



Mossel Bay
MUNICIPALITY

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

MOSSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY

GROW STRATEGY



MAY 2025



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The adoption of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in September 2015 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly ushered in a new era of global cooperation for development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals were adopted as universal, indivisible, and interconnected, with the mantra of “leaving no one behind”.

The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is a tool used by local municipalities to assess their progress toward achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This initiative encourages local governments to reflect on their efforts and challenges in implementing the SDGs at a local level and to report on findings voluntarily and transparently.

The purpose of the VLR is to bridge the gap between global commitments and local actions. It empowers local governments to take ownership of the SDGs and tailor them to their specific contexts, needs, and priorities.

In November 2024, the Council adopted the GROW strategy. This five-point strategy aligns both with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the duties and obligations of Local Government as outlined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

- GROW Governance, providing excellent municipal management
- GROW Economy, promoting economic activity and development
- GROW Safety, providing a safe town
- GROW Environment, protecting our natural environment



- GROW Social Regeneration, partnering with others to deliver social services

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are crucial because they provide a global framework to address pressing challenges like poverty, inequality, and climate change, aiming for a more sustainable and just future for all by 2030.

Mossel Bay Municipality's Voluntary Local Review of the SDGs focuses on SDG 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities, SDG 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions, and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

Mossel Bay Municipality has made significant strides in all these areas.



Mossel Bay
M U N I C I P A L I T Y

Mossel Bay 5 Year Strategic Objectives

CONTINUED SERVICE DELIVERY EXCELLENCE FOR YOU



CROSS SECTION INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS



CREDIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH = JOBS



CONFIDENCE IN A SAFER ENVIRONMENT FOR YOU



INVEST IN FUTURE GENERATIONS THROUGH OUR ENVIRONMENT



#MayorDirk

GOVERNANCE

SOCIAL REGENERATION

ECONOMICALLY

SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTALLY



MUNICIPAL VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

The Mossel Bay Municipal Council acknowledges its constitutional responsibility and understands the importance of strong political leadership, sound administration, and financial management in the effective functioning of a municipality. It has therefore reaffirmed its vision, mission, and values.

Vision

We strive to be a trendsetting, dynamic Municipality delivering quality services responsive to the demands and challenges of the whole society in line with our constitutional mandate.

Mission

The community is our inspiration, and our workforce is our strength in the quest to implement a five-year strategy approach to growth through local government excellence, with a strong focus on successful basic service delivery, community safety, local economic development for job creation, social regeneration, and environmental health to:

- render cost-effective and sustainable services to the entire community with diligence and empathy
- create mutual trust and understanding between the municipality and the community
- have a motivated and representative municipal workforce with high ethical standards, which is empowered to render optimal services to the community
- promote diversity and freedom through an open society approach

Values

- Work pride
- Loyalty
- Moral integrity
- Fairness



- Service Excellence
- Accountability

INTRODUCTION

The Mossel Bay Municipality, located in the Western Cape of South Africa, is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Voluntary Local Review (VLR) assesses progress on:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
- 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)
- 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)
- 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

As a coastal municipality with a rich history and diverse communities, Mossel Bay aligns its local development plans with global SDG targets to foster inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth. This VLR draws on municipal data, stakeholder consultations, and public participation processes to present achievements, challenges, and future strategies.

Mossel Bay is well known as the fastest-growing municipal area in the Western Cape and can rightly boast one of the leading Municipalities in the country, trusted for service delivery excellence.

The VLR was developed through a participatory approach, involving:



- Consultations with all municipal departments (Corporate Service, Planning & Economic Development, Community Safety, Community Services, Technical and Infrastructure Services, and Finance.
- Public participation, workshops, as mandated by South African municipal governance frameworks.
- Alignment with the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) of Mossel Bay.
- Review of existing policies and programs against SDG indicators.
- Information and awareness on SGDs were distributed electronically.

Data was sourced from Statistics South Africa, municipal reports, stakeholder engagements, including community members and relevant stakeholders. The review focuses on qualitative and quantitative progress from 2020 to 2025.

MOSSEL BAY - MUNICIPAL PROFILE



Towns and settlements within the municipal boundaries:

- Aalwyndal, Boggomsbaai



- Brandwag
- Buisplaas
- D'Almeida
- Dana Bay
- Glentana
- Great Brak River
- Friemersheim
- Hartenbos
- Herbertsdale, Hersham
- Joe Slovo Village
- KwaNonqaba
- Little Brak River
- Mossel Bay
- Outeniqua Beach
- Reebok
- Ruiterbos
- Southern Cross
- Tergniet
- Vleesbaai

Neighbouring Towns:

- George (66 km east)
- Riversdale (77 km west)
- Albertinia (50 km west)
- Oudtshoorn (96 km north)

Municipal Area: 2007 sq km.



District Municipality: Garden Route (George).

Population: 140,075 (2022 Census)

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

The constantly shifting environment in which municipalities function has special difficulties that affect a municipality's daily operations. The Mossel Bay Municipality's Council and Administration are fully aware of both the positive and negative effects that the outside world has on the Municipality's ability to provide and uphold service standards. The Mossel Bay Municipality has several strengths, such as a comparatively low crime rate, easy access to the national road and airport, a desalination plant and PetroSA synthetic fuel plant, and investments made by several key stakeholders for corporate social responsibility.

A Garden Route holiday destination with blue flag beaches, top-notch medical facilities, excellent schools, a financially viable municipality, sound administration, a stable political environment, and capable governance. On the other hand, the municipality's Weaknesses are numerous and include growing backyard dwellers and informal settlements; distance from major markets like Cape Town and Port Elizabeth; port too small for exports and large cruise ships; dwindling central business district with limited parking; Louis Fourie Road's limited traffic mobility capacity; inadequate stormwater drainage in some areas; aging electricity infrastructure, (5th Generation IDP Review 2023).

The Mossel Bay region's economic, environmental, political, and social characteristics allow the municipality to recognize a wide range of opportunities, such as local economic development, oil and gas exploration, upgrading point area, and lighthouse as a tourist icon; agricultural project; explore township tourism; aquaculture-fish farming; capitalize on the potential growth of the festivals; port development; capitalize



on the archaeological discoveries at Pinnacle Point; capitalize on the creation of jobs by Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP); and adopt and implement a safety plan involving neighbourhood watchkeeping and community policing.

The following are some of the threats that are more likely to make it difficult for the municipality to maintain standards and provide services: rising electricity prices from Eskom; load shedding; increased crime and limited capacity of the SAPS; HIV and Aids pandemic; drug and human trafficking; rising rates of unemployment and poverty; increased reliance on government grants; climate change; rising sea levels; droughts; diminishing marine resources; fishing quotas; illegal occupation of municipal land; illicit dumping of biological materials and refuse; and frequent floods in the southern cape. The Municipality, through the implementation of its Integrated Development Plan, will capitalise on its strengths, compensate for its weaknesses, seize opportunities, and strive to contain or mitigate existing threats (5th Generation IDP Review 2023).

The sustainable development goals for Mossel Bay Municipality were identified due to the current need identified and the improvement thereof:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8

Goal Description

To promote sustainable economic growth, productive employment, and decent work for all. It emphasizes the importance of achieving higher levels of economic productivity, encouraging entrepreneurship, fostering development-oriented policies, and ensuring that all workers have access to decent working conditions.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving the SDG:



Economy

In April 2024, Mossel Bay Municipality's office for Local Economic Development was awarded bronze at the prestigious Western Cape Government Provincial Service Excellence Awards in the category "Best Municipal Project". The award recognises the municipality's efforts to grow the local economy and assistance to small businesses through their business parks (beehives), the Goods Shed, and the business incubator project. The beehives are based at Thusong, Wolwedans, Khoebo, and Barcelona (KwaNonqaba), markets in Mossel Bay Central, and the GoodShed.

Tourism

The most recent Mossel Bay Tourism Report highlights the remarkable achievements of the 2024/2025 cruise liner season, with Mossel Bay welcoming 29 cruise liners and 12,690 passengers between November 2024 and May 2025. This feat is a testament to our shared vision for excellence and inclusive service delivery, and it underscores Mossel Bay's growing appeal as a premier tourist hub. Mossel Bay was proudly recognised by Lightstone Properties as South Africa's top tourism destination for the festive season of 2024/2025. Great Brak River, part of our municipality, was awarded second place in the same survey, further evidence of our collective accomplishments in driving tourism excellence.

The positive economic impact of the cruise liner season cannot be overstated. As a municipality, we are proud of the direct benefits it has brought to Mossel Bay, more beds filled in holiday accommodations, thriving restaurants, increased local purchases, and enhanced employment opportunities. The ripple effect extends beyond the region, contributing significantly to South Africa's broader tourism economy.



Route 12

Mossel Bay Tourism introduced Route 12, a tourist route leading to 12 #ICONIC towns in our district, showcasing our pristine beaches, unique adventures, and renowned cultural sites. Route 12 offers an experience of each town's distinctive food and drink, and exciting activities like helicopter rides, wildlife safaris, fishing, and boating adventures. We dare you to explore the less-travelled roads to discover Mossel Bay's committed dedication to all aspects of our community.

It is important to keep our economy stable and promote entrepreneurship. In 2023, the Mossel Bay Municipality's Office for Local Economic Development (LED) applied for funding to implement alternative sources of energy to assist micro and small businesses. D'Almeida Business Park, the Kwano Business Park in KwaNonqaba, and the Thusong Centre in Adriaans Avenue are beneficiaries of the 120 solar panels provided by the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism. This new solar power will ensure better sustainability for the 34 business owners operating at these three sites. Young entrepreneurs at our beehives now have access to sustainable opportunities to grow their businesses.

Expanded public works programme

Mossel Bay Municipality has been officially recognised as the Best Performing Municipality in the Western Cape Government's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for the 2024/2025 financial year. This recognition is yet another testament to the municipality's commitment to responsible grant management, ensuring funds are used where they matter most, boosting job creation, and supporting residents. The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) focuses on skills development and providing work opportunities. It is one of the important ways the Western Cape Government is working to reduce the levels of poverty and unemployment in the province. It does this through:



- Giving unemployed people access to temporary work.
- Helping unemployed people through skills programmes and work experience.
- Ensuring that unemployed people receive a stipend for any work they have completed as part of the EPWP.
- Enhancing EPWP participants' chances of finding jobs or starting their businesses.

The EPWP focuses on four sectors:

Infrastructure Sector

The infrastructure sector is led by the Department of Transport and Public Works, together with the departments of Human Settlements, Health, and Education, as well as municipalities.

Work opportunities within this sector focus more on labour-related activities (for example, maintenance programmes) and are likely to provide regular jobs to large numbers of people.

Non-State Sector

The non-state sector is led by the Independent Development Trust (IDT) and includes local government (Community Work Programme) and municipalities. IDT provides funding to NGOs, which then provide regular part-time work with regular incomes.

Environmental and Culture Sector

This sector is led by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, together with the departments of Agriculture, Cultural Affairs and Sport, as well as municipalities.



This sector creates jobs through alien vegetation clearing projects, wetland rehabilitation programmes, waste management, and community tourism projects.

Social Sector

The social sector is led by the Department of Social Development, together with the departments of Community Safety, Education, and Health, as well as municipalities.

The sector focuses on increasing the quality of home-based care and early childhood development programmes, both of which require large amounts of dedication.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

Goal Description

To make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. This involves ensuring access to adequate housing, sustainable transportation, inclusive urbanization, and resilient infrastructure, all while minimizing environmental impacts and safeguarding cultural heritage.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving the SDG:

Financial sustainability

In 2024, Ratings Afrika announced Mossel Bay Municipality as the most Financially Sustainable Municipality in South Africa, along with Midvaal Municipality in Gauteng. Since Ratings Afrika published its first MFSI (TM) rating in 2011, Mossel Bay has consistently scored exceedingly high. On at least four occasions, Mossel Bay scored tops. In 2020, the overall financial sustainability score of 76 out of 100 was achieved



by Mossel Bay. This was the highest in the Western Cape. In 2021, Mossel Bay scored 74, which placed the town in the top position in the country. At that stage, Mossel Bay was already making the shift from small holiday hamlet to a thriving primary residential destination peppered with a range of highly sought-after residential estates comprising mainly permanent homes. In 2022, Mossel Bay placed 4th on the Municipal Financial Sustainability Index, with a score of 70, narrowly on the heels of George Municipality, which at 71 placed third that year. Mossel Bay is leading the Western Cape with sufficient financial headroom to deliver services and develop infrastructure while building reserves to absorb financial shocks. To deliver high levels of services to the people of Mossel Bay.

In 2023, Mossel Bay scored 70 and placed joint-second with Swartland Municipality. Mossel Bay Municipality showed that it has well-entrenched financial policies and that our budget is based on sound long-term financial strategies. We adhere to good budgetary practices, strict financial control, and good revenue collection despite tough economic conditions. The 2024 result reflects sound long-term development planning, fiscal management policies, and discipline by the leadership of Mossel Bay Municipality. The high score achieved by Mossel Bay Municipality means in practice that it has the financial ability to deliver high levels of services to the people of Mossel Bay.

World Heritage status for the Pinnacle Point

In 2011, the Mossel Bay Municipal Council resolved to provide its full support for a World Heritage status application and delegated the Municipal Manager to investigate the possibilities of this, as well as possible future involvement of the municipality in the discoveries. It was also recommended that Mossel Bay be the entry point of these discoveries and that the possibility of erecting an Interpretive Centre for this purpose be investigated. A report was subsequently tabled to the Council in 2013,



recommending that a task team be established consisting of members of the Public, representatives for indigenous (First Peoples) groups, municipal officials, and the Heritage Society to proceed with the planning of an Interpretative Centre. In 2014, the report was tabled to Council, and it resolved to avail the portion of land at the St Blaize cave site at the Point, below the Point Caves to establish an Interpretive Centre as well as establish a non-profit company (NPC) to lease the land from Council and oversee the construction and future management of the Interpretive Centre. Since then, the NPC has been functional and has successfully established an interim centre to tell this remarkable story and expose visitors to the unique discoveries and the history of our indigenous people. This interim centre was established with donations from, amongst others, the private sector, for which the Council and the NPC board are very grateful. The board of the NPC consists of residents and academics with skills, knowledge, and passion for the story of the Cradle of Human Culture.

Receiving World Heritage Status will greatly enhance this vision, stimulate the economy, create jobs, help position Mossel Bay as the place where cultures meet, attract academics and other groups and individuals interested in learning more about the origins of human culture, and share the beautiful Mossel Bay we all know with the rest of the world.

Environment

The Mossel Bay Spatial Development Framework also serves as the Environment Management Framework. The Council has approved an overarching non-profit company to focus on our environment, to forge closer ties with our registered conservancies and environmental organisations, and NPOs to place greater emphasis on environmental conservation. More than 100 kilometres of unspoiled coastline and vast tracts of conservation-worthy biomes within our borders.



The Community Services Directorate worked very hard to establish more than 250 food gardens in our communities. Without the greening campaign, more than 11,871 trees have been planted in the greater Mossel Bay since we adopted our municipal Tree Policy.

In partnership with the Conservancy Forum and other local partners, as well as through the ongoing relationship with Kouga Municipality in the Eastern Cape, we are advocating for a marine protected area along the coastline of Mossel Bay.

Water security

Mossel Bay's municipal area receives 24 megalitres of water from the Wolwedans Dam, and 4,5 megalitres of water from the Klipheuwel Dam. 0.5 megalitres of water from the Ernest Robertson Dam, water is also available from the Hartbeestkuil Dam and eight boreholes. The Saltwater Desalination Plant, with a maximum capacity of 15 megalitres per day, is the largest in South Africa and guarantees that Mossel Bay remains the sole municipality able to offer water security.

The municipality's current master plan for water supply is aligned with the 2030 spatial development framework (SDF). This plan outlines the expansion and upgrading of bulk water infrastructure to meet the increasing demand in Mossel Bay and nearby areas, in both the medium and long term. The ROR and the master plan for water supply are reassessed and adjusted every five years.

Electricity

To buffer against loadshedding in Mossel Bay, we have implemented energy efficiency projects affecting approximately 9,000 geysers, as well as pump stations and streetlighting. We have installed a 30kVA solar generation system at the municipal



Infrastructure Services offices, approximately 1,900 solar water heaters at housing projects, solar street lighting in parts of informal settlements, and battery back-up power at various traffic intersections. We have also completed an energy efficiency project for the replacement of approximately 5,000 streetlight lamps of 57 watts with new 37-Watt LED lights, over a period of two years for R10 million. We are also busy upgrading the 66-kilo volt line near Mossdustria from 30 megavolt ampere to 47 megavolt ampere, to unlock the potential for renewable energy projects.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16

Goal description

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving the SDG:

Anti-Corruption and Fraud

An Anti-Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy has been adopted by Council and the objective of this policy is to develop and foster a climate within the Mossel Bay Municipality where all employees strive for the ultimate eradication of fraud, corruption, theft and maladministration utilizing the application of the full spectrum of both pro-active and re-active measures at their disposal and strive actively to gain the support of the public in this endeavour.

The goal of fraud and corruption prevention within the Municipality is to manage the susceptibility to risk with a view to reducing it and to raising the level of fraud awareness amongst employees and other stakeholders.



Workshops are held annually with new and existing employees to inform them of the Policy and to enhance awareness within the Municipality.

Whistle Blowing Policy

The Mossel Bay Municipality is committed to the fight against fraud and corruption and any form of impropriety, whether the perpetrators are internal or external. This Whistle-Blowing Policy and procedure is part of the employer's commitment to working towards a culture of openness and transparency. Confidentiality will be maintained, and nobody will be penalised for disclosing information in good faith that might be in the employer's interest.

Anti-Fraud Hotline

The Municipality has a fully operational Anti-Fraud Hotline, and disclosures can be made via several methods such as phone, fax, e-mail, free post, SMS, and live chat. The Municipality has marketed the Anti-Fraud Hotline in both the monthly newsletter as well as the local newspaper; additionally, the detail of the hotline is also included in the e-mail signature of the Municipality. Reporting on disclosures is regularly done to the Fraud and Risk Committee to ensure oversight and transparency.

Call Centre

The municipality has also improved the Call Centre to help streamline service delivery challenges reported by our residents. Now situated in the JOC, the call centre has direct access to the nerve centre of law enforcement and fire, rescue, and disaster management services.



Joint Operation Centre (JOC) – Community Safety

The Joint Operation Centre is a force multiplier intended to ensure community safety, effective service delivery, and information management. The is operated as a public private partnership and accommodates the traffic, law enforcement, fire services and have successful partnerships with the SAPS, Provincial traffic, Farm and Neighbourhood Watch groups, the Peace Parks Foundation, Rhino Watch Africa, Radio Unit, Correctional Services, Chaplain Services, Drone Operators, Disaster Management for the Garden Route District, Western Cape Liquor Authority, Police Ombudsman and Environmental Compliance Unit.

The Mossel Bay Municipality's K9 Unit was officially established in partnership with the Western Cape Provincial Government. The K-9 Unit currently has 4 well-trained dogs, each with their handler from the law enforcement team, and has already assisted in the combating of various crimes, including the confiscation of illegal firearms.

A partnership was established with the private sector for helicopters to be used during emergencies and for routine community safety work.

Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC)

The Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) is in terms of Section 79 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act. The MPAC committee performs an oversight function on behalf of the Council. The primary functions of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee, as set out in the approved MPAC Charter, are as follows:

- The consideration of the annual report in terms of Chapter 12 of the Local Government: Finance Management Act.



- To consider the report to Council on the implementation of the budget and financial state of affairs of the Municipality in terms of Sections 52 and 71 of the Local Government: Finance Management Act.
- Oversight to promote good governance, transparency, and accountability on the use of municipal resources.
- To perform any other functions assigned to it through a resolution of the Council within its area of responsibility.

Supply Chain Management (SCM)

Mossel Bay Municipality received a clean audit in the 2023/24 financial year. The Supply Chain Management unit received no material findings for the required financial year.

All Supply Chain Management officials continuously try to improve systems and to streamline processes and procedures, but at the same time, remain compliant with all applicable legislation. The unit has rolled out the new requisition process, where departments need to select from a catalogue when they want to do procurement. The logistics section has rolled out an electronic stock issue process that will function in a similar way then the catalogue system.

With the GROW GOVERNANCE STRATEGY in mind, the Mossel Bay Municipality strives for financial management excellence. Mossel Bay Municipality showed that it has well-entrenched financial policies and that the budget is based on sound long-term financial strategies. The municipality adheres to good budgetary practices, strict financial control, and good revenue collection despite tough economic conditions.

Disability Accessibility Mossel Bay (DAM)



A project aimed at making the lives of persons with disabilities easier was officially launched in Mossel Bay. The project, Disability Accessibility Mossel Bay (DAM), is being incubated by the Education and Training Hub for Autism Needs (ETHAN). DAM is a 5-star rating system designed by persons with disabilities for persons with disabilities and is focused on how accessible and comfortable a facility is for persons with disabilities. This model is aimed at making Mossel Bay the first disability-friendly town in South Africa, and the Western Cape Department of Social Development is a partner in such an important initiative.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17

Goal Description

To strengthen implementation and revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development. This goal aims to enhance cooperation in finance, technology, capacity building, trade, and multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Key targets include resource mobilization, improved technology access, fair trade promotion, and effective partnerships.

The following key areas outline the growth and progress made in achieving the SDG:

The Office of the Executive Mayor

The Office of the Executive Mayor has consistently hosted various events to raise funds for the Mayoral Fund. These include the Mayoral Breakfast, the Mayoral Golf Day, the Mayoral Gala dinner, and the recent launch of the Mayoral Art Gallery. The Mayoral Breakfast is an opportunity for the local community, business, faith-based, educational, and other leaders to engage with nationally and globally renowned thought leaders.

City of Tacoma Government, Washington State



Mossel Bay Municipality welcomed the City of Tacoma Government, Washington State, to the iconic Mossel Bay. With a mission to promote peace through people by citizen diplomacy, cultural education, and economic development. The Sister Cities Council of Tacoma advances Tacoma as a global city and promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation through citizen diplomacy – one individual, one community at a time – for the benefit of Tacoma and its sister cities.

To accomplish its mission, the Sister Cities Council of Tacoma develops programs in the areas of cultural arts and tourism, global education, government relations, and international business.

Prince Albert Municipality Visits Mossel Bay for Local Government Best Practice Study Tour

Officials of Prince Albert Municipality visit Mossel Bay Municipality to benchmark, learn, and exchange ideas on best practices for public administration at the local government level.

Delegates from Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality also visited Mossel Bay Municipality for a similar study tour.

Kouga Municipality, Benchmarking Visit

Mossel Bay Municipality's Portfolio Chairperson for Community Safety visited Kouga Municipality for the Kouga Safety Summit alongside the City of Cape Town to share best practices on growing community safety.

The Mossel Bay Municipality also hosted the Kouga Municipality on a benchmarking visit. The Municipality of Oudtshoorn and Keetmanshoop, Namibia, respectively, visited Mossel Bay on similar tours.



Communication, Participation, and Forums

The Municipality promotes participatory democracy by facilitating public participation in procedures through public meetings and Rep forums. Annual IDP public forums are held in all 15 wards to enhance consultation.

Mossel Bay Municipality maintains a communication policy and strategy based on a detailed communication plan that is reviewed annually. Transparency is a core value and is maintained through a sustained effort to provide clear and concise communication with residents.

Regular slots on local radio stations are also utilized to enhance communication with the public. During these slots, specific topics relating to current issues are highlighted, and experts from the municipality's directorates participate in live interviews.

Communication networks are as follows:

- Follow our website - <https://dirkkotze.co.za/>
- Follow us on TikTok - <https://www.tiktok.com/@mayor.dirk>
- Follow us on Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/mayordirk_kotze/
- Follow us on WhatsApp - <https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Va81jm45PO0sHkSWyj0D>
- Follow our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/mosselbaydamayor/>

One of the most exciting additions to the communication portfolio is the Collab Citizen municipal smartphone application.



MAPPING NEXT STEPS IN CONSIDERATION OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW PROCESS

In consideration of the lessons learnt and key insights acquired out of the recent engagements and workshops the VLR review process in the Mossel Bay and in terms of what is potentially the single most important aspect of the process, improving the overall performance of the town, has an intention of deeply embedding the town's work on the SDGs.

This is done to challenge the Mossel Bay Municipality not to follow a business-as-usual route, but one of sustainability and resilience. A decision has been taken to better coordinate continuous tracking (monitoring and reporting) of the SDG implementation at the local government level so that insights obtained during the report are consolidated.

In a way, the municipality will strengthen the closing of data management gaps that have been highlighted by its participation in the SDG localisation process through the VLR. Mossel Bay Municipality will also use the localisation of the SDGS through the VLR to better galvanise its efforts of making partnerships (raising friends) and managing the resultant key relationships formed further from its current efforts.

CONCLUSION

Given the multiplicity of the partnerships the municipality currently has, it will leverage the SDGs in structuring more intentional partnership arrangements drawn from other cities, academia and research institutions, civic society organisations, and business sector partners to enhance the institutionalisation of the SDGs in Mossel Bay for higher and better outcomes.



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