



# PMS QUARTER 2 REPORT

## 2025/2026

## Contents

<b>SECTION A:</b>	4
PURPOSE .....	4
BACKGROUND .....	4
<b>SECTION B:</b> .....	5
<b>1. CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION .....</b>	5
1.1 Compliance Checklist Quarter Two (2) Report.....	5
1.2 Performance Reports Submitted to UTDM.....	9
1.3 Quarterly Audit Performance and Audit Committee Report .....	9
1.4 Quarterly Board Meetings – ANNEXURE A Attached.....	11
1.5 Quarterly Board Portfolio Committee Meetings – ANNEXURE B Attached.....	11
1.6 Programmes Earmarked for 2026/2027 Financial Year .....	12
1.7 Employee Entered into Performance Agreement.....	28
1.8 Reviewal of Policies .....	31
1.9 IGR Quarterly Meeting – ANNEXURE C Attached .....	38
<b>2. FINANCE &amp; INVESTMENT SECTION .....</b>	39
2.1 Monthly Financial Reports .....	39
2.2 Identification of Investment Opportunities .....	39
2.3 Monthly OSS Expenditure Reports.....	40
2.4 Services Rendered.....	40
2.6 Transportation Services .....	41
2.7 SMME Enlistment on Agency Database .....	41
2.8 Targeted Individuals and Business Enlistment.....	42
2.9. SMME Funding Applications .....	42
2.10. Engagement with Major Industry .....	42
2.11. Establishment of DUT Satellite, Private School and Ezakheni Ithala SEZ.....	43
<b>3 LED PROGRAMMES .....</b>	44
3.1 Tourism Stakeholder engagement.....	44
3.2 Development of Tourism Routes .....	44
3.3 Rural and Township Development.....	46
3.4 Market for Souvenirs.....	47
3.5 Tourism Destination Marketing .....	48
3.6 Livestock Auction .....	48

3.7 Agricultural Market and Fresh Produce Sales.....	49
3.8 Chicken Farmers Site Visits .....	50
3.9 Sugar Bean Farmer Training.....	51
3.10 Commercial Farmers Engagement.....	51
3.11 Hemp Expo 2025 .....	52
Conclusion.....	52
<b>4 CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>53</b>

## **SECTION A:**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to present a comprehensive summary of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) related to Good Governance that were achieved during the first quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year. The report focuses on performance achieved by the Local Economic Development (LED) Programmes Section as well as the Finance and Investment Section during the reporting period within the municipal financial year. Furthermore, this report provides an overview of key initiatives implemented, achievements attained, and challenges encountered during the quarter under review. It also outlines planned corrective actions and future strategies aimed at strengthening economic growth and development within the UThukela District. The report serves as a governance and performance monitoring tool, offering insights into the effectiveness of governance practices, compliance with applicable legislation, and the overall contribution of the Agency towards sustainable economic development during the reporting period.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Agency is mandated to ensure full compliance with all relevant legislation applicable to municipal entities, including adherence to the principles of good governance as outlined in the King IV Report on Corporate Governance. In addition, the Agency is responsible for driving organisational development and transformation, implementing an effective performance management system, and continuously improving the capacity and skills of staff to enhance service delivery. A core function of the Agency is to promote, support, and facilitate economic growth within the UThukela District through targeted investment attraction initiatives, local economic development programmes, and the growth and support of Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). The Agency works collaboratively with key stakeholders, including national, provincial, and local government entities, private sector partners, development agencies, and local communities. These partnerships

are aimed at creating an enabling environment for business development, investment, job creation, and sustainable tourism development, thereby contributing to inclusive and sustainable economic growth within the district.

## **SECTION B:**

### **1. CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION**

#### **1.1 Compliance Checklist Quarter Two (2) Report**

##### **Background**

The compliance checklist is being reviewed manually, which has presented challenges in ensuring consistency and accuracy. The manual review process often led to inefficiencies, including delays in identifying non-compliant areas and implementing corrective actions. Additionally, gaps in documentation and unclear delegation of responsibilities were noted, making it essential to refine the process. To enhance accuracy and accountability, a structured approach has been introduced, incorporating key stages to ensure compliance with the delegation authority.

##### **Introduction**

Ensuring compliance with delegation authority is a fundamental aspect of governance within our Agency. It ensures that all policies, procedures, and operational responsibilities align with the established regulatory and internal control frameworks. This report outlines the structured approach undertaken to review and enhance our compliance checklist. Through this initiative, we aim to improve adherence to policies, reporting, and address areas requiring corrective actions.

##### **Proceedings**

To ensure compliance with the established delegation authority, a structured review process was initiated, underpinned by legislative and governance frameworks such

as the **Municipal Systems Act (MSA)**, **Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA)**, **Companies Act (CA)**, and **King IV Report on Corporate Governance**.

The compliance matrix below outlines both compliant and non-compliant sections across the applicable legislation in relation to delegation of authority.

#### **MSA COMPLIANT SECTIONS**

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Level of Compliance</b>
Section 25, 26, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46(1), 46(4), 56, 57(1), 57(2), 57(1,2,3,4,5,6,7), 59, 60, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 80, 82, 83 (1,2,3,4), 84(1,2,3)	<b>Compliant</b>

#### **MSA NOT APPLICABLE/NOT COMPLIANT SECTIONS**

<b>SECTIONS</b>	<b>LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>Section 58:</b> Remuneration of CEO and managers directly accountable to CEO.—An Entity must, on or before 31 October of each year, publish in the media the salary scales and benefits applicable to posts of the CEO and every manager that is directly accountable to the CEO.	<b>Repealed</b>

#### MFMA COMPLIANT SECTIONS

SECTIONS	LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE
Section 7, 8, 9(B), 14 (1,2,3,4,5), 14, 16(1,2,3), 22(A,B), 28, 53(ii), 54, 54(1,c), 63, 65, 66, 69, 70, 71, 72, 75, 86, 87(6,7,8,10, 11,12), 88, 89, 102, 107, 112, 115, 116, 121(4), 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 129, 164, 165, 166, 168, 172,	Compliant

#### MFMA NOT APPLICABLE/NOT COMPLIANT SECTIONS

SECTIONS	LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE
<b>Section 64:</b> If raising revenue from tariffs, the entity must have a revenue management system.	Not Applicable

In the previous financial year the Agency was not in compliance with **Section 165** of the MFMA which states that 'the entity must have an internal audit unit'. The Agency is now compliant with Section165 through a Shared Services Agreement with UThukela District Municipality.

#### COMPANIES ACT COMPLIANT SECTIONS

SECTIONS	LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE
Section 24, 25, 33, 66(1,2), 69, 84(3), 86, 94(2, 7),	Compliant

#### COMPANIES ACT NOT APPLICABLE/NOT COMPLIANT SECTIONS

SECTIONS	LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE
<b>Section 72(4):</b> The Board of a SOC must establish a Social and Ethics Committee, with a minimum of three members.	<b>Not Compliant</b>

#### KING IV COMPLIANT SECTIONS

SECTIONS	LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE
Section part 5,3 (Recommended practice: 2, 9, 5, 25, 26, 31, 71 to 74, 12, 13, 37, 81, 77, 22 to 24, 96, 97, 98, 90)	<b>Compliant</b>

#### KING IV NOT APPLICABLE/NOT COMPLIANT SECTIONS

SECTIONS	LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE
<b>Part 5.3 (Recommended practices 71 to 74):</b> The Board should assume responsibility for the evaluation of its own performance and that of its committees, its chair and its individual members by determining how it should be approached and conducted.	<b>Not Compliant</b>

<b>Part 5.3 (Recommended practices 12 and 13, practice 37 and practice 81):</b> The Board should ensure there is succession planning in place for the Board (as well as a rotation plan in this case), the position of Chair and the CEO.	<b>Not Compliant</b>
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## CONCLUSION

The structured review and analysis of the compliance checklist have revealed that the Agency is compliant with the majority of legislative and governance requirements, certain areas require further attention. The Agency is committed to ongoing monitoring, accountability, and the continuous refinement of its delegation of authority. Through this initiative, the Agency continues to strengthen its governance practices and uphold regulatory integrity.

### 1.2 Performance Reports Submitted to UTDM

In accordance with the Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000, the uThukela Economic Development Agency is required to submit their quarterly performance reports to parent municipality. The report was submitted to uThukela District Municipality on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Performance is measured through the SDBIP, which outlines the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be achieved for the financial year. The second- quarter report provide details of progress made in achieving these KPIs. The quarter 2 report is accessible on the website.

### 1.3 Quarterly Audit Performance and Audit Committee Report

All quarter 1 reports were successfully compiled and submitted in accordance with the prescribed deadlines. Furthermore, the Internal Audit Report for Quarter 1 was received and reviewed to ensure alignment with compliance, and performance

requirements. The Audit and Performance Audit Committee sat on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to deliberate on the quarter 1 Internal Audit Unit report. The report can be accessible on Quarter 2 PMS File.

#### **1.4 Quarterly Board Meetings – ANNEXURE A Attached**

The first board meeting of quarter 2 sat on the 09<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality. See attached minutes.

#### **1.5 Quarterly Board Portfolio Committee Meetings – ANNEXURE B Attached**

All 3 portfolio committees sat on the following dates:

Finance and Investment Portfolio Committee sat Wednesday, 01 October 2025. **See attached minutes.**

LED Portfolio Committee sat on Thursday, 02 October 2025. **See attached minutes.**

Corporate Services Portfolio Committee sat Friday, 03 October 2025. **See attached minutes.**

## SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS	MEETING	SPECIAL MEETING	PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES		
	09 October 2025	04 December 2025	Finance	LED	Corporate
DR KH Nduli	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Mrs. A Asmal	✓	✓	-	✗	-
Mr B W Kubheka	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Ms NF Zikalala	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Mr. MS Sithole	✗	✓	-	✓	✓
Mr. WZ Kunene	✓	✓	-	✓	✓

### 1.6 Programmes Earmarked for 2026/2027 Financial Year

#### BACKGROUND

The UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) continues to play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable economic growth and development within the UThukela District. Guided by its strategic objectives, the Agency remains committed to enhancing investment attraction, improving local economic development (LED) initiatives, and ensuring efficient corporate and financial governance. The 2026/2027 financial year will mark a critical period for UEDA as it seeks to consolidate progress made in previous years while implementing key programmes designed to stimulate economic activity, create employment opportunities, and strengthen the Agency's institutional capacity. This report presents an overview of the progress, impact, and associated risks of the programmes earmarked for implementation for the 2026/2027 period across the

three main functional areas of UEDA: Corporate Services, Finance & Investments, and Local Economic Development (LED) Programmes.

## **PROCEEDINGS**

In preparing this report, UEDA departments were requested to provide updates on planned programmes, budget allocation, expected impacts, and identified risks. The following tables therefore illustrate the detailed programmes within each functional section. Each table highlights key deliverables and performance indicators that reflect UEDA's ongoing commitment to good governance, financial prudence, and socio-economic impact. The analysis below also emphasizes the alignment of these programmes with the Agency's strategic priorities. Programme overview:

### **Corporate Service Section**

This section focuses on strengthening the Agency's institutional framework through improved governance structures, enhanced human resources management, and the integration of technology-driven systems for efficiency. The programmes within this section aim to build an agile organization capable of delivering on its economic development mandate.

<b>PROGRAMME NAME</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>RISKS</b>
<b>1. Team Building and Strategic Planning</b>	Assess progress, identify areas of improvement and ensure alignment with objectives	<b>R265 000</b>	Missed opportunities  Poor decision making  Inefficient resource allocation

<b>2. Cleaning Supplies</b>	To keep the office clean	<b>R90 100</b>	Poor perception, dirty work environment
<b>3. Printing and Stationery</b>	To keep the office functioning	<b>R90 100</b>	Low productivity, inefficient process
<b>4. Capacity Building and Training</b>	Improves performance and increase productivity	<b>R63 600</b>	Skills gap, low productivity, employee turnover
<b>5. Advertisement and Marketing</b>	Attract clients and recognition	<b>R84 800</b>	Loss of competitive edge, poor perception
<b>6. Rental</b>	Ensures operational space for business activities	<b>R713 115</b>	Non-renewal of lease, increased rental costs

<b>7. Office Water Utility</b>	Supports basic office operations and employee needs	<b>R13 483</b>	Disruption of water supply affecting operations
<b>8. Office Electricity</b>	Essential for powering office equipment and operations	<b>R53 000</b>	Power outages impacting productivity, potential safety hazards
<b>9. Board Allowances and Emoluments</b>	Supports effective governance and oversight	<b>R795 000</b>	Impact on company finances if not managed effectively

### **Finance & Investments Section**

The Finance and Investments Section continues to drive UEDA's financial sustainability agenda through financial management, investment facilitation, and partnerships. The 2026/27 programmes are expected to enhance UEDA's revenue base, improve investment attraction, and ensure compliance with financial standards and reporting frameworks.

<b>PROGRAMME NAME</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<b>RISKS</b>
<b>1. Support for business operated by</b>	To promote business operated by disabled individuals.	<b>R100 000.00</b>	Risk associated with identifying skilled disabled

<b>disabled individuals</b>			individuals. That are already in business.  Lack of monitoring process of contributed inputs.  Budget constraints for the procurement of inputs
<b>2. Support for SMME`S in secluded areas</b>	To promote and assist businesses in secluded areas	<b>R100 000.00</b>	Access to SMMEs and Co-operations in secluded areas.  Unregistered businesses in secluded areas.  Budget constraints for the procurements of inputs.
<b>3. Transportation Services</b>	To assist farmers to transport crops to identified market whilst generating income for the agency.	<b>R500 000.00</b> (Acquisition van and two trailers)	Budget constraints.  Benchmarking with other similar service providers (tariffs/services)  Lack of sophisticated

			process of identifying product markets.
<b>4. Business hub centre for students (Wembezi Rank)</b>	Create a centralised market for businesses owned by (skilled) students who have graduated from FETs within the district.	<b>R350 000.00</b>	Budget constraints for the renovation of Wembezi rank.  Cooperation of ILM is required.  SLA and MOU's between the agency, ILM and district FETs are not finalised.
<b>5. Business Dinner/ Investment Conference</b>	Invite commercial businesses to showcase their projects.  Create a business network for commercial businesses within the district.  Secure investments and pledges for projects of the agency.	<b>R150 000.00</b>	Budget constraints.  Lack of visibility of the agency and its potential role in the district business network.

<b>6. Services rendered (SARS, CIPC, BUSINESS PLAN and CSD)</b>	<p>Assist SMMEs with compliance status.</p> <p>Registration of SMMEs to encourage local economic development.</p> <p>Assist SMMEs to realistically project the success/profits from businesses through the</p>	<b>N/A</b>	<p>Lack of monitoring of registered SMMEs.</p> <p>Lack of monitoring of the implementation of drafted business plans.</p>
<b>7. SMMEs trainings</b>	<p>compilation of credible business plans.</p> <p>Assist SMMEs to understand business operations.</p> <p>Assist SMMEs to enhance skills in business management.</p>	<b>N/A</b>	<p>Facilitating officer may not be updated on regulations due to lack of training as a result of budget constraints.</p> <p>Low attendance due to the vicinity of training venue (transportation implications).</p> <p>Business owners may be illicit.</p>

<b>8. Vacant land/ Commercial properties.</b>	Attracts industries and service providers seeking site expansion.	N/A	The agency may advertise properties without the proper consent of the property owner.  Lack of integration with similar systems or techniques already utilised by the LMs
<b>9. Investment opportunities</b>	Stimulates local economic activity.  Encourages innovation and makes the local economy more resilient.	N/A	Lack of technical support to the agency to compete for investment opportunities.
			Lack of coordination of role players in the relevant projects- However this risk has been mitigated by establishment of the Social Compact.

<b>10. Marketing of products for people living in secluded areas and people living with disabilities</b>	<p>Promotes local businesses on social media (WhatsApp, Facebook and agency website.</p>	N/A	<p>All businesses advertised by the agency are associated with the agency.</p> <p>Deficient performance by advertised businesses will be associated with the Agency.</p>
<b>11. Business Retention</b>	<p>Identifying challenges faced by major industries.</p> <p>Retaining major industry players within the district.</p> <p>Encourage major industry players to expand within the district.</p> <p>Coordinate and facilitate conflict resolutions between major industry players and other government departments</p>	N/A	<p>The agency, in its capacity, may not be able to resolve identified challenges. The key roles will be played by the municipalities.</p> <p>Lack of a sophisticated process to identify challenges for early intervention.</p>

<b>12. Major Industry Social Responsibility</b>	<p>To assist in coordinating the social responsibility programmes of the major industry players within the district. Allowing for maximum community participation.</p> <p>To facilitate partnerships with the major industry players.</p> <p>To facilitate the transfer of skills and other resources from large business to the community</p>	<b>N/A</b>	<p>SLAs and MOUs with the major industry have not been finalised (to form strong partnerships)</p> <p>Fiscal year ends are not the same, posing a challenge in coordinating programmes.</p>
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### **LED Programmes Section**

This section captures community-based and district-wide initiatives designed to promote entrepreneurship, support small and medium enterprises (SMMEs), and strengthen local value chains. The LED programmes are central to achieving inclusive economic growth and improving livelihoods across the UThukela District.

PROGRAMME NAME	IMPACT	FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	RISKS
<b>1. Tourism Routes</b>	<p>Strengthens the visibility of tourism attractions within UThukela District, promotes domestic tourism, and stimulates local economic activity</p>	<b>R 50 000.00</b>	<p>Limited participation from local tourism operators; inadequate</p>

	through increased tourist traffic. Enhances opportunities for rural communities to benefit directly from visitors through accommodation, guiding, craft sales, and local service provision.		signage and route maintenance; insufficient marketing reach.
<b>2. Rural and Township Tourism</b>	Promotes inclusivity in tourism by integrating rural and township communities into the mainstream economy, creating income opportunities for local households. Increases rural and township tourism establishments; supports and develops existing rural and township tourism through training, marketing, allocation of interns, and linking existing tourism businesses to tourism routes.	<b>R 50 000.00</b>	Lack of community readiness and understanding of tourism; poor infrastructure; limited stakeholder collaboration.

<b>3. Market for Souvenirs</b>	Provides a sustainable marketplace for local crafters and artists, enhancing job creation and cultural preservation through craft promotion.	<b>R 50 000.00</b>	Low product quality and consistency; lack of access to markets; low visitor
	Strengthens existing markets (West Wing Lodge, Three Tree Lodge, and The Cavern); fosters relationships through intergovernmental collaboration; explores additional markets and establishes an online shop.		spending power.

<b>4. District Tourism Marketing</b>	<p>Enhances the district's brand visibility, attracts new visitors, and supports local tourism businesses through digital and print marketing campaigns.</p> <p>Revives the Battlefields Festival in partnership with Alfred Duma LM; promotes monuments and historical sites as visiting points; uses the One Stop Shop as the district tourist information office; activates the district website; compiles a digital tourism booklet for attractions across the district.</p>	<b>R 150 000.00</b>	Limited marketing budget; inconsistent branding across municipalities; lack of stakeholder coordination.
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<b>5. District Product Development</b>	Diversifies tourism offerings by developing new experiences and upgrading existing ones to increase visitor satisfaction and repeat visits. Identifies tourism gaps per municipality to extend visitor stays; engages investors, private sector and business owners to address identified gaps (e.g. leisure activities).	<b>R 50 000.00</b>	No existing data.
<b>6. Livestock Auction</b>	Improves access to markets for small-scale farmers, promotes local trade, and supports the formalization of livestock sales.	R 50 000.00	Market fluctuations, animal health challenges; low participation from farmers.
<b>7. Agricultural Show</b>	Creates a platform for showcasing agricultural innovation, attracting investors, and strengthening linkages between public and private sectors.	<b>R 200 000.00</b>	Poor turnout due to limited publicity; logistical challenges; adverse weather conditions.

<b>8. Agricultural Market</b>	Establishes a central trading platform for agricultural produce,	<b>R 3 185 800.00 (two funding applications were submitted)</b>	Delays in securing funding.
	improves local food systems, and enhances farmer income.	<b>were submitted)</b>	
<b>9. Chicken Abattoir</b>	Enhances local poultry production and value addition, creates employment opportunities, and provides small-scale farmers with a reliable market for their chickens. Supports the development of a local agro-processing hub.	<b>R 9 190 000.00 ( two funding applications were submitted)</b>	Delays in securing funding.
<b>10. Sugar Beans Production</b>	Increases local agricultural output, enhances food security, and creates employment and sustainable relationships for smallholder farmers.	<b>R 500 000.00</b>	Climate variability and pest infestations.

<b>11. Marketing of Agricultural Produce</b>	Improves visibility and sales of local produce, facilitates linkages with buyers and processors, and boosts farmer incomes.	N/A	Limited marketing skills; poor packaging and branding; inconsistent supply from farmers.
<b>12. Agribusiness</b>	Strengthens entrepreneurship in the agricultural value chain,	<b>R 30 000.00</b>	Lack of business management
	enabling farmers to transition from subsistence to commercial farming.		skills, limited access to finance; and market saturation.
<b>13. Buying Cooperatives</b>	Reduces input costs for small-scale farmers through collective purchasing, improving profitability and sustainability.	<b>R 30 000.00</b>	Lack of cooperative governance; low member commitment.

## CONCLUSION

The 2026/2027 financial year presents UEDA with an opportunity to consolidate its strategic efforts toward economic transformation and local development. The programmes outlined in this report demonstrate the Agency's continued focus on institutional effectiveness, financial sustainability, and community impact. While certain risks have been identified, UEDA remains confident that through proactive management, stakeholder collaboration, and effective monitoring and evaluation

mechanisms, these challenges can be mitigated. The successful implementation of the earmarked programmes will significantly contribute to the district's socioeconomic upliftment and ensure that UEDA continues to serve as a catalyst for growth and development within uThukela.

## **1.7 Employee Entered into Performance Agreement**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overall performance feedback summary for uThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) for the reporting period. The report reviews progress toward achieving the Agency's strategic and operational objectives, highlights key achievements and challenges encountered, and proposes corrective measures and development plans to enhance future performance.

### **Background**

UEDA is mandated to promote sustainable economic growth, attract investment, and facilitate enterprise development across the uThukela District. In alignment with the Agency's Performance Management Framework, performance is monitored and evaluated against predetermined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) derived from the Annual Performance Plan, Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP). Employees and departments are assessed twice per financial year, Mid-Year Performance Review – conducted six months into the financial year and Annual Performance Review – conducted during the final quarter of the end of the financial year. This structured approach ensures accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement across all functional divisions.

## **Proceedings**

In November 2025 employees were entered into performance agreements for the mid-year performance. Performance objectives referred to the goals and objectives employees were expected to perform. In performance agreements form they had to include their goals as per the work allocated to them, the deadline of the work and success criteria of that objective.

## **Departmental Performance Feedback**

**Corporate Services:** provides human resources, administration, ICT, and logistical support, ensuring operational continuity across the Agency.

### **Challenges:**

Occasional technical delays and outlook technical issues beyond control. Coordinating and controlling meetings on MS teams for board meetings. Limited cleaning materials affecting work environment standards. Lack of an internal audit clerical individual to assist. Limited budget to perform trainings for employees and limited staff with required knowledge.

**Finance and Investment:** The Finance and Investment division oversees financial management, budgeting, investment promotion, and compliance.

### **Challenges:**

People are not coming due to the increase of tariffs and Lack of Funding.

**LED Programmes:** LED Programmes promote local enterprise, agricultural development, and community economic initiatives.

**Challenges: Environmental Factors,** Rain disrupted agricultural production. Mobilization Challenges Limited community participation slowed project execution. Insufficient funding and limited staff capacity constrained project delivery.

## **Performance Improvement and Development Plan**

To enhance overall Agency performance, the following improvement and development actions are proposed:

- Recruit skilled personnel to fill critical vacancies.
- Conduct targeted training Programmes to strengthen technical and management capacity.
- Engage external partners and explore grant funding to supplement internal resources.
- Upgrade internal systems to reduce communication delays and improve efficiency.
- Foster collaboration between divisions for integrated planning and implementation.

## **Recommendations**

The organization prioritize the strengthening of its ICT infrastructure to ensure reliable communication, data security, and improved operational efficiency. In addition, addressing existing staffing shortages through targeted recruitment and strategic internal reallocation will enhance productivity and service delivery. It is also essential that adequate budgetary provision be made to support the procurement of operational materials, staff training, and effective project implementation. Furthermore, the organization should intensify stakeholder Mobilization and engagement strategies to improve participation, partnerships, and investment in LED initiatives. Lastly, the implementation of a continuous performance monitoring and evaluation system will enable early identification of challenges, promote accountability, and support timely decision-making for improved organizational outcomes.

## **Conclusion**

The uThukela Economic Development Agency has made commendable and measurable progress in achieving its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) despite

facing persistent operational, technical, and financial challenges. This progress can be attributed to the dedication, resilience, and teamwork demonstrated by staff members, coupled with strong internal collaboration across all divisions. Moving forward, the Agency's focus will be on strengthening resource allocation, enhancing institutional capacity, and improving operational efficiency to ensure sustainable and inclusive economic development. In addition, emphasis will be placed on fostering strategic partnerships, improving stakeholder engagement, and mobilising additional resources to expand the Agency's reach and impact. These efforts will further strengthen the Agency's ability to deliver on its developmental mandate and contribute meaningfully to the long-term economic growth and transformation of the uThukela District.

## **1.8 Review of Policies**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present the findings and recommendations arising from the review of the eight (8) policies reviewed for quarter two (2). The review was conducted to ensure that the policies are current, aligned with the Agency's governance structures, and compliant with relevant regulatory frameworks and best practices.

### **Background**

Regular policy reviews are an essential component of good governance, ensuring that policies remain relevant and effective in addressing emerging risk operational realities. Over time, organizational structures, roles, and responsibilities may change, creating the need to update policies to accurately reflect the Agency's current framework. This review examined each policy in detail, identifying areas

requiring amendments, clarifications, and alignment with the Agency's operational practices. The review also focuses on strengthening clarity, accountability, and consistency across all policies.

## **Proceedings**

UThukela Economic Development Agency has conducted its policy review for the second quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year and the following policies were reviewed:

- Asset Policy
- Consequence Management Policy
- Exit Management Policy
- Fraud Prevention Policy
- Fraud Response Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Virement Policy
- SCM Policy

## **Analysis**

The following procedures were used to ensure the review process is both effective and efficient:

- Regulatory Changes
- Operational Changes
- Benchmarking policies against the leading competitor
- Clarity & Readability
- Employee Adherence
- Operational relevance
- Practicability
- Use of clear and concise language

- Maintaining a logical structure

**Exit Management Policy:** The following amendments are recommended to improve clarity.

- **Clause 2(Purpose)**, the removal of the fifth point under “The policy aims to achieve the following outcomes” which says “Workgroup manager have more effective control over workgroup resources ”is recommended to be removed since the Agency does not currently have a Workgroup Manager.
- It is recommended that the “**Objectives section** ”be incorporated into the policy.
- To enable improved management of municipal systems and resources.
- To enable the Agency to benefit from employee feedback.
- To improve the efficiency of the process of terminating employment.
- To ensure that all municipal equipment is returned and all financial obligations to the Agency have been paid.
- To ensure that all outstanding payments due to the employee are appropriately calculated.
- To ensure that the employee has delivered all outstanding deliverables assigned on the due dates.
- **Clause 5.7 (Security and Access)**, it is recommended that the first 3 points be removed.
  - Access security card(s), swipe card(s)
  - Municipal name tag(s)/ badge(s), and
  - Safe keys
  - **Add:** Laptop and entry thumbs
- **Clause 5.12 (Other Departmental Resources)**, it is recommended that the reference “workgroup” in the first line be removed.
- Under examples remove “credit card(s), library resources and loans, and team resources and / or text books.

- **Clause 5.13 (Office and Home Office Equipment)**, remove “mobile phone and/ or pager”.
- **Clause 5.14 (Final Salary Calculations)**, it is recommended that the following statements be removed.
  - Reconciliation of medical benefit contribution
  - Reconciliation of retirement benefit contribution
- **Clause 5.16 (Exit Report/ Interview)**: A wording adjustment is recommended to improve clarity.
  - The previous statement: “The employee is obliged to participate in the completion of the report”
  - Be revised to: “The employee is required to participate in the completion of the report”
- **Adjustments to the Table of Contents and Pagination**: During the alignment, additions, and removal of references process, several sections will shift to new page numbers. These changes are structural and do not affect the content of the policy.
- These adjustments are necessary to maintain proper formatting and page alignment throughout the document following the revisions.

### **Consequence Management Policy**

- The following amendments are recommended:
  - It is recommended that a **Section for “Objectives of the Policy”** be incorporated into the policy document. Below are the recommended objectives:
    - 3.1 This policy will aim to formalize and consolidate the principles of consequences management, inclusive of remedial and recourse measures
    - 3.2 To ensure that consequences for non-compliance with legislation, policy and reasonable and lawful instructions of superiors are dealt with
    - 3.3 To ensure staff accountability in the entity workplace

3.4 To promote administrative accountability, professionalism, good governance, transparency and ethical conduct

- The “TABLE OF CONTENT” to be adjusted to fit one(1) page. □  
Grammar and sentence flow to be improved.
- The addition of a **Section for “Relevant Role Players and stakeholders”** 4.1 All managers and supervisors of an employee must properly supervise or oversee their conduct and implement systems to enable employees meet their obligations

#### 4.2 Stakeholder responsibility

##### 4.2.1 All managers and supervisors are responsible for:

- Investigating all reported violations and when approved invoke the disciplinary procedure
- Considering all relevant factors during an investigation when determining future actions
- Implementing remedial action and local controls where a violation has taken place to reduce risks of violation in future.

##### 4.2.2 All employees are responsible for:

- Complying with applicable laws, regulations, resolutions of management and board resolutions, policies and reasonable lawful instructions of the superior
- Strictly adhering to all systems, controls governing business and standard operating procedure
- Behaving in a way that is consistent with the values and ethical standards
- Promptly reporting any breaches that relate to any of the above
- Under paragraph 5.2 (Financial Misconduct), The following additions are suggested:
- Written warning

- Final written warning
- Charge of misconduct

**Recruitment and Selection Policy:** The following amendments are recommended:

- **In Clause 4.6.3 ( Recruitment Advertisement)**
  - Under the fourth point, remove “Salary of the post”
  - Remove the point that talks about “Job grading”, “that all applications are to be on an official agency application form which will be available in English” and “Affirmative Procurement Policy” - **Punctuation Adjustments**
  - Commas must be added where necessary to correct structure and ensure proper grammatical pauses.
- **Clause 4.7 ( General Principles Governing Selection)**
  - Under “ The Selection process will be conducted by a Selection Panel consisting of:” removal of the following is suggested:
    - Employment Equity Officer where applicable, and
    - Labor Unions- shall attend the proceedings as observers only
- **Clause 4.9 (Selection and Assessment Methodology)**
  - Remove “ at least not later than two (2) weeks from the closing date of the advertisement”,
- **Clause 4.10 (Rating)**
  - Remove “and selection panel to be trained in such methodology”.
- **Clause 4.20 (Annexure)**
  - An addition of Annexure B: (Interviews) is recommended.

### **Fraud Prevention Policy:**

**An Addition of a Section for Legal Framework** is recommended, and are as follows:

The Public Service Anti-Corruption Strategy (latest).

The Local Government Anti-Corruption Strategy (latest).

Prevention and Combating Of Corrupt Activities Act, 12 of 2004 (PRECCA)

Prevention of Organized Crime Act 121 of 1998 (POCA)

Protection Disclosure Act 20 of 2000 (PDA)

Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA)

Municipal System Act 32 of 2000 (MSA)

- **Recommendation for amendment in paragraph 3.2.3 ( Investigation)**

- It is recommended that the reference to “**Risk Management and Compliance Unit**” be removed. The Agency does not have such a unit in place. The Section should be adjusted to reflect the appropriate structure or unit that is mandated to undertake or oversee fraud investigations within the Agency and that is the office of the CEO.

**Fraud Response Policy:**

- Recommendation for Amendment: Removal of Chief Audit Executive References.

- It is recommended that all reference to the” Chief Audit Executive” be removed from the Fraud Response Policy, as the Agency does not currently have this position.

- **Recommendation for Amendment in paragraph 10 ( Communication)**

- It is recommended that the reference to “Legal Manager” be removed as the Agency does not currently have such manager.

- **In the following policies, there were no amendments identified as they remained aligned to current processes and legislative requirements.**

□ Asset Policy □ Virement Policy □ SCM Policy

**Conclusion**

The review of the above policies has provided an opportunity to assess their alignment with the Agency's governance structure, operational requirements, and best practice standards. Key recommendations have been made to address inconsistencies, remove references to non-existent positions or committees, and enhance clarity, accountability and operational effectiveness. Implementing these recommendations will ensure that the policies are accurate, practical, and enforceable, thereby strengthening the Agency's overall compliance and risk management framework. This review reinforces the Agency's commitment to transparency, good governance, and effective management of operational and financial risks across all functional areas.

### **1.9 IGR Quarterly Meeting – ANNEXURE C Attached**

An ESID Cluster meeting took place on Wednesday, 8 October 2025. The following key strategic items were discussed: **See attached minutes.**

1. District One Plan
2. Economic Sector, Investments and Infrastructure Development
3. Infrastructure Development Key sub-items included:
  - Water and Sanitation (Water Master Plan)
  - Technical and Infrastructure Services (Electricity and Roads)
  - Transport
  - Planning (Spatial Regional Framework; Considerations of Climate Change)
  - Human Settlements
4. Sector Departments: Shared services
  - Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
  - Business Chamber
5. OSS/ LTT Matters

### **Conclusion**

The Corporate Services Section successfully implemented key activities aligned with its strategic objectives during the second quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year. Notable progress was achieved in governance, administration, and employee

management. However, some challenges – such as limited resources and ICT systems interruptions were encountered and will require focused attention in the upcoming quarter. The section remains committed to improving the Agency's performance, strengthening governance practices, and ensuring continued compliance with legislative and policy frameworks to support effective municipal service delivery.

## **2. FINANCE & INVESTMENT SECTION**

### **2.1 Monthly Financial Reports**

The agency successfully compiled and submitted financial reports for July and August. A draft of the September report is attached to this submission, pending final approval. These monthly reports offer 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. Every monthly financial report is posted and made available on our website, ([www.ueda.co.za](http://www.ueda.co.za)) .

### **2.2 Identification of Investment Opportunities**

The Uthukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) identified key investment opportunities within the district through engagements with local municipalities, including Ukhahlamba Local Municipality.

<b>Proposed Project / Investment</b>	<b>Type of Investment Opportunity</b>	<b>Potential Economic Impact</b>
<b>Electric Garage (between Colenso and Winterton)</b>	Green economy / Automotive services infrastructure	Attracts private investment, supports electric vehicle adoption, creates jobs, and improves transport infrastructure
<b>Dukuza Dam Fish Farming Project</b>	Agriculture / Aquaculture	Job creation, support for local SMMEs, food security, skills development, and sustainable use of water resources

<b>Proposed New Hotel in Enondela</b>	Tourism and Hospitality	Boosts tourism, creates employment, stimulates local supplier participation, and enhances local infrastructure
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## 2.3 Monthly OSS Expenditure Reports

The agency could not submit monthly OSS (One Stop Shop) expenditure reports as the OSS programme has not yet been officially launched. UEDA is currently working closely with relevant stakeholders to expedite the launch of the programme. Once the OSS is officially launched, expenditure tracking will commence, and monthly expenditure reports will be submitted in the subsequent quarter.

Furthermore, the lease contract for the building has expired, and the agency is currently operating on a month-to-month rental arrangement. This situation has contributed to delays in the full operationalisation of the OSS. In addition, the advert for office partitioning has been issued, and the procurement process is currently underway to enable the proper establishment of the OSS offices.

## 2.4 Services Rendered

Uthukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) provided integrated support services to Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) aimed at improving business capacity and compliance. UEDA successfully assisted a total of 14 companies, contributing to improved compliance, business readiness, and sustainability within the district.

Service Type	Number Assisted	Total Amount Generated
CIPC Registration	10 x R120	R1,200
SARS Registration	2 x R200	R400
CSD Registration	1 x R200	R200
Business Plan	1 x R500	R500

TOTAL INCOME GENERATED		R2,300
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## 2.6 Transportation Services

The transportation services report was successfully finalized and submitted, detailing the provision of transportation to support key activities in the district. Specifically, transportation was arranged to assist SMMEs in moving their fresh produce, ensuring the efficient distribution of goods, and thereby contributing to local economic activity. The following is a detailed breakdown of the transportation services provided to SMMEs during the period.

Date	Client	Route	Product transported	Quantity	Distance (km)	Cost (R)
19 November 2025	Mr. Q. Ntshaba	Kwamthandi to ladysmith	Cabbage	200	14	90
25 November 2025	Mr. M. Mngoma	Mhlumayo to Esikhaleli	Goats	20	71	460
08 December 2025	Mr Mchunu	Rosboom to Ladysmith	potatoes	50	14	90

## 2.7 SMME Enlistment on Agency Database

We placed advertisement at Inkosi Langalibalele Local municipality notice board, we had one presentation at Roosboom (Thusong Centre) and on our website, inviting Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) to register on our database. This initiative aims to streamline communication and ensure that SMMEs have easy access to valuable information and business opportunities. By being part of our database, these enterprises will receive timely updates on available resources, funding opportunities, training programs, and other business support services. Our goal is to create a more connected and informed SMME community, fostering growth and development across the sector. We have a UEDA

database form available on our website ([www.ueda.co.za](http://www.ueda.co.za)) if someone is interested to register on our database.

## **2.8 Targeted Individuals and Business Enlistment**

UEDA successfully liaised with Local Municipalities to identify and enlist targeted individuals and businesses in line with its objective of promoting inclusive economic growth and supporting enterprises from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. Through this process, UEDA identified SMMEs with disabilities, including individuals with sewing skills from Inkanyezi Special School, and provided training to SMMEs registered on the agency's database. However, due to budget constraints, the procurement of required materials for these beneficiaries has been placed on hold until funding becomes available.

## **2.9. SMME Funding Applications**

Uthukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) was successful in identifying two SMME funding opportunities, namely NEF Funding and the Business Infrastructure Support Programme. All SMMEs registered on the UEDA database were informed of these funding opportunities, and the information was also uploaded on the UEDA official Facebook page to ensure broader reach. Interested SMMEs were encouraged to engage with the agency for further guidance and support during the application process.

## **2.10. Engagement with Major Industry**

UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) successfully held one engagement session with a key industry player in the district on 11 December 2025. The agency engaged with Bakers, and the session focused on fostering partnerships, identifying investment opportunities, and aligning the industry's activities with UEDA's development objectives. During the engagement, Mr Mdlalose highlighted challenges related to a pipe burst in the Limit Hill area, noting that although the issue had previously caused disruptions, the turnaround time for

repairs has significantly improved. It was further agreed that the next engagement session will be communicated early in Quarter 3.

#### **2.11. Establishment of DUT Satellite, Private School and Ezakheni Ithala SEZ**

UEDA engaged key stakeholders on the establishment of a DUT Satellite Office, a Private School, and SEZ initiatives. SEZ Virtual meetings were held with EDTEA, TIKZN, DTP, and IDC to discuss SEZ requirements and investment processes. Through the initiative of the agency TIKZN supported Alfred Duma Local Municipality and uThukela District Municipality through business mobilisation and lobbying of local business.

Engagements with DUT were held virtually on 6 November 2025. During the meeting, DUT confirmed that a comprehensive needs assessment in the uThukela District is required before establishing a satellite office and provided clarity on procedural and compliance requirements. It was resolved that UEDA will undertake the required needs assessment, after which a follow-up meeting will be scheduled with DUT to present the findings and discuss the way forward.

UEDA held a meeting with Hamilton Primary School on 22 October 2025, led by the Principal, Ms Bridget Painter. The meeting explored the feasibility and regulatory requirements for establishing a Private School. Overall, the engagement provided clear guidance and strengthened collaboration to advance education and economic development initiatives in the district.

## **3 LED PROGRAMMES**

### **3.1 Tourism Stakeholder engagement**

UEDA planned a stakeholder engagement session with EDTEA and TKZN during this quarter. Multiple e-mail EDTEA (05 Oct 2025, 27, 28 November 2025), KZNTFA (26 November and 04 Dec 2025) and calls were made to secure the meetings; however, both stakeholders indicated that they were unavailable due to prior commitments and workload pressures. UEDA also requested that the stakeholders appoint representatives to attend on their behalf, but they were still unable to. Consequently, it has been agreed that the stakeholder engagement will be rescheduled to the next quarter, ensuring full stakeholder participation. UEDA will continue to coordinate with EDTEA and TKZN to confirm the new dates and facilitate a successful engagement.

### **3.2 Development of Tourism Routes**

UEDA UThukela Economic Development Agency (UEDA) facilitated a series of engagements with tourism route SMMEs across the three Local Municipalities as part of its ongoing programme to develop and strengthen community-based tourism routes within the UThukela District. These engagements were aimed at improving coordination, enhancing compliance and funding readiness, and supporting the packaging of authentic tourism experiences that integrate culture, agriculture, crafts, and heritage.

In Alfred Duma Local Municipality, UEDA conducted a meeting with tourism route SMMEs in the Mkangala area on 17 October 2025. As an outcome of the engagement, a WhatsApp group was established to strengthen communication and information sharing among stakeholders. Six tourism-related businesses in Mkangala were registered across sectors including traditional food, crafts, agritourism, and cultural services. UEDA shared information on available funding

opportunities, which are the Tourism Transformation Fund and the UKZN Grant, via the WhatsApp group on 24 November 2025. Following this, It's Our Gift Trading and Projects visited the UEDA offices to seek assistance with a funding application and received support. UEDA also provided guidance on business registration processes, emphasising that future registrations should be completed under individual company names to ensure compliance and sustainability.

In Okhahlamba Local Municipality, UEDA engaged with tourism SMMEs in the Amazizi area on 16 October 2025. During the engagement, funding opportunities were shared and the importance of having complete compliance documentation was emphasized to ensure readiness for funding applications. SMMEs were also informed about the Business Management Training that UEDA had requested from SEDFA, which was successfully conducted from 21 to 23 October 2025. To strengthen ongoing collaboration and information dissemination, the Amazizi SMMEs appointed Ms. Precious Mzinyane to manage a dedicated WhatsApp group for continuous engagement and coordination.

In Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipality, UEDA held a meeting on the development of the Wembezi Tourism Route on 28 November 2025. The engagement focused on enhancing cultural, historical, agri-tourism, and craft-based tourism offerings within the area. Discussions centred on land use, route packaging, and the development of a holistic visitor itinerary that integrates agri-tourism activities, cultural experiences, crafts, and accommodation. Key cultural assets such as UbukhosibamaHlubi, Khoisan heritage, and local artisanal practices were highlighted as central to the route's identity. Challenges including water shortages and the high cost of craft materials were also raised. The session concluded with commitments to involve SATOVITO Directors in route packaging, document historical narratives at Giant's Castle, support craft training initiatives, share accreditation information with SMMEs, and engage relevant stakeholders to address infrastructure constraints in order to strengthen tourism development in Wembezi.

Overall, the engagements contributed to improved coordination, strengthened compliance awareness, enhanced funding readiness, and laid a foundation for the development of integrated, community-based tourism routes across the UThukela District.

### **3.3 Rural and Township Development**

UEDA In response to the findings of the district-wide survey that was conducted to assess challenges faced by rural and township tourism SMMEs, revealing key barriers such as limited training, lack of funding access, insufficient marketing, poor infrastructure, weak partnerships with traditional leaders, and the need for accreditation, UEDA implemented the following targeted interventions:

- Organising the Business Management Training opportunities that were conducted by SEDFA for 3 days,
- Sharing accreditation information with businesses such as Buying Gape African Spa, and
- Assisting enterprises like 036 Shisanyama, Amashenge Lifestyle, Valley Campsite, and SAN Boutique Resort with funding applications to improve their operational stability.

To further support tourism development, UEDA strengthened collaboration with KZNTFA through SATAVITO Conference Networking session on 14 November 2025 at Donga La Boutique Hotel, where it was resolved that a meeting be scheduled for the next quarter, to address Tourism Product Development and market access challenges. UEDA also collected monthly visitor statistics from SMMEs, which indicated peak tourism activity between September and December especially the 036 Shisanyama, emphasising the need for improved seasonal marketing strategies. Through these efforts, UEDA continues to enhance tourism functionality, improve SMME competitiveness, and promote sustainable economic growth within Uthukela District.

### 3.4 Market for Souvenirs

During the reporting period, crafters collectively generated R19,730 in sales across various platforms. Strong performance and high-quality craftsmanship were demonstrated by participating crafters, enhancing UEDA's ability to promote their products to tourism establishments and major events. In addition, three more members producing quality handmade crafts were identified, namely Mr. Gumbi, Ms. Nqubuka, and the Umhluungu Cooperative, further strengthening the district's craft offering. Going forward, UEDA aims to expand market access by integrating more local craft products into tourism venues across the district to increase visibility, diversify sales opportunities, and support the sustainable growth of the local craft sector.

**Sales Summary table**

<b>Crafter / Group</b>	<b>Sales Amount (R)</b>	<b>Platforms / Events</b>	<b>Products</b>
Nonku Crochet	8,010	Online platforms, Donga La, Three Trees Hill	Bags, key holders
Inala	6,720	SATAVITO Conference, Woman in Business Conference, G20- Rural Woman Empowerment, and Three Tree Hill.	Craft products
Umhluungu Cooperative	5,000	Hiring	Imvunulo products
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>19,730</b>	Multiple platforms and events	Various

### 3.5 Tourism Destination Marketing

The marketing of the UThukela tourism product was planned to take place at the Drakensberg Extravaganza in December 2025, as the event traditionally includes various summits, including a Tourism Summit, which provides a structured platform aligned with the Agency's tourism marketing objectives.

During engagements and official communication with the event organisers, it was confirmed that the summits, including the Tourism Summit, would not materialise. Instead, only the music festival component of the Extravaganza was expected to proceed. An alternative marketing option was suggested; however, this alternative required additional financial commitments that had not been budgeted for under the approved KPI.

Following further assessment, it was concluded that participating in a music-only festival would not be feasible, as it would not yield the intended impact or value for tourism marketing and would fall outside the approved budget framework. Consequently, the planned marketing activity could not be implemented as originally intended due to programme changes and budgetary constraints.

### 3.6 Livestock Auction



UEDA, in partnership with the Umdukatshani Project (NPO) and Siyaphambili Livestock Association, successfully hosted a goat auction at Mhlumayo in the eMjindini area under Alfred Duma Local Municipality on 09 November 2025. The auction commenced at 08h00 and attracted thirty-six farmers who presented a total of 121 goats. All goats were successfully sold, generating total revenue of R231,

*MLHUMAYO AUCTION* 500. Farmers expressed satisfaction with the fair prices received, which were considered reasonable

by both buyers and sellers. The auction provided critical income support for farmers from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly ahead of the festive season, and strengthened the working relationship between UEDA and the Siyaphambili

Livestock Association. The success of this auction sets a foundation for subsequent livestock market interventions within the district.

### Goat Auction Overview

Item	Details
Auction Type	Goat Auction
Total Number of Farmers	36
Total Goats Presented	121
Total Goats Sold	121
Sales Rate	100%
Total Revenue Generated	R231,500

### 3.7 Agricultural Market and Fresh Produce Sales

Market access initiatives were conducted to link local farmers to both formal and informal buyers. Markets secured included Makeat Boxer, Frangos, Green grocery, and street vendors along Illing Road. Fresh produce sold during this period included potatoes, cabbage, and spinach. These sales facilitated income generation for participating farmers and demonstrated the demand for locally produced crops.

However, several challenges were identified. Retailers required formal written supply agreements guaranteeing availability of produce, with penalties for unavailability. Small-scale farmers could not always meet these commitments due to production constraints, resulting in ad hoc informal sales. Additionally, many farmers were hesitant to increase production due to the lack of a stable market, which limits their ability to scale operations and maximize income. Despite these challenges, the initiative successfully created immediate market opportunities and laid the groundwork for future formalised market linkages.

## Sales Overview

PRODUCT	QUANTITY	PRICE (R)
Cabbage @ Illing Road Street Vendors	100	1200.00
Cabbage @ Boxer	200	3000.00
Spinach @ Boxer	100	1200.00
Potatoes @ Frangos Restaurant	100	6000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>11 400.00</b>

### 3.8 Chicken Farmers Site Visits



Site visits to poultry farmers were conducted across Alfred Duma, Okhahlamba (06 November 2025), and Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipalities

(27 November 2025) to assess production *ROOSBOOM SITE VISIT* conditions and identify challenges. A total of nineteen poultry farmers were visited: thirteen in Alfred Duma, three in Bergville under Okhahlamba, and three in Inkosi Langalibalele. Several farmers could not be reached due to incorrect contact details, and transport challenges limited the full execution of the visits.

Key challenges identified included inadequate construction of chicken houses, limited capacity to raise sufficient numbers of chickens, and lack of access to formal markets due to poor infrastructure. These constraints negatively affect growth and compliance with health standards. The findings from these site visits highlight the need for infrastructure support, market access interventions, and farmer capacity building to strengthen the poultry value chain in the district.

### 3.9 Sugar Bean Farmer Training

Training sessions were conducted for sugar bean farmers to build capacity in planting, crop management, harvesting, and marketing. The sessions targeted farmers who were assisted with sugar bean seeds in the previous financial year and those currently cultivating the crop. Training took place across the three municipalities: Alfred Duma on 20



November 2025 (15 farmers), Inkosi ILM TRAINING Langalibalele on 19 November 2025 (15 farmers), and Okhahlamba on 21 November 2025 (10 farmers), totaling 41 participants.

The sessions were facilitated by officials from the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARD), including an Agricultural Economist and a Crop Specialist. Farmers expressed that the knowledge gained would be applied effectively in their farming activities. The training addressed critical areas such as land preparation, planting methods, pest and disease management, harvesting, and post-harvest handling, improving the potential for higher yields and better income generation.

### 3.10 Commercial Farmers Engagement

UEDA developed and shared a document to the Ladysmith Local Farmers Association on the 18 the of Dec 2025, informing them of ongoing agricultural activities and initiatives. The engagement aimed to strengthen communication, promote collaboration, and encourage commercial farmers to participate in district agricultural programmes. The initiative improved awareness of UEDA's crop and livestock support programmes, training opportunities, and market development activities. Although primarily an information-sharing exercise, the engagement laid

the foundation for future partnerships between commercial and emerging farmers, supporting inclusive growth and agricultural development in UThukela

### **3.11 Hemp Expo 2025**

The



UThukela Hemp Expo was held at the Bergville Sport Complex Centre on 25 November 2025. The expo provided a platform for local farmers to learn about hemp production, processing, and business opportunities in the cannabis industry. *OLM-HEMP EXPO*

The Expo presented best practices in hemp farming, including soil management, planting, harvesting, and the diverse range of products derived from hemp, such as animal feed, baby formula, milk, chocolate, construction materials, and paper. DARD official outlined licensing procedures and funding support for emerging farmers.

Attendance was lower than expected due to adverse weather conditions. Land Bank and SEFTA cancelled participation a day before the expo due to other commitments, and exhibitors could not participate because of regulatory restrictions. Despite these challenges, the presentations were highly informative, and the knowledge shared will benefit the UThukela communities by promoting new agricultural opportunities and potential business ventures.

#### **Conclusion**

This reporting period demonstrates UEDA's active role in advancing economic development across multiple sectors. Through stakeholder engagement, SMME support, product marketing, and agricultural interventions, the Agency continues to build a more inclusive and resilient local economy. Despite facing challenges particularly in agriculture UEDA remains committed to refining its strategies, leveraging partnerships, and driving

impact across the UThukela District. With continued collaboration and innovation, UEDA is well-positioned to fulfill its mandate of transforming the local economy and improving livelihoods throughout the District.

## 4 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Agency has met the majority of its key performance indicators (KPIs), demonstrating sound governance, effective management, and efficient use of resources. Overall unit performance indicates that the Agency is operating effectively, fulfilling its mandate, and making measurable progress towards its strategic objectives. During the Second quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, UEDA achieved notable results in economic development, tourism promotion, and agricultural support, contributing positively to local economic growth, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable development. Going forward, the Agency will continue to monitor project implementation, strengthen internal coordination, and enhance collaboration with stakeholders and partners to address emerging challenges, improve service delivery, and ensure the timely execution of its initiatives, while sustaining the gains achieved during the reporting period.



19/12/2025

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Mr. SB Sibisi (Acting CEO)

Date

UThukela Economic Development Agency

