management, financial management, support for SMMEs, and good governance. This report aims to provide insights into root causes and consequences of identified risks to facilitate informed decision-making and proactive risk mitigation.

BACKGROUND

Local Economic Development (LED) initiatives are crucial for enhancing economic growth, reducing unemployment, and fostering sustainable development within communities. The success of these initiatives depends on various strategic objectives, including skill development, effective human resource management, financial sustainability, and good governance practices. However, the implementation of these strategies is often accompanied by inherent risks that can undermine their effectiveness. This report will outline the risks associated with each strategic objective, identify root causes, and analyse potential consequences. By addressing the identified risks associated with the strategic objectives of the LED initiatives, the organization can enhance its capacity for effective governance, skill development, and economic support for the community. Implementing the recommendations outlined in this report will contribute to mitigating risks and fostering a more sustainable and vibrant local economy.

1.5.2. RISK TRAINING

Improving institutional capacity and the policy environment for effective Local Economic Development (LED) is significantly influenced by financial availability and

management, support for the informal economy and Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), and the enhancement of educational skills and capacity development through good governance. Root causes include inadequate financial resources allocated to LED initiatives, leading to reliance on external funding and mismanagement of local funds. The informal economy often lacks formal recognition and support, limiting SMMEs' access to financial services and markets, while insufficient educational systems fail to equip the workforce with necessary skills. Consequently, these factors result in stagnant economic growth, increased unemployment, and a lack of innovation, ultimately perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality. Addressing these root causes through effective policy and governance can foster a more inclusive and resilient local economy.

DAY 1 - 14 OCTOBER 2024

NO	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ACTION PLAN	DUE DATE
1.	Improve the institutional Capacity and Policy environment for effective LED	Skill Development Plan Human Resources Management plan Skills Audit Request COGTA on roles & responsibility of board vs the parent municipality	13 December 2024 31 March 2025 30 June 2025 30 June 2025
2.	Financial availability and Management	Develop Revenue Enhancement Strategy	15 December 2024 30 November 2024

		Explore Strategic Financial Management System	
3.	Support for informal Economy & Small Medium and Micro Enterprises(SMMEs)	Develop an Agency Local Economic Development strategy Formalize the working relationship with the local and parent municipality through signing of the service. Conduct research on available working space (Ithala buildings) for SMMEs	31 March 2025 30 June 2025 22 November 2024
4.	Ensuring Effective Educational Skills and Capacity Development(Good Governance)	Anti-fraud, corruption and Ethics Awareness Follow-up with KZNPT to Conduct Fraud Risk Assessment Develop Gift Register and Implementation Establish Risk Management Committee.	04 November 2024 31 March 2025 31 October 2024 29 November 2024 29 November 2024

	Nominate Ethics Champion Member	
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DAY 2 - 15 OCTOBER 2024

NO	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	ACTION PLAN	DUE DATE
5.	Support for informal economy & small, enterprise (Investment and LED)	Develop Investment Attraction and Promotion Strategy Develop LED Strategy Plan Develop Tourism strategy Develop Web based Tourism office	30 June 2025 31 March 2025 31 March 2025 30 June 2025
6.	Expansion & diversification of the manufacturing sector	Vacant Land and Post On Website Identify investment opportunities available in UThukela District	30 June 2025 (On going) 30 June 2025 (Ongoing)

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this report highlights key risks associated with Local Economic Development (LED) initiatives, including inadequate funding, weak support for the informal economy, poor educational systems, and governance challenges. Addressing

these risks through targeted action plans—such as improving financial management, formalizing partnerships, enhancing skills development, and strengthening governance—will mitigate potential obstacles and promote sustainable economic growth. By implementing these strategies and continuously monitoring progress, the organization can foster a more resilient and inclusive local economy, driving long-term development and prosperity for the community.

1.6. REPORT ON THE PROGRESS AND IMPACT OF PROGRAMMES FOR 2025/26: UTHUKELA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (UEDA).

BACKGROUND

The uThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) has been committed to fostering economic growth and development in the uThukela District by implementing various programmes aimed at promoting small businesses, tourism, agriculture, and investment opportunities within the region. As part of its 2025/26 goals, UEDA continues to focus on improving key sectors such as Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), Local Economic Development (LED), agriculture, and tourism to enhance socio-economic development in the area. The following report outlines the key performance indicators (KPIs) and the progress made toward achieving these objectives.

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

- SMME Training Initiatives
- Business Services
- Support for Businesses Run by Disabled Persons
- Financial Support for SMMEs
- Small-Scale System Development
- Market Link and Selling Data Collection
- Identification of Investment Opportunities
- Business Retention

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

- Tourism Stakeholder Engagement
- Development of Tourism Routes
- Rural and Township Development
- Market for Souvenirs
- Tourism Destination Marketing
- Tourism Web Office
- Accreditation of UEDA
- Livestock Auctions and Agricultural Shows
- Development of Agricultural Markets
- Groundnut, Bean, and Chicory Production
- Youth in Agriculture
- Cannabis Industry Development

CONCLUSION

The UThukela Economic Development Agency has made significant strides in promoting economic growth and development across various sectors in the district. The ongoing implementation of programs aimed at supporting SMMEs, developing tourism, enhancing agricultural production, and identifying investment opportunities has contributed to the creation of a more robust and diversified local economy. While much progress has been made, UEDA will continue to focus on enhancing these initiatives, expanding support for local entrepreneurs, and fostering an environment conducive to sustainable growth. As the agency moves towards the 2025/26 targets, it remains committed to the empowerment of local businesses, the attraction of investment, and the development of a sustainable and inclusive economy for all residents of the uThukela District.

1.7. ADOPTION OF POLICIES

UThukela Economic Development Agency will be reviewing policies for the financial year 25/26. On 15 of November 2024, policies were submitted to the Board of Directors for reviewing purposes.

The list of policies reviewed is as follows:

- Employment Equity policy
- Leave policy
- Performance management policy
- Virement policy
- Whistle Blowing policy

1.8. UTHUKELA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT FORM

An employee performance agreement (EPA) Form is a document used to outline the expectations, goals, and responsibilities of an employee within the specific review period. It serves as a tool for both the employee and employer to set clear, measurable objectives, assess progress, and align expectations regarding job performance.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Corporate Service Unit has successfully met most of its key performance indicators (KPIs), demonstrating effective management and efficient operations. However, KPI 06 related to Internal Audit was not fully achieved, highlighting an area that requires attention. Despite this, the overall performance of the unit indicates it is functioning well, effectively managing its responsibilities, and making substantial progress towards its goals. Moving forward, addressing the challenges in Internal Audit will further strengthen the unit's capacity to meet all KPIs and enhance overall operational performance.

2. FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

2.1. DRAFT MID-TERM BUDGET

The 2024/2025 Adjustment Budget reflects significant revisions to both revenue and expenditure to align with the entity's current financial realities and operational needs.

- **Revenue Adjustments:**

Revenue was reduced by R3650,016, bringing the adjusted total to R7,450,000. Key changes include a reduction in transfer expenditure to reflect only the Acting CEO's salary, an increase in interest income exceeding projections by R8,500, and a decrease in "Other Revenue" due to the exclusion of SARS refunds. Additionally, income from services was revised downward, and revenue from a conditional grant was removed as it is no longer a commitment.

- **Operating Expenditure Adjustments:**

Operating expenditure decreased by R201,514, bringing the adjusted total to R7,505,480. Major adjustments include higher costs for audit and CIPC annual returns fees, reduced marketing and advertising expenditure, and savings from more efficient resource utilization across areas like printing, stationery, and cleaning material. Other adjustments include the removal of insurance expenses, rationalization of the Acting CEO's salary costs, and reduced funding for programmes and projects requiring capitalisation. Adjustments were also made for utility bills following contract changes and a reduction in depreciation following the removal of certain assets.

- **Capital Expenditure Adjustments:**

Capital expenditure decreased, with an adjusted total of R144,514. This includes a reduction in renovation costs for budget efficiency, removal of funds for a new vehicle purchase, and additional funding for computer equipment and software for training tools.

2.2. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Agency currently receives limited financial reports for October-December. These reports provide a detailed analysis of the Agency's budgetary

performance, ensuring that expenditure remains within the approved budget and aligned with UEDA's strategic priorities. The reports also provide transparency on revenue generation and cost containment measures.

2.3. COLLECTION OF VACANT LAND AND BUILDING DATA

During Quarter 2, the uThukela Economic Development Agency initiated efforts to identify and catalogue vacant and under-utilised land for investment promotion within the district. Key activities included:

- **Engagement with Municipalities**

- Conducted consultations with Alfred Duma and Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipalities.

- Secured access to valuation rolls, now available on the Agency's website, highlighting vacant land for potential investors.

- **Direct Links to Valuation rolls:**

- Alfred Duma: <https://www.alfredduma.gov.za/download/general-valuation-roll-for-the-period-1-july-2023-to-30-june-2028/>

- Inkosi Langalibalele: <https://ilm.gov.za/document-tag/valuation-roll/>

- **Collaboration with the Private Sector**

- Engaged real estate companies, including Dedekind, Richmond & Associates, and Nambithi Properties.

- Identified available land for sale along Poort Road in Ladysmith, advertised by Nambithi Properties – **Contact: Nambithi Properties** (011 661 9773/9776)

2.4. IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The UThukela Economic Development Agency has identified several strategic investment opportunities within Alfred Duma and Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipalities. These opportunities aim to stimulate economic growth, enhance infrastructure, and create jobs, contributing to the district's development goals.

Key Identified Opportunities

- Restaurant Centre – 23 Victor Road, Ladysmith (Alfred Duma Municipality):

Construction is underway for a new restaurant center.

Investment prospects include housing spaces for restaurants and retail shops, establishing local handicrafts and marketing complementary services such as catering and accommodation.

The center is expected to draw foreign tourists, visitors and local residents.



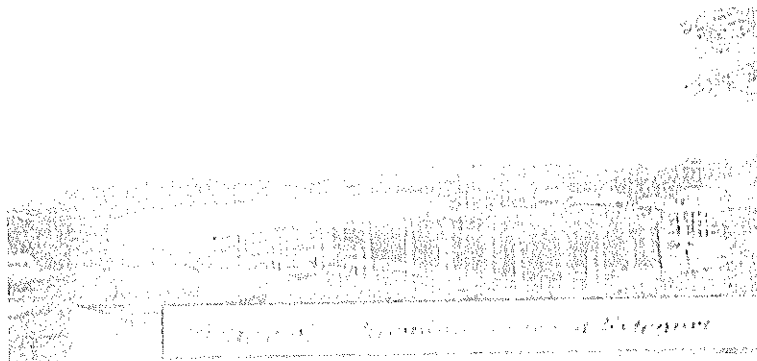
Picture of a Restaurant Centre, Ladysmi

- Inkosi La Gqitholeni Municipality Projects:

• **State Hospital Gate**: A facility for auxiliary businesses such as healthcare services, restaurants, and accommodations for visitors and staff.

• **Shopping Centre**: Investment opportunities include retail stores, food services, shops, and transport services to connect the center with surrounding areas.

• **Warehouse and Transport Logistics (EIT)**: A renovation of a former airport to create a logistics hub for storing and exporting commodities. Investment prospects include warehousing, transportation, and freight-related services.



- Depot up-gradation.

- Potential for logistics and transportation businesses, including warehousing, distribution centers, and trucking services.

The development would facilitate trade within South Africa and with other regions, bolstering the district's position in regional commerce.

2.5. MONTHLY OSS EXPENDITURE REPORTS

The UThukela District Local Government Agency was unable to submit monthly OSS (One Stop Shop) expenditure reports as the OSS program has not yet been officially launched. UThukela is collaborating with key stakeholders to accelerate the launch process. It was initially proposed to house the One Stop Shop at its own premises, rather than the shared location at IThala Industrial Estate, to reduce the overhead costs of electricity and utilities. The centrally located premises in town would also be more accessible to businesses.

2.6. TRAINING OF SMMES

The UThukela District Local Government Agency hosted two training sessions for SMMEs on November and December 2024, focusing on compliance with the Companies Act and the Rental Property (Control) Act (RPA) and the South African Revenue Service (SARS) regulations. The sessions covered topics such as company registration, tax registration, and filing requirements.

Five representatives from SMMEs attended, and the sessions were positive, particularly for the practical exercises and case demonstrations. Participants suggested further training on topics like financial management. Overall, the sessions were well-received and provided valuable knowledge.



Training on 25/11/2024, UThukela Boardroom

2.7. SERVICES RENDERED

The UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) continues to drive economic growth and SMME empowerment in the UThukela District. During this quarter, the agency supported five SMMEs by providing essential services such as business registration (CIPC), tax compliance authority (SARS), and business plan development.

Key highlights include:

- **Services provided:**

Umyi Enterprise Pty Ltd, Wonderboy Internet Café Pty (Ltd), and Uthukela Foundations received CIPC assistance. Mthandl Enterprise Pty (Ltd) and Mvikelwa and Brothers Pty (Ltd) also received SARS assistance regarding services.

- Revenue Generated: A total of R40,000 was collected for the services rendered with no fees charged to clients with disabilities.

2.8. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) facilitated transportation services for Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) between 13 and 14 November 2023. The initiative aimed to support SMMEs in conducting their business operations efficiently by providing affordable and reliable transport.

Key Highlights:

- **Clients and Routes:**

UEDA facilitated transport services for two routes: Kooxwani to Ladysmith and Kooxwani to Bergville.

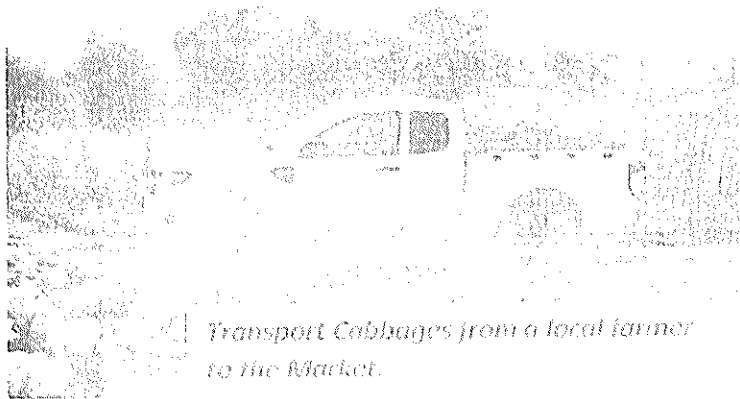
- **Goods Transported:**

Approximately 1,000 kg of goods were transported, enabling timely delivery to customers.

- **Cost and Efficiency:**

The service was provided at a cost of R150 to R200 per trip, with a standardized rate for all clients.

the total cost of the service provided was R318



Transport Cabbages from a local farmer to the Market.

2.9. ADVERTISING AND LIAISING WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES ABOUT UEDA'S SERVICES,

The Uthmaniyana Economic Development Agency (UEDA) has developed a strategic approach to provide its services to local businesses, particularly Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises. UEDA provides business assistance with CIPC registration, business plan development, access to finance, SIME funding applications, and marketing support. To enhance visibility, UEDA has employed a multi-channel advertising strategy, including social media updates on its official website, physical notices, and active participation in local events.

Key advertising channels and initiatives:

- Social media presence: UEDA promoted its services on platforms like Facebook and Twitter.
- Digital notices: UEDA utilized digital notices.
- Physical notices: UEDA placed physical notices on community notice boards.
- Local events: UEDA participated in events such as the Inkanyezi Special School graduation ceremony and the Disability Day at Roosboom on 12 September.

Additionally, UEDA engaged with local municipalities, including Thembu and Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality, to coordinate services, explore potential collaborations, and avoid service duplication.

Expected outcomes from this strategy include increased awareness of UEDA's services, higher engagement with front businesses, stronger community connections, and improved methods to disseminate resources. A database will track engagement metrics and inform future plans to refine services and enhance its impact.

2.10. THE PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS FOR SEWING BUSINESSES

The UThabane Community Development Centre (CDC) and U. Day conducted an initiative on 5 November 2024 to support vulnerable entrepreneurs, particularly those engaged in the sewing industry. A visit to Kwa-Zakhele Disabled School aimed to identify entrepreneurs and UThabane CDC and U. Day can provide them with resources to enhance their businesses.

Key Highlights:

- **Visit and Engagement:**
The CDC and U. Day visited Kwa-Zakhele Disabled School, where they met with the head teacher, who shared insights into the school's structure and the challenges faced by students. The CDC is a facility for nurturing and supporting vulnerable children.
- **Support and Collaboration:**
The CDC and U. Day are exploring collaborative initiatives, including the establishment of a sewing cooperative utilising existing resources.
- **Entrepreneurial Support:**
The CDC and U. Day are providing support to entrepreneurs across Alfred Duma and UThabane, including the provision of sewing machines, alongside a cooperative.
- **Challenges and Needs:**
The CDC and U. Day are addressing challenges, including the need for sewing machines, thread, and other materials, as well as acquiring machinery.
- **Procurement of Materials:**
The CDC and U. Day are procuring materials, including needles, threads, scissors, tailor chalk, and other sewing supplies, to support their immediate needs.
- **Procurement of Materials:**
The CDC and U. Day are procuring materials, including needles, threads, scissors, tailor chalk, and other sewing supplies, to support their immediate needs.

2.11. MARKETING PRODUCT AND SERVICES OF BUSINESSES OPERATED BY DISABLED AND SECLUDED INDIVIDUALS

The UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) has undertaken efforts to promote businesses operated by disabled and isolated individuals within Inkosi Langalibalele and Alfred Duma municipalities. Through community and school visits, the agency facilitated various activities including unique handmade products, such as beadwork, and woven items. It developed a marketing plan to boost the visibility of their businesses.

Key Activities and Findings:

• Visits Conducted:

In November 4, 2024, a visit to Kwazamokuhle School in Estcourt showcased Bantwa's products, produced through sewing and intricate beadwork.

A business opportunity was identified as a beadwork entrepreneur working with parents and grandparents.

On December 11, 2024, a visit to Kwamthabdi in Ladysmith introduced Winkhlabale as a small business owner.

• Marketing Efforts:

Photographs of products were taken and shared through the agency's website, including its Facebook page and website, as well as other social media platforms.

The agency aims to continue to attract customers and encourage entrepreneurship among disabled individuals.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083618070150>

UEDA Website: <https://www.ueda.co.za/finance-and-investments/>

2.12. SMME FUNDING APPLICATIONS

The UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) actively worked to meet Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 24, which mandates the submission of at least two SMME funding applications. This report outlines the funding opportunities identified, the engagement with SMMEs, and the outcomes of the applications submitted.

Identified Funding Opportunities:

1. **KZN Youth Fund:** Focused on supporting entrepreneurs aged 18–35, particularly in priority sectors and innovation. Applications closed on 1 November 2024.
2. **Agro-Processing Support Scheme (APSS):** Aimed at stimulating investment in agro-processing businesses with no specific deadline for submission.
3. **Agribusiness Development Agency (ADA):** Focused on assisting operational agricultural businesses with applications closing on 31 January 2025.

Engagement with SMMEs:

- Notifications about funding opportunities were sent via email to UEDA's SMME network.
- Direct assistance was provided to several SMMEs in completing and reviewing their applications.

Key Outcomes:

- **KZN Youth Fund Applications:**
 - Assisted MDZMKMS Trading and Project in submission.
 - Reviewed applications for ADADAS, Ithubelihle (PTY) Ltd, and Nyamezela Co-operative before submission to Alfred Duma Municipality.
- **Agro-Processing Support Scheme:**
 - Supported MDZMKMS Trading and Projects, Zumakha Broiler Farm Holdings, Nyamezela Co-operative, Mthombeni Agri Farm, and Umvuzo 'Ithubuthuko Sakho Primary Co-operative' Limited.

and again have been successful with Zumakha Broiler Farm Holdings who wanted to reapply for documentation but eligible to reapply.

- **Agribusiness Development Fund (ADF)**

ADF applications are ongoing, focusing on agricultural businesses, especially those needed for persons in secluded areas.

2.13. ENGAGEMENT WITH MAJOR INDUSTRY

UThukela has, through the management (UEDA) successfully engaged with DEFY, a key industry player in the region. The team focused on fostering partnerships, identifying areas of collaboration, aligning DEFY's operations with UEDA's development objectives, and addressing DEFY's concerns about challenges they face in their operations, particularly a shortage of the required skilled labour. The team has been working with their landlord, Thaba, who has not attended to the building's structural issues or persistent roof leaks. As a result, DEFY has been forced to take on the task of making the repairs themselves. However, Thaba has not been reimbursed DEFY for the costs incurred for these repairs. The team is currently working on resolving these issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engage with the relevant stakeholders at the program's launch and consider incorporating a community engagement component.
- Boost the visibility of the program by assisting with funding applications, which can help in the long-term sustainability of the program.
- Engage with the relevant stakeholders in Thaba to resolve the building repair issues and ensure the program's sustainability.
- Encourage the program to continue to identify and promote the use of local resources and materials, which can help in the long-term sustainability of the program.
- Encourage the program to continue to identify and promote the use of local resources for procuring materials and services, which can help in the long-term sustainability of the program.

- **Monitor Financial Performance:** Regularly assess financial performance and make adjustments to stay on track with the budget.

3. LED PROGRAMMES

3.1. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WITH TRADE

One stakeholder engagement was conducted on the 15 of November 2024 to enhance tourism marketing and development in the UThukela District, held with the Cathkin Manager the meeting was at Winterion Tourism Offices. The meeting was focused on strategies to market the district as a new tourist destination. This discussion was highly productive, fostering greater understanding and collaboration. Further engagements will follow that will ensure the completion of the district's tourism marketing strategy.

3.2. TOURISM ROUTES DEVELOPMENT



ANCIENT TRADITION

Discussions (5) and meetings (3) were held in various venues within the UThukela District to discuss the development and revitalization of tourism routes. These discussions aimed to identify local tourism offerings and boost economic growth by improving local tourism infrastructure, building capacity among entrepreneurs, and identifying new tourism hubs. Key meetings took place in InkosiLangalibalele Local Municipality (ILM), O'hahamba Local Municipality (OLMP), and Alfred Duma Local Municipality (ADLM).

InkosiLangalibalele Local Municipality (ILM) focused on the revitalization of cultural heritage and local tourism infrastructure. Discussions highlighted the need to enhance cultural tourism offerings, including traditional dance performances and historical site visits. There was a strong emphasis on supporting local businesses and artisans to create a vibrant tourism experience.

Similarly, in OLMP, the focus was on the development of eco-tourism routes. Stakeholders highlighted the need to enhance wildlife viewing opportunities (tourism buildings), promoting eco-friendly tourism practices. Additionally, there was a strong emphasis on training local tourism entrepreneurs to provide high-quality services. The

discussions also noted that building local capacity through training programs would contribute to sustaining and growing the tourism sector in ILM.

Okhahlamba Local Municipality (OLM): In OLM, Thandanani was identified as a key new tourism hub with significant potential for emerging tourism businesses. The area was recognized as an ideal location for tourism development, offering opportunities for growth and expansion. Stakeholders discussed strategies to leverage the area's potential, including creating partnerships with local businesses and tourism operators to attract visitors. The need for coordinated efforts and capacity-building programs to support emerging businesses in OLM was also emphasized. These steps will help ensure that the tourism sector in the municipality grows in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

Alfred Duma Local Municipality (ADLM): In ADLM, an engagement was held at the Taxi Clinic to discuss a new tourism route aimed at connecting the Nambiti Game Reserve with the Battlefields routes. This route is expected to attract visitors by linking two of the district's key tourism destinations, enhancing tourism flow in the district. A key outcome of the engagement was the recognition of the market for local crafters and their desire to establish a cultural village in the area. This cultural village would not only serve visitors to the Nambiti Game Reserve but also accommodate various activities, enriching the tourism experience in ADLM. The engagement was productive, and the proposal for the cultural village was well received by stakeholders, with discussions focusing on how it could be developed to benefit both local crafters and the tourism industry.

3.3. RURAL AND TOWNSHIP TOURISM FUNCTIONALITY REPORT

UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) is addressing rural and township tourism challenges through its Rural and Township Tourism Promotion and Development Project. This effort follows the successful overland bus campaign conducted in 2016 and 2017 by Alfred Duma of the Department of Tourism.



- 11 November 2018: Workshop with stakeholders
- 22 November 2018: Workshop with stakeholders

OLINTHONY TOWNSHIP SITE

Key Findings and Challenges

Municipality	Report	Findings	Opportunities	Key Challenges
Inkosi Langat's		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses in the township Target public Interest in cultural tourism Lack of interested tour guides 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target public Interest in cultural tourism Lack of interested tour guides 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target public Interest in cultural tourism Lack of interested tour guides 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target public Interest in cultural tourism Lack of interested tour guides 		

	Mr. Mshengu	- traditional food kitchens		
Alfred Duma		- 3 traditional food kitchens.	- Artisans seeking integration into tourism.	- Market access for businesses.
	Ms. Hadebe	- 1 traditional food kitchen in Uitvaal		- Market access for businesses.
	Maphitha Sithole Siyabonga Gumbi	- 2 artisans exploring tourism integration.		- Market access for businesses.
Okhahlamba		- 2 businesses: Accommodation, and traditional food		- Market access for businesses.
	Lizzy Mabaso		- Homestays and Lodge resumed operations	- Underutilization of cultural resources.
	Ms. Madonsela	- 1 Traditional food kitchens		
TOTAL	8 BUSINESSES IN UTHUKELA DISTRICT ARE OPERATIONAL			

3.4. MARKET FOR SOUVENIR

The souvenir market took place on Tuesday, 15 January 2024, at the Energy Garage in Winterberg, a location strategically selected for its popularity among international and local tourists during this peak season. The event aimed to showcase a platform for nine (9) local artists, including UThukela District artists, to promote their handmade crafts and artworks. The event experienced significant foot traffic, with approximately 12 customers purchasing handcrafted items. The artists who preferred payment in cash received a 10% discount.



The event proved beneficial for local artists, providing them with a platform to showcase their brand visibility for the upcoming season. To improve future outcomes, adjustments in marketing strategies and conducting market research hours and timings are recommended to ensure a more effective and profitable outcome.

3.5. TOURISM ACTIVATION

The tourism activation was held on Tuesday, 15 January 2024, at the Energy Garage in Winterberg, a location strategically selected for its popularity among international tourists. The event showcased a platform for nine (9) local artists, including UThukela District artists, to promote their handmade crafts and artworks. The activation aimed to provide a platform for local artists to showcase their brand visibility for the upcoming season. To improve future outcomes, adjustments in marketing strategies and conducting market research hours and timings are recommended to ensure a more effective and profitable outcome.

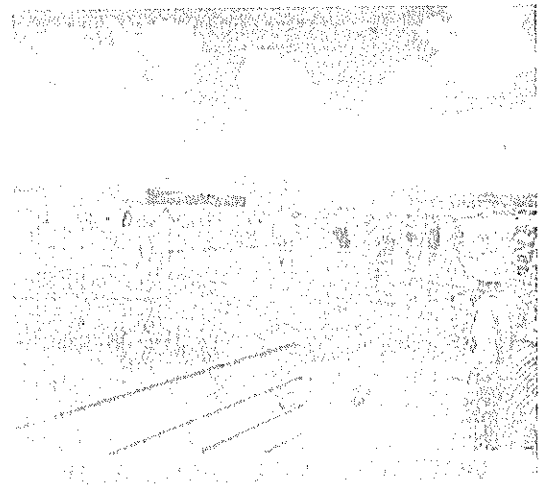
The distribution of promotional materials, such as brochures and flyers, was used to generate interest in the local tourism industry. The event also provided a platform for local artists to showcase their brand visibility for the upcoming season. To improve future outcomes, adjustments in marketing strategies and conducting market research hours and timings are recommended to ensure a more effective and profitable outcome.

3.6. FOLLOW-UP ON ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS

UEDA's efforts to follow up with the Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) regarding the submission of required documents for its application. Despite multiple reminders, no response was initially received. However, in early 2024, QCTO acknowledged the submission and is working on providing a response. UEDA is finalizing the application and will continue to monitor communications regarding the accreditation process.

3.7. LIVESTOCK FEEDING AND AUCTION PROGRAMME

In October 2023, UEDA, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), initiated a project with the Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to support livestock feeding and auction programmes. The project involved the distribution of feed and the establishment of a livestock auction platform. The project culminated in the successful distribution of feed to farmers in the Nampala district.



Preparation

To ensure the successful implementation of the project, UEDA conducted home visits on 10th October 2023. During these visits, UEDA staff were vaccinated against rabies and met trackable animals.

Essential equipment and supplies were procured to facilitate the auction, including:

- 5 units of 500ml supplements
- 5 units of 2L liquid drench
- 1 goat tattoo kit
- 100 goat ear tags
- 4 goat bales

The total cost of these supplies amounted to R16,745.30. These measures not only improved goat health management but also prepared the livestock for the market, ensuring farmers had a competitive edge.

Feeding of Goats

During the auction, UEDA provided on-site feeding for the goats to maintain their health and energy. Proper feeding enhanced the animals' presentation and overall condition, fostering buyer confidence and ensuring a successful sale.

Auction Highlights

All goats presented at the auction had been vaccinated and tagged, ensuring buyers of their quality and health. This preparation fostered trust among participants, leading to active bidding and competitive pricing for the livestock.

Participation and Livestock Details

Category	Total Number Offered	Total Number Sold
Farmers Participated	31	
Goats	109	109
Sheep	5	4

Financial Summary

Description	Amount (R)
Gross Earnings from Livestock	216,160.00
Commission (5%)	10,808.00
Average (R100/kg)	1,012.00
Total Earnings	225,968.00

The initiative awarded farmers with an opportunity to generate income and expand their market reach. Farmers expressed gratitude for the assistance, acknowledging its role in making their livestock market-ready.

This initiative demonstrated UEDA's commitment to supporting local farmers by addressing market management, facilitating market access, and ensuring comprehensive services from production to sale.

3.8. CHICKEN ABATTOIR ENGAGEMENTS

UEDA presented the concept document for a chicken abattoir to the Abattoir Management Committee on 22 and 25, 2024. The first meeting, held on November 22, involved Abattoir Owners and Municipality (ABO/M) officials, including the LEO. The second meeting, on November 25, a similar presentation was made to the Municipal Council (M/C) with the LEO Officer in attendance. The ABO/M officials positively responded to the initiative, acknowledging its potential to improve meat safety, reduce waste, and provide a fair market opportunity for local poultry producers.

Following the meetings with key stakeholders, UEDA organized sessions with farmers on November 27, 2024, to discuss the initiative and poultry businesses. Farmers expressed enthusiasm and willingness to participate in addressing market accessibility issues and improving their operations. The meetings highlighted a shared vision for a sustainable and efficient abattoir market, and driving economic growth in the community.

3.9. AGRICULTURAL MARKET ENGAGEMENTS

On November 17, 2017, the District Council held a series of meetings to discuss establishing a new municipality in the LangaLobalele District. A concept document detailing the proposed district was presented to Alfred Duma Local Municipality on November 22, with the Mayor, Alfred Duma, ID Manager and Agriculture Officers. On November 29, the concept document was presented to LangaLobalele Local Municipality, where the District Council representatives, including from both municipalities strongly supported the proposal to form a new municipality to boost the district's economy and provide improved infrastructure and services.

Following the meetings, the project team had discussions with farmers on November 26 and 27. September 28 presented a final presentation focused on establishing an agricultural market and sold some advantages related to market accessibility and exploitation. Farmers were very receptive to the ideas for the initiative and expressed their willingness to collaborate with the project team, indicating a collective commitment to ensuring the sustainability and growth of their community's sustainable agriculture development in the district.

3.10. BEAN SEEDS

UTNR and UTEP conducted a series of 100 site visits to assess the impact of the proposed UTEP project. A total of 94 sites were visited, including 40 sites in the OLM, 30 sites in the ILM, and 24 sites in the ILM. The following table provides a summary of the information made available to the public:

Municipality	Population	Year of Incorporation	Ownership and Control	Status
Okhachan	1,000	1998	100% by Local	Eligible
Local Municipality (CLM)	1,000	1998	100% by Local	Eligible

					sugar bean cultivation	
	Ingubhela Agriculture	10 hectares	Unfenced		Owned by landholder, previous sugar bean cultivation and UEDA support	Eligible
	Izwelisha Israel Co-operative	15 hectares	Partially fenced		Owned by co- op, previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
Alfred Duma Local Municipality (ADLM)	Mqobangayo Trading	2 hectares	Fully fenced		Owned by farmer, previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
	Belly Buster Co- Op	3 hectares	Fully fenced		Owned by landholder previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
	Vuka Sakhe Co- Op	2 hectares	Fully fenced		Owner has previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
	Zika Trading	2 hectares	Fully fenced		Owner has previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
	Mbongeni Duma	2.5 hectares	Fully fenced		Owned by farmer, previous	Eligible

					sugar bean cultivation	
	Mlandeni Operative	Co-	7 hectares	Fully fenced	Landowner has previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
	Umtshunzi Wokuphumula		3 hectares	Fully fenced	Landowner has experience in sugar bean farming	Eligible
	Abaluleki operative	Co-	5 hectares	Fully fenced	Co-op has previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality (ILM)	Tatane Agri		2 hectares	Fully fenced	Owned by farmer, previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible
	Them'binkosi Makhaye		10 hectares	Unfenced	Owned by landholder previous sugar bean cultivation and UEDA support	Eligible
	Phezukomkhono Co-Op		2 hectares	Fully fenced	Owner has previous sugar bean cultivation	Eligible

The site visits confirmed that all 14 farms met the eligibility criteria for the UEDA project. These criteria include land ownership or permission to use the land, a history

of sugar to develop the country's sugar industry. This location of farms these visits are similar for participants in the future, which will help enhance agricultural development and help to increase the country's income. Overall

3.11. UBUMBANO CHICORY PROJECT

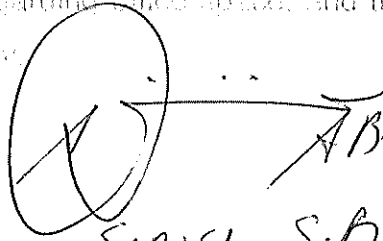
UEDA summarized its role and contribution in business plan for the Libemano Cooperative, which is producing green tea in two factory productions in the Muhukela District. The business plan contains several measures to re-focus to energy farming, empower people and create jobs. UEDA's role is to support the cooperative in line with the strategy of the Government of Malawi to develop the rural sector, highlighting the cooperatives as a key element in the rural development strategy. UEDA's role is to support the cooperative to improve its financial and operational performance, and to create jobs and income for its members. UEDA's role is to support the cooperative to improve its financial and operational performance, and to create jobs and income for its members. UEDA's role is to support the cooperative to improve its financial and operational performance, and to create jobs and income for its members.

4. FINANCIAL VIABILITY

DECEMBER 31, 1971 (PARTIAL)

CONCLUSION

The Agency made a strong start in the financial year 2024/2025 financial year. However, several challenges were encountered during this period, including shortages of furniture, particularly regarding office space, and the non-receipt of grant funding from the Department of Agriculture.


SIBISI S.B.
ACEO.

**UTHUKELA ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
131 MURCHISON STREET
LADYSMITH 3370
HERON HOUSE BUILDING